

The Case of Vinny Vision (3rd – 5th Grade) Summary

Introduce Yourself

- Briefly explain what an eye doctor does and share any connection you may have with the school.
- Hand out the Case Packets and tell the students not to peek or open the packet—they will be told when to turn the page.
- Ask if any of the students have had an eye exam. Stress the importance of regular exams by an eye doctor to ensure their eyes are healthy.

Optical Illusion Explanation – Use Example – Case Packet (CP) pg. 1 (Duck/rabbit)

- Ask students what they know about optical illusions.
- Turn to the Example. Do they see a duck or a rabbit?
- Give a basic explanation of optical illusions.

Play Video Segment One – Use Clue One – CP pg. 2 (2 people/Goblet of Milk)

- After the segment, ask, “What was taken?”, “Who do we think stole them?”, “Who may know where the suspects are?”
- Ask the students to vote on which option they think is an optical illusion. Answer: Two people, talking over a goblet of milk (Option #2). Play video to show solution to optical illusion.

Play Video Segment Two – Use Activity Sheet – CP pg. 3 (How We See)

- Eye is actually about 1 inch in diameter – pass around the eye replica that shows the actual size for each student to hold - but most is hidden within the skull.
- What 3 things do we need to see? (eyes, brain, light)
- Use Eye Cross-Section diagram on page 3 and the large foam model of the eye to identify key parts and their function:
 - Ask what the black dot is called (**pupil**) and what it's made of. Explain its role.
 - Ask what the colored part is called (**iris**) and what it's made of. Explain its role.
 - Light carries an image through the eye that is projected onto the **retina** like a movie – but the image is upside down because of the curved shape of the eye.
 - The image on the retina is sent to the **brain** where it interprets the information and flips the image right side up.
- Ask students what happens when they go from a dark room (like a movie theater) into bright light (like outside).
- Explain that the pupil is small in bright light because the iris contracts around it, and that in dark lighting the pupil is big because the iris relaxes.
- With the help of the teacher, go around to small groups of students and shine the penlight into your own eye so they can see the iris and pupil move. Have them watch both eyes to see that they work together.

Play Video Segment Three – Use Clue Two – CP pg. 4 (Aloysius – which classroom?)

- Turn to Clue #2. Who are we looking for?
- Ask the students to vote on which option they think is an optical illusion. Answer: Shakespeare & musicians – theater or band room. (Option #4). Play video to show solution.

Play Video Segment Four – Use Activity Sheet – CP pg. 5 (What's Up with Vinny?)

- How was Vinny acting strangely?
- Explain nearsighted/farsighted and symptoms associated with each; use pictures on page 5 as examples.
- Which condition could Vinny have? Answer: Nearsighted

Play Video Segment Five – Use Clue Three – CP pg. 6 (Larry the Liar)

- Who are we looking for?
- Ask the students to vote on which option they think is an optical illusion. Answer: Larry the Liar (Option # 2). Play video to show solution.

Play Video Segment Six – Use Clue Four – CP pg. 7 (Vinny Vision's Teacher)

- Who are we looking for? Answer: Vinny's Teacher
- What do we know? Answer: She looks young but is really an old lady.
- Ask the students to vote on which option they think is an optical illusion. Answer: (Option #1). Play video to show solution.
- Explain that this is a very tricky optical illusion and that there is nothing wrong with their eyes if they cannot see both images.

Play Video Segment Seven – Use Activity Sheet – CP pg. 8 (Eye Safety)

- Explain that everything pictured on this page can affect our vision.
- Was Vinny careful with his eyes? Which of these actions did Vinny do?
- Which one do we have no control over? Answer: Family History. Explain how family history can affect your vision.

Play Video Segment Eight – Use Clue Five – CP pg. 9 (Vinny Vision)

- Who are we looking for? Answer: Vinny Vision
- Ask the students to vote on which option they think is an optical illusion. (Option #3)

Play Video Segment Nine – Conclusion

- Did Vinny mean to take the crown? (No.)
- What was the problem? (He couldn't see well.)

Summary & Question/Answer Period

- Remind them of take-home activity sheets in the back of the packets with additional illusions and activities to do with families.
- Give the teacher tattoo prizes to hand out later, remind them of the evaluation and give them any handouts provided.