Clue 1 – Not a single clue

Now that you have found the killer in the orchestra and you know how these puzzles work here is clue number 1 for a rather more involved robbery mystery. There is a lot more to each clue in this mystery. Read the text below carefully and make sure that you understand what to do. Beware of unusual plurals!

Change the nouns (in red) into plural nouns. Find the last 's' and the last 'e' in the plural noun **in that order** and use the table to find the letter that you need.

So in the example word spider → spiders (the last s is letter number 7 and the last e is letter number 5 (7, 5) = l.

Use zero if there is no 's' or no 'e'. In the example room →rooms (5, 0) = u.

Remember to look up the numbers like coordinates – horizontal, then vertical. Also remember that some nouns can significantly change their spelling in the plural.

I have done the first 2 for you to get you started. Louse = lice (0, 4) and cactus = cacti (0, 0). So the first 2 clue letters are a and l.

The programme featured a louse (0, 4) crawling up spines from a cactus (0, 0) which had become stuck in a donkey. Ann admired the antenna of a butterfly before switching to the quiz channel. The first question about a tooth was followed by one on the vertex of a triangle.

Rhoda, next door in the kitchen, was answering a series of geography questions. She had just drawn an axis on the opposite page to a picture of a man connecting a battery in the presence of a child. She wrote 'bacterium' in her book before picking up the plastic man and placing it next to the plastic woman. As she tried to remember the formula she needed, she flicked over the page and glanced at the next photos: a sheep and an ox.

Under the roof of an outbuilding, her brothers were playing a piano and a piccolo. Beyond, paintings of a calf decorated a nearby church. She guessed the radius of the church windows which had suffered from an attack by fungus and a mouse. In the next street a person left the supermarket clutching the latest bargains: a tomato and a goose. A man called to his wife.