

The Hang Glider Mystery

High Noon Books

The Hang Glider Mystery
is a book in the
“Shady Falls” series
published by
High Noon Books.

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THE HANG GLIDER MYSTERY

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PREFACE

The adventures of Jackson and Carlos take place during their summer vacations. Jackson and Carlos live in the town of Shady Falls. They are friends of Officer Low. The two friends sometimes stumble onto an adventure.

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CHAPTER 1 Hang Gliders by the Creek

Jackson stopped his scooter in front of Carlos’s house. He seemed to be in a hurry.
“Carlos! Carlos!” he called out as loud as he could.

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There was no answer. Duke heard Jackson and started to bark.

Jackson called out again. “Carlos! Come on out!”

Carlos came over to the front window. “What’s up? Why are you here so early?”

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“There are some hang gliders in town,”
Jackson called out.

“Hang gliders? Where?” Carlos asked.

“Over by the creek,” Jackson answered.

“By the creek?” Carlos asked.

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“That’s right. They are gliding here from
the town of Clear Falls. They glided over
the big fall to our town,” Jackson said.

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“Wait. I’ll be right with you,” Carlos said.

Carlos was out on the front porch in just
a few minutes. The first thing he said was,
“Tell me more.”

“I was up on Main Street. I saw Tim. He
told me about them,” Jackson answered.

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“Come on. Let’s go there,” Carlos said.

The two boys got on their scooters.
They put on their helmets. They started out
on Pine Street. Then they got up onto Main
Street. That was the fast way to get to the
creek.

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All of a sudden, they saw their friend Officer Low. "Where are you going in such a hurry?" he asked them.

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"We're going to meet Tim. There are hang gliders at the creek," Jackson said.

"That's right. I heard about that. There will be a lot of people there," the Officer said.

"What's up? Do you have a lot to do?" Carlos asked.

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"I sure do," Officer Low answered sadly. There was a big robbery in Clear Falls last night."

"What kind of robbery?" Jackson asked.

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"A coin store got robbed. They took a lot of gold coins from the store. The police over in Clear Falls have asked us to help out," the Officer said.

"How can you help them?" Carlos asked.

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“The robbers might try to bring the gold coins through our town. We have to watch for strange people in town,” the Officer answered.

“Do they have any clues?” Jackson asked.

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“Not one. All we know is that the robbers broke into the store at night. We think there were two of them,” the Officer answered.

“If we see anything strange, we’ll tell you,” Jackson said.

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“Great. I’ll see you later,” Officer Low said. Then he drove off.

“Come on, Jackson. Let’s get going,” Carlos said.

Jackson and Carlos started to go to the creek. Duke was right in back of them.

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CHAPTER 2 Rusty

The boys rode as fast as they could down Main Street. They didn’t want to miss anything.

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“Look! I see some of the hang gliders coming in over the trees,” Jackson said.

“So do I. Look at them,” Carlos said.

“I can see seven on the hill,” Jackson said.

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One of the men came down the hill with his hang glider. Carlos walked over to him. “Why are there so many hang gliders out here today?” Carlos asked.

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“We belong to a club in Clear Falls. We have been learning how to use hang gliders. Today is a test for all of us,” the man said.

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“How’s that?” Jackson asked.

“We have been waiting for a day when the wind was just right. It’s only about 30 miles from Clear Falls to your town,” the man said.

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Jackson said, "I wish we could fly on one. I am Jackson. This is Carlos. What is your name?"

"I am Rusty. Well, the sport looks easy, but it takes some time to learn," the man said.

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"How do you fly on them?" Carlos asked.

"It's all in the way you use your body. To go up, you lean up. You lean down to go down. To go to the right, you lean right. To go left, you lean left," Rusty said.

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"That doesn't sound too hard," Carlos said.

"You have to think fast," Rusty said.

"Will you fly back to Clear Falls?" Jackson asked.

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"No. See that green van over there. We get into it and ride back to Clear Falls. But first we take our hang gliders and they go back in the yellow truck," Rusty said.

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“It sure sounds like fun,” Jackson said.

“Do you think we could have lessons?”

Carlos asked.

“You better talk to Dan. It’s his club. He can let you know,” Rusty said.

“Where’s Dan?” Carlos asked.

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“He’s that man over by the yellow truck,” Rusty said.

“OK. We’ll talk to him,” Carlos said.

Jackson and Carlos looked at Dan.

“I don’t like his looks,” Jackson said.

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“Why?” Rusty asked.

“He looks mean,” Jackson said.

“He isn’t too bad. Just go over and talk to him. He might let you take lessons,” Rusty said.

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CHAPTER 3

A Talk with Dan

Jackson and Carlos thanked Rusty for his help. Then they walked over to Dan.

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“Hi,” Carlos said.

“What do you kids want?” Dan asked.

“We want to find out about hang gliders,” Carlos said.

“We’d like to learn to fly one,” Jackson said.

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“Can’t you see I’m busy? You should not be here. Move out of the way,” Dan said.

“Can’t we even watch?” Carlos asked.

“You can watch the hang gliders landing on the hill. But get away from here,” Dan said.

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Jackson and Carlos moved away from Dan.

“What’s wrong with him?” Carlos asked.

“I don’t know. But he sure isn’t very friendly,” Jackson said.

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“Look! There’s Tim,” Carlos said.

“Tim! Tim!” Jackson called out.

Tim saw his friends and walked over to them. “How’s it going?” he asked.

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“We’ve been talking to a man named Rusty. He told us about the hang gliding club over in Clear Falls,” Carlos said.

“Is he the man I just saw you talking to?” Tim asked.

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“No way. Rusty is nice. The one we were talking to is Dan. He told us to move away,” Carlos said.

“Move away from what?” Tim asked.

“From the yellow truck,” Jackson answered.

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“What’s the big deal?” Tim asked.

“I don’t know. The men get in the green van to go back to Clear Falls. They have to put their hang gliders in the yellow truck,” Jackson said.

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“Maybe Dan thought something would happen to the hang gliders,” Tim said.

“Well. I just know that I don’t like Dan. He sure isn’t friendly like Rusty,” Carlos said.

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“Come on. Let’s go up there to watch the hang gliders come in,” Jackson said. The three boys started up the hill.

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All of a sudden, someone called to them. It was Dan. “I told you kids not to mess around,” he yelled.

“We’re just going to watch the hang gliders,” Carlos called back.

“Well, stay out of the way!” Dan yelled.

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The boys started back up the hill. They saw Rusty.

“Hi, Rusty,” Carlos called out.

“How are you doing?” Rusty called back.

“Fine. I thought you were on your way back to Clear Falls,” Carlos said.

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“I am. Not all the red hang gliders are back yet. I have to wait,” Rusty said.

“Red hang gliders?” Jackson asked.

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“That’s right. We’re set up into three teams. I’m with the red team. Then there’s the blue team and the brown team. We go by the colors on the hang gliders,” Rusty answered.

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“Why do you all have to go back at the same time?” Carlos asked.

“We’re having a race. We’re trying to see which team gets the most points,” Rusty said.

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“How do you get points?” Jackson asked.

“They time us. It starts when we glide over Clear Falls. Then it stops when we land in the flat place,” Rusty said.

“Which team is ahead?” Carlos asked.

“My team. The red team,” Rusty said.

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“What about the others?” Carlos asked.

“One of the men on the blue team ended up in Carson. That’s about ten miles from here. So far everyone on the red team has made it. Look. The last one is coming in right now,” Rusty said.

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Jackson, Carlos, and Tim all looked up to the hill. They saw a red hang glider landing.

"I'll have to go now. That man will take his hang glider to the yellow truck. Then we'll all get in the green van and go back to Clear Falls for one more race," Rusty said.

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"Maybe we'll see you when you fly back here," Tim said.

"Maybe. Take care," Rusty said. Then he hurried off.

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"It looks like fun. I'd sure like to fly one," Jackson said.

"Maybe in a few years," Carlos said.

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CHAPTER 4 The Wrong Way

Jackson and Carlos watched all the men on the red team get into the green van. It started back to Clear Falls.

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“I bet the yellow truck will go right in back of the green van,” Carlos said.

“That’s right. That’s the truck with the hang gliders,” Jackson said.

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“The red team must be a really good team. I bet they are way ahead of the other two teams,” Tim said.

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“It looks that way, doesn’t it?” Carlos said.

“Dan is putting the last hang glider into the yellow truck,” Tim said.

“Then he’ll be on his way back to Clear Falls,” Carlos said.

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The boys watched Dan. He closed the back doors on the truck. Then he walked around to the front of the truck and got in. Then he started the truck.

“There he goes,” Carlos said.

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Dan drove away from the creek. He turned onto Main Street.

“That’s funny,” Carlos said.

“What’s funny?” Jackson asked.

“He’s turning the wrong way,” Carlos said.

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“That’s right. He isn’t going to Clear Falls. He’s going away from Clear Falls,” Tim said.

“Maybe he’s mixed up. Let’s try to catch up with him and let him know,” Carlos said.

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The three boys got on their scooters. They started up from the creek.

“We’ll never catch him this way,” Carlos said.

“That’s right. Let’s take the short cut over to Main Street,” Tim said.

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The boys turned their scooters. They started to ride through the fields.

“We’ll beat him. I know we will,” Jackson said.

“Trucks can’t drive fast on Main Street. I think we will beat him, too,” Carlos said.

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By this time the boys had ridden through the fields. They got up to Main Street. They all looked around.

Then Jackson yelled out, "We did beat him. Look! There he is!"

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They all looked down Main Street and saw the yellow truck.

As the truck passed them, Carlos called out, "Dan! Dan! Stop!" Dan saw them but kept on going.

They got on their scooters and followed him.

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They were just in back of him on Main Street. They were calling him. A lot of people were looking at the boys and the truck.

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Dan pulled over. He got out of the truck and walked over to them. "Now what do you want? I thought I told you to stay away from this truck."

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“You’re going the wrong way. This isn’t the way to Clear Falls,” Carlos said.

“So what’s it to you?” Dan asked.

“Don’t you have to take the red hang gliders back to Clear Falls for the next race?” Tim asked.

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“Did you hear me? What’s it to you?” Dan said.

“We just wanted to let you know. Rusty said there was going to be one more race today,” Carlos said.

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“Rusty doesn’t run this club. I do,” Dan said.

“OK, OK,” Carlos said.

“We just wanted to help you,” Jackson said.

“Well I don’t need any help. I know what I’m doing,” Dan said.

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Then Dan got back into his truck. He pulled away and started back down Main Street.

All of a sudden, Officer Low came by. He stopped his car and got out. “What’s going on? I heard a lot of yelling,” he said.

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“Oh, that,” Jackson said.

“Right. What’s up?” the Officer asked.

“Dan is from the hang glider club. We thought he was going back to Clear Falls. We were trying to help him. We wanted to let him know he was going the wrong way,” Carlos said.

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“He sure didn’t like us stopping him,” Jackson said.

“You tried to help him. Maybe he knows what he’s doing,” the Officer said.

“How’s everything going on that robbery?” Carlos asked.

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“We don’t have anything to go on yet,” the Officer said.

“Nothing?” Tim asked.

“No. Not a thing,” the Officer said.

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“If we hear of anything, we’ll let you know,” Carlos said.

“Thanks, boys. I’ll see you three later,” Officer Low said. Then he got back into his car and left.

“Come on. Let’s get something to eat,” Carlos said.

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“Let’s go to my house,” Jackson said.

“OK with me,” Tim said.

The boys got back on their scooters. They put on their helmets. They started back down Main Street to get to Jackson’s house.

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All of a sudden, Carlos yelled out, “Look at that!”

“Look at what?” Jackson yelled back.

“In front of us,” Carlos said.

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The three boys stopped. The yellow truck was stopped by the side of Main Street. It had a flat tire. Dan was looking at it.

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“Can you beat that?” Tim said.

“Now he will be late getting to Clear Falls or wherever he’s going,” Carlos said.

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CHAPTER 5 A Peek in the Truck

Dan was standing by his truck. He was looking at the flat tire on the truck.

“What should we do?” Jackson asked.

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“Let’s not stop. Let’s keep on going. You know how mad he got before,” Carlos said.

The three boys started to ride by Dan.

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Dan called to them. Now he seemed nice. “Can you boys help me?” he asked.

“With what?” Carlos asked.

“I have a flat,” Dan said.

“We can see that,” Tim said.

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“Is there a tire store near here? I don’t have a spare tire. I needed all the space in the truck for the hang gliders,” Dan said.

“Mr. Chase has a tire store. It’s about three blocks away,” Carlos said.

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“Would you boys stay here while I walk down there? I don’t want anyone to get into the truck while I’m gone,” Dan said.

“I don’t know if we can,” Carlos said.

“I’ll give you each five dollars. How about that?” Dan asked.

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“OK. But we can’t stay too long,” Jackson said.

“Fine. I’ll be right back. Don’t let anyone get into the truck, OK,” Dan said.

“We’ll watch it for you,” Carlos said.

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Dan started to walk down Main Street. He was almost running.

“I’d sure like to see those hang gliders. Let’s look into the truck,” Jackson said.

Jackson and Carlos looked inside the truck. The red hang gliders were all stacked up.

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“I bet Dan locked the doors,” Jackson said. He walked around to the back of the truck. “This door is unlocked.”

“I wouldn’t get into the truck,” Carlos said.

“I just want to get a better look,” Jackson said.

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Tim walked to the back of the truck.

Jackson opened the door. "So that's what they look like up close!" he said.

"Jackson, I wouldn't get in there. Dan said he didn't want anyone around the truck," Carlos said.

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"I'm just looking," Jackson said.

"I might as well look, too," Tim said. He got inside the truck with Jackson.

Jackson and Tim looked at the hang gliders.

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All of a sudden, Jackson slipped. He fell on the hang gliders.

Carlos heard him fall. "What's going on in there?" he called out.

"Jackson fell over," Tim said.

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Jackson got up. "You know, that was funny."

"What's funny about falling over on hang gliders?" Carlos asked.

"I heard a lot of funny sounds when the hang gliders slipped around," Jackson said.

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“You better fix them up,” Carlos said.

Jackson and Tim started to fix up the hang gliders. They wanted them to look just the way they did when Dan left.

“I’m hearing those funny sounds again,” Jackson said.

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“Now I hear them,” Tim said.

“What are you two talking about?” Carlos asked.

“It sounds like the hang gliders are falling apart,” Jackson said.

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“They couldn’t be. They have to be safe,” Carlos said.

“Well, come over here and see for yourself. Then you’ll know what I’m talking about. Come on in,” Jackson said.

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Carlos got in the truck. Jackson moved some of the hang gliders. “I see what you mean. It sounds like parts inside this hang glider are loose,” Carlos said. “This one, too.”

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“This just doesn’t add up,” Tim said.

“What do you mean?” Jackson asked.

“These hang gliders aren’t safe. Why is Dan letting the red team use gliders that have loose parts?” Tim asked.

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“Something isn’t right about some of these,” Carlos said.

“Maybe Dan didn’t want to go back to Clear Falls because the hang gliders were dangerous,” Jackson said.

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“That could be. Could all of them have loose parts?” Tim asked.

“Rusty seems to know about hang gliders. I don’t think he would have used one that was broken,” Carlos said.

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“Do you think something is going on? Something that Dan doesn’t want anyone to know about?” Jackson asked.

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“I sure do. I think we should find Officer Low,” Carlos said.

All of a sudden, Dan walked up to the truck. Mr. Chase was with him. They had a new tire. “Get out of there!” Dan yelled.

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“These boys are OK,” Mr. Chase said.

“I told them to stay out of the truck. Now I’m not going to pay them,” Dan said.

“Come on. Let’s get out of here,” Carlos said.

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Jackson and Tim jumped out of the truck. “What about the money?” Jackson asked.

“I’m not giving you anything,” Dan yelled.

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CHAPTER 6

Officer Low Finds the Coins

Jackson, Carlos, and Tim all got on their scooters. They started back down Main Street. They were all looking for Officer Low.

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“I see him!” Jackson yelled.

Officer Low’s car was stopped on Main Street. “Officer Low!” Jackson yelled.

Officer Low got out of his car. “What’s up?” he asked.

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Carlos told him all about the truck and the flat tire.

Then Jackson told him about falling over on the hang gliders.

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And then Tim told him about the sounds they heard.

“I think you boys are right. Things don’t add up. Those hang gliders don’t sound safe to me. Let’s look into this,” Officer Low said.

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“What do we do now?” Carlos asked.

“Let’s all go to the truck. I bet Mr. Chase is still fixing the tire,” Officer Low said.

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Jackson and Carlos jumped on their scooters. Officer Low got into his car. They all started off to get to the truck.

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When Dan saw the boys and Officer Low coming, he jumped up.
“What’s wrong?” Mr. Chase asked Dan.

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“Those kids are coming back,” Dan said.
Officer Low got out of his car. “I’d like to look at those hang gliders,” he said.
“What for?” Dan asked.

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“Just to see if they’re safe,” the Officer answered.
“They’re safe,” Dan said.
“I want to see for myself,” Officer Low said.

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Dan looked at Jackson, Carlos, and Tim. He didn't say anything. But he looked mad. He opened the back door of the truck. "There they are. Just look at them. Anyone can see they are safe."

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"They look OK to me," Officer Low said. "Move them around," Jackson said. "Shut up!" Dan yelled at Jackson.

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Officer Low moved the hang gliders. He could hear the sounds Jackson was talking about. Then he pulled on one of the hang gliders. Old gold coins and some silver dollars fell on the floor.

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"Will you look at that," Carlos said. Dan started to run. "Hold it!" Officer Low yelled. Dan stopped right where he was.

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“We’ve solved the mystery of the coin shop robbery over in Clear Falls,” the Officer said.

“What do you mean?” Jackson asked.

“I get it! Dan was part of the robbery gang.

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“They robbed the coin shop. They had to hide the coins somewhere,” Carlos said.

“They put the coins in the red gliders,” Jackson said.

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“You’re right,” Officer Low said. Then he turned to Mr. Chase. “I don’t think you’ll have to fix that tire now.”

“Do you think Rusty was part of the gang?” Carlos asked.

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“No. I think all those men were just part of the glider club. I don’t think they knew anything about the gold coins hidden in the hang gliders,” Officer Low said.

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“What do you want us to do?” Carlos asked.

“I’m going to take Dan in. You boys stay right here. I’ll be right back,” the Officer said. Then he took Dan to his car.

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“Those kids messed up everything!

“Things would have been fine if not for them,” Dan yelled.

Officer Low drove off with Dan.

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“I bet more of those hang gliders have gold coins. Want to find out?” Jackson asked.

“Jackson, don’t do anything. Let’s all just wait,” Carlos said.

June 1, 2010

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When Officer Low came back, he said, “Dan is at the Police Station. I called the police in Clear Falls. They got the other robber. You were all a big help.”

June 2, 2010

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“How about the rest of the hang gliders?” Jackson asked.

“OK, Jackson. I’ll look them over. You boys stay there,” Officer Low said.

June 3, 2010

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The Officer got in the truck. He started to pull on the other hang gliders. Old coins started to fall from some of the gliders.

“Will you look at that,” Jackson said.

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“I think we’ve seen enough,” the Officer said. He got out of the truck and got into his car.

“I’ve never seen so many old coins in my life,” Carlos said.

“There sure are a lot of them,” Officer Low said.

June 5, 2010

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Just then, another police car pulled up. A man yelled to Officer Low, “We’ll take this truck to the Police Station.” Then the man got into the truck and drove off.

“I bet you have to go, too,” Tim said.

June 6, 2010

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“That’s right, I’m off,” Officer Low said.
He got into his car.
“We’ll see you later,” Carlos called out.

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“That’s for sure. Thanks again for your help,” Officer Low called back.
Jackson turned to Carlos and Tim. “You know what?” he asked.
“No, what?” Carlos asked.

June 8, 2010

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“I still want something to eat. Let’s all get going to my house,” Jackson said.
“You always want to eat,” Tim said.

June 9, 2010

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Carlos and Tim started to laugh. Then they all got on their scooters to go to Jackson’s house. They had a lot to tell their parents. It is fun to be a detective!

June 10, 2010

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