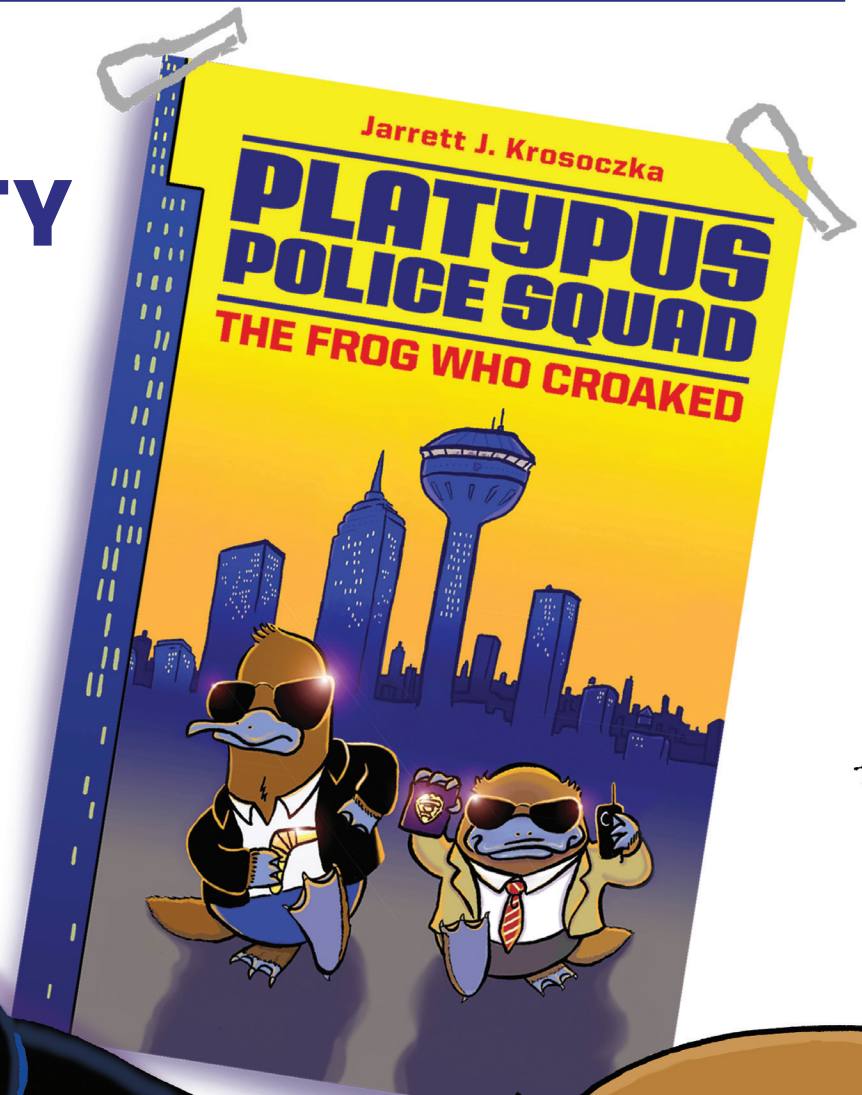
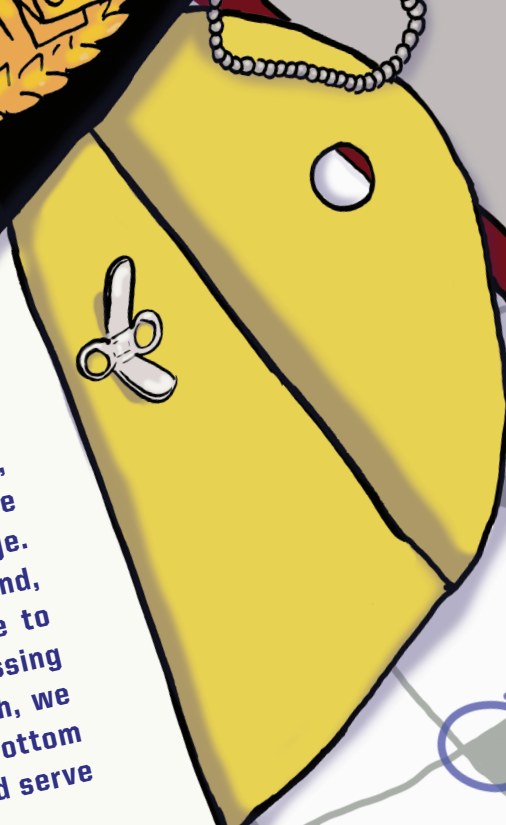


# ZENGO AND O'MALLEY'S ROOKIE RULES

## ACTIVITY KIT





**PLATYPUS POLICE SQUAD**  
**Kalamazoo City**

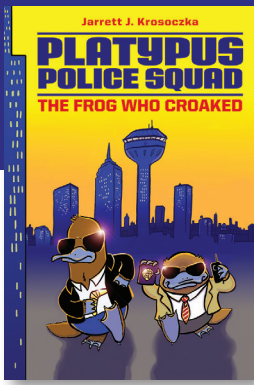
Hi there, Rick Zengo here. I'm the newest member of the Platypus Police Squad. Welcome to Kalamazoo City, a place where platypuses like me and my slightly more experienced partner, Corey O'Malley, carry a badge. We were paired together my first day on the job and, well, let's just say we didn't immediately see eye to eye. But when our first case came in involving a missing schoolteacher and a duffel bag full of illegal fish, we had to set aside our differences to get to the bottom of the trouble. After all, we're here to protect and serve our city.

Well, boy, we learned some lessons along the way about how to be good detectives. And we put some of that into this kit. Now it's your turn, rookies, to show us if YOU have what it takes to be part of the squad. Sharpen your boomerangs (and brains) and challenge yourself to our activities. An official badge is waiting for you upon the completion of your tasks.

Welcome to the Platypus Police Squad.

Detective Rick Zengo





# Zengo and O'Malley's Rookie Rules

## ACTIVITY KIT

### Rule #1: Know Your City

"We stay focused on the city, listen to its sounds, smell its smells, feel its pulse."

—Detective Corey O'Malley

In order to be a top-notch platypus detective, you need to be the eyes and ears of your city, knowing its people and being aware of what's happening at all times. If something looks fishy, it probably is, and it's your job to be on the scene. You need to use your instincts and always be one step ahead of the game.

Practice learning the facts by cutting out, studying, and sharing these trading cards featuring some of Kalamazoo City's finest citizens. Take turns quizzing your friends and make sure you know who's who—your next suspect could be lurking among them.

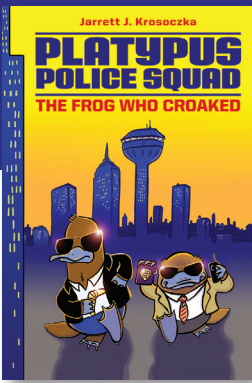


<p><b>Name:</b> Detective Rick Zengo</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> Newest member of the PPS</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> A little <i>too</i> eager to take down the bad guys</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Detective Corey O'Malley</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> Twenty-year veteran of the PPS</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> Has a weakness for sweets—especially root beer floats</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Frank Pandini Jr.</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> Owner of Pandini Enterprises</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> Has his paws in many honey pots—<i>too</i> many?</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Professor William Hopkins</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> English teacher at Kal East High School</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> Popular teacher gone bad?</p>
<p><b>Name:</b> Blake Cameron</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> Star quarterback at Kal East High School</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> Coolest kid in school, but can't pass English class</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Vanessa O'Malley</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> Eldest child of Corey O'Malley; head cheerleader at Kal East High School</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> Sometimes girls just want to have a little fun</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Shawn Freeman</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> Student at Kal East High School</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> His dad is getting put out of business by the illegal fish trade</p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Sergeant Plazinski</p>  <p><b>Occupation:</b> The top platypus on the PPS</p> <p><b>Charge:</b> Any trouble on the squad gets his bill boiling</p>

**Safety Note:** Young rookies should always ask a grown platypus for help when using scissors.







# Zengo and O'Malley's Rookie Rules ACTIVITY KIT

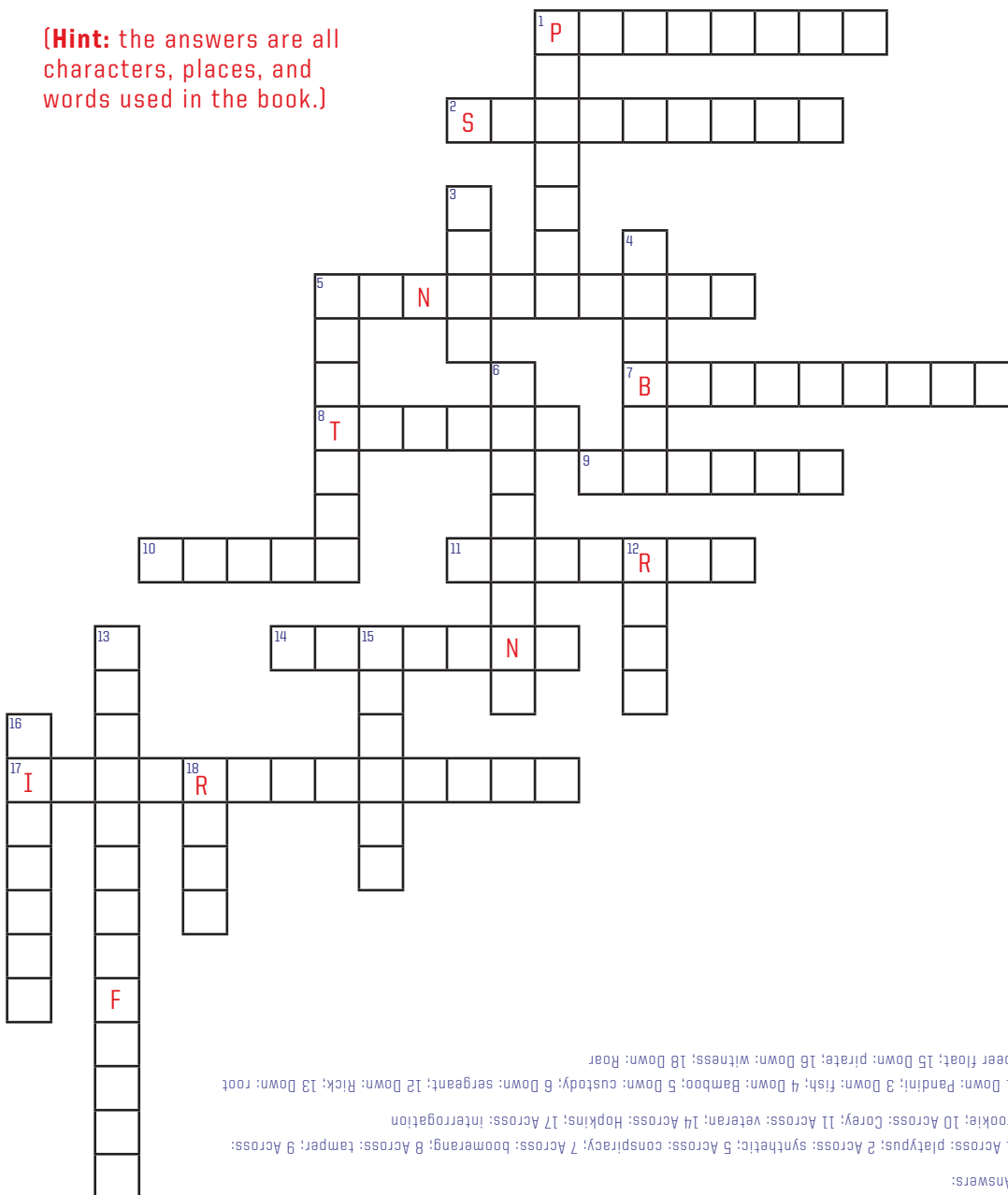
## Rule #3: Evaluate the Evidence

**"You've got to be patient. You can't just go into a situation all boomerangs a-blazing. You need a plan."**

—Detective Corey O'Malley

Another critical part of a platypus detective's job is to line up the facts, piece together the clues, and attempt to make sense of the crime, all while being careful not to ruffle any feathers (or fur). You have to pause to consider all the factors involved in the case before jumping to conclusions—a classic rookie mistake. Put your thinking bills on and your sleuthing skills to the test with this platypus puzzler.

**(Hint: the answers are all characters, places, and words used in the book.)**



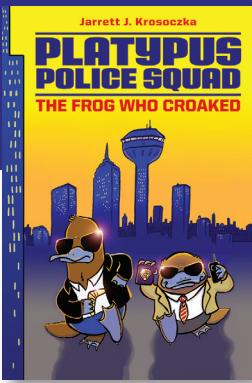
### ACROSS

- One of the five species of monotremes
- Artificial, resembling the real thing
- A secret plan or agreement
- Item carried by the PPS
- Mess with the evidence
- Name for a new detective
- O'Malley's first name
- Experienced, long-serving
- The frog who went missing
- Extensive questioning

### DOWN

- The panda with an agenda
- Some types of this can be illegal
- The hottest club in Kalamazoo City
- Being held by the police
- Top ranking officer on the PPS
- Zengo's first name
- Favorite drink of Zengo and O'Malley
- Kal East High School mascot
- Someone who provides evidence after seeing something
- The gym in Kalamazoo City

Answers: 1 Across: platypus; 2 Across: synthetic; 3 Down: panda; 4 Down: fish; 5 Down: bamboo; 6 Down: custody; 7 Across: conspiracy; 8 Across: tamper; 9 Across: rookie; 10 Across: Corey; 11 Across: veteran; 12 Down: sergeant; 13 Down: Rick; 14 Across: Hopkins; 15 Down: interrogation; 16 Down: witness; 17 Down: beer float; 18 Down: pirate; 19 Down: Roar



# Zengo and O'Malley's Rookie Rules ACTIVITY KIT

## Rule #4: Earn Your Badge

"That was some of the best detective work I've seen out of this unit in years. You should both be proud of yourselves."

—Sergeant Plazinski

Being a rookie on the Platypus Police Squad requires hard work, dedication, and determination. It's not easy and you're going to get your bill dirty, but you have to show the top platypuses that you have the skills to be a good detective. If you've solved the puzzles in this activity kit, then we salute you—you're ready to take on the big fins. Color, cut out, and personalize the badge below, making sure to write your name in the middle so the citizens of Kalamazoo City know who to call when trouble strikes. Use a piece of tape to affix it to your shirt. Wear your badge proudly—you've earned it!



**Safety Note:** Young rookies should always ask a grown platypus for help when using scissors.

