

SYSTEM
44



DJ Mystery

Michael Leviton

SCHOLASTIC



There was a big **crowd** at the party.

1

crowd noun

A large group of people.

A **crowd** showed up for Seth's party.

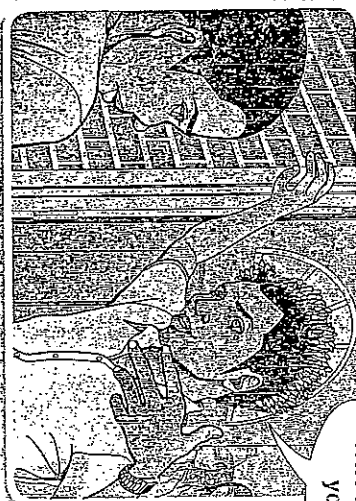


2

excite verb

To cause strong feelings.

It will **excite** the kids to see DJ Mystery.



WHO INVITED YOU?

3

invite verb

To ask someone to go to an event.

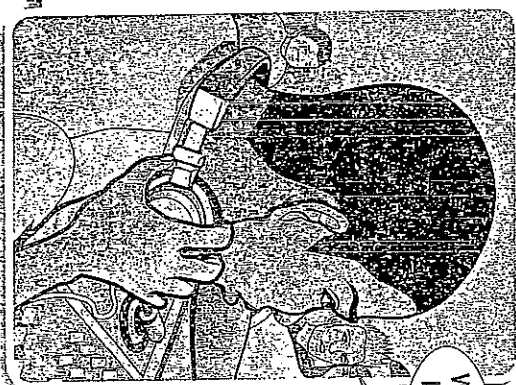
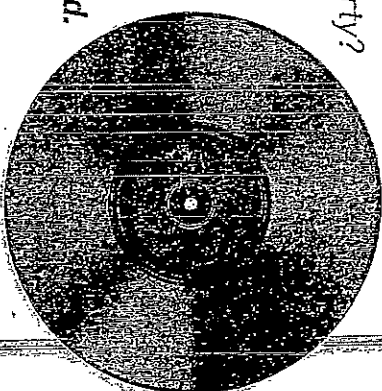
Who did Seth **invite** to his party?

4

record noun

A round plastic disk that has music on it.

The DJ spun a **record**.



Who am I? No one knows the truth!

5

truth noun

What is real or true; what really happened.

No one at school knows the **truth** about DJ Mystery.



Everyone at Thadd High wanted to know one thing. Who was DJ Mystery? DJ Mystery made hip-hop records. He posted beats on his Web site. Everyone played them. It excited everyone when he posted new beats.

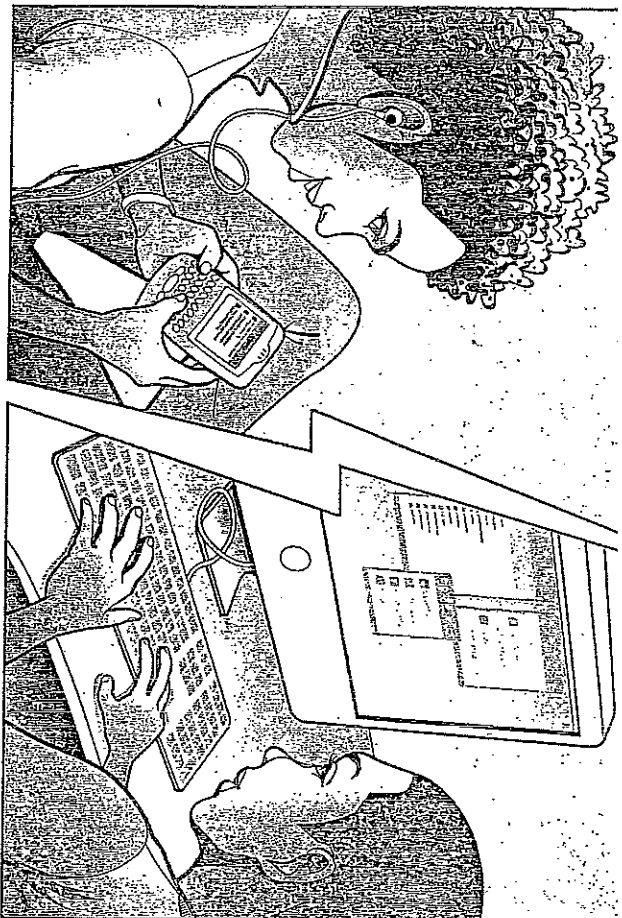
The site said that Mystery was a student at Thadd High. The site did not say which



student! Almost no one knew the truth about DJ Mystery. Only I knew.

At lunch, I always sat alone. I did not talk with anybody. Cool kids played beats by DJ Mystery. They danced to the beats. I just watched.

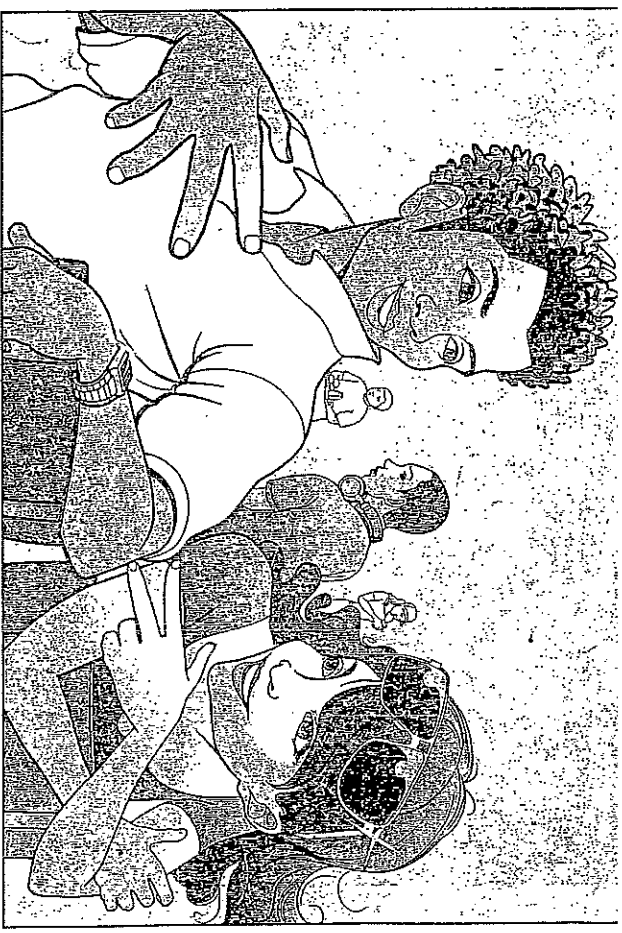
After school, I went home. Then I mixed beats for hours. My name is Keith. I am DJ Mystery. Everyone knew my music. None of them knew me.



One night, my site got an email from Seth. Seth was the coolest kid at Thadd.

"Who is DJ Mystery?" it said. "I am having a party on Saturday. You should DJ at the party. Show us who you are."

I went to bed. I fell asleep thinking about the party. Should I go? What if everyone knew the truth? Would they still like my music?



The next day, I sat near Seth and his friends. I heard Seth talk with Jen. Jen is the coolest girl at Thadd.

"Mystery will never DJ your party," she said. "He is too cool for you!"

"That's what you think," Seth said. "But DJ Mystery could be anyone."



"Maybe you are right," Jen said. "Maybe DJ Mystery is sitting right here."

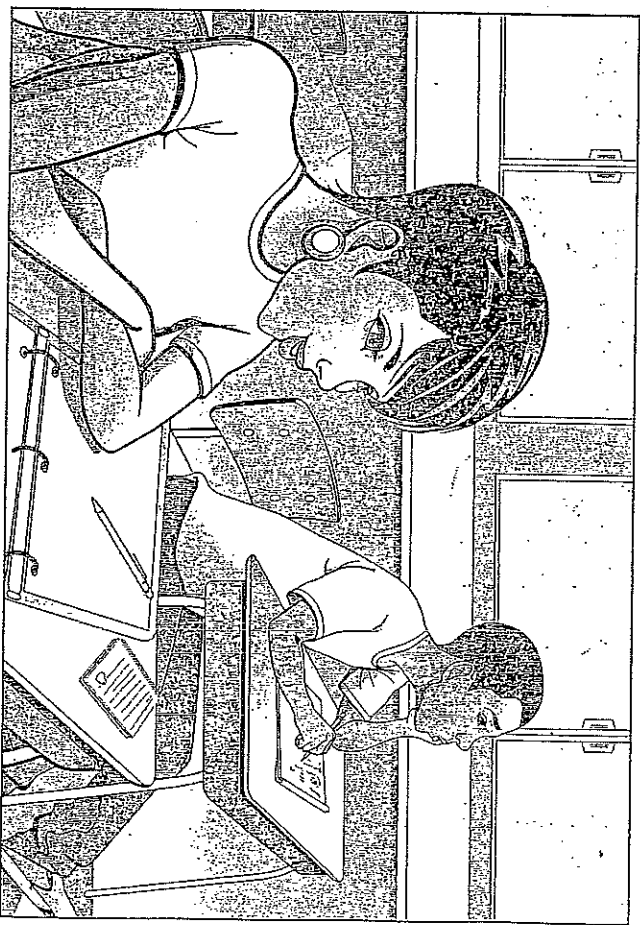
Jen turned to me. She was laughing. Her laugh was mean. "Hey," she asked. "Are you DJ Mystery?"

Now everybody else laughed, too. I picked up my tray. I walked away. Jen yelled after me. "See you later, DJ!"

Read!

Do you think Keith will go to Seth's party? Explain your answer.

8



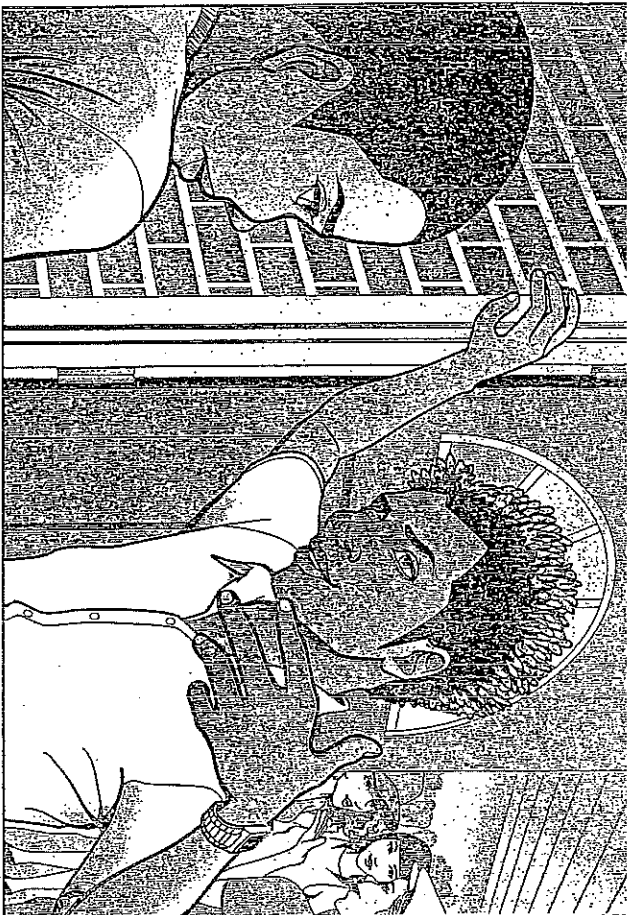
In math class, I hummed some DJ Mystery music. A girl heard me humming. She turned to me.

"I'm Trina," she said. "Are you going to Seth's party?"

"I am not invited," I said.

Trina laughed, "Who cares? I am not invited, either. But I am going, anyway. I hope DJ Mystery shows up."

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That night, I wrote to Seth. "Mystery will DJ your party."

Seth's party was big. The whole school was there. I tried to go in. Seth stood in my path.

"Who invited you?" Seth asked.

"You did," I said. "I am DJ Mystery."

Seth laughed. Then he saw my bag of records. He stopped laughing. "You are DJ Mystery? Wow, that is crazy!"

10



Seth stepped out of my path. He let me go into the party.

I went to the DJ table. I looked through my records. I played my biggest hit.

The beats played. Everyone danced. Kids screamed! They were all excited to hear my beats.

Heads turned. Everyone tried to see DJ Mystery. Then, the crowd saw me. The room got quiet.

11



"That is not DJ Mystery!" one girl shouted. "We were tricked! This kid is a fake!"

Everyone looked at me. Jen and her friends laughed.

Seth came over to me. "Mystery," he said. "Stop the music."

I stopped the record.



"This kid really is DJ Mystery," Seth shouted. "We all know it. We have heard his beats tonight. The beats do not lie!"

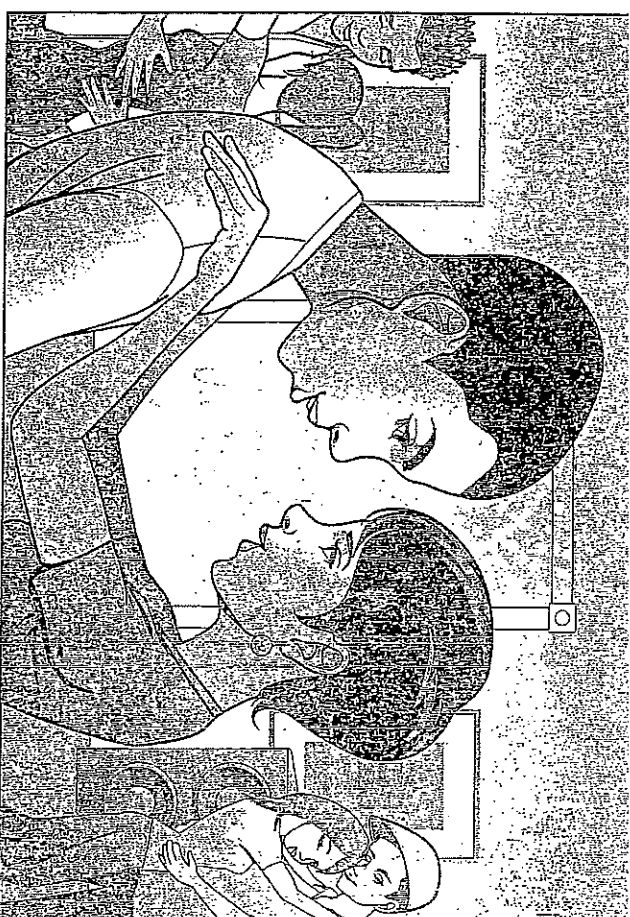
Seth went on. "Why did DJ Mystery sit alone at lunch? It is because we were not paying attention. We asked who DJ Mystery really was. We never asked who this kid really was. Now we know. This kid is no fake."



I played a new beat. Seth started to dance. The crowd cheered!

Jen made a path to the DJ table. "Hey, Mystery," she said. "I am your biggest fan. Put on a long record. I want to dance with you."

I smiled a thin grin. "No, thanks. I do not spin long records."



Then I saw Trina in the crowd. She looked at me. She smiled. I went to her.

Trina said, "You were cool before tonight."

"Thank you," I said. Then we danced.

Respond

Think. Talk. Write.

What will happen when Keith goes back to school after Seth's party?

Use this sentence starter as you talk or write about your answer.

When Keith goes to school ...

Re-read.

Look for the answer to this question.

How does everyone know DJ Mystery's music?

WORDS TO KNOW

Phonics Focus

math	thank	them	thing	with
path	Thadd	then	think	
Seth	that	thin	this	

Smart Words

crowd	invite	truth
excite	record	

