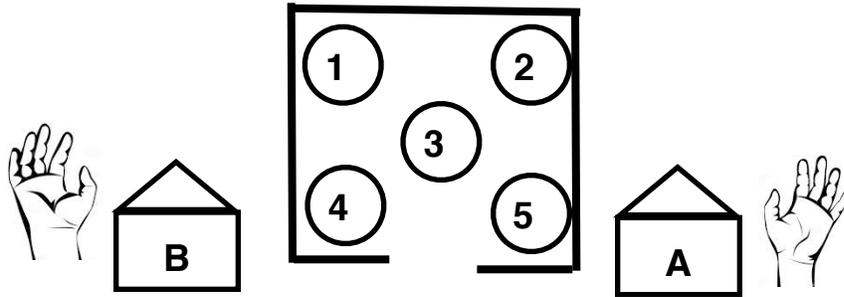


A Pair of Thieves

You know the old saying “Thieves of a feather gather together” or is it birds?



Start the trick by telling a story of 2 thieves who hide in 2 barns outside the field and the 5 sheep they plan to steal that are in the field. Place 5 pennies together in 1 group and say that these are the 5 sheep in the field. Place the other 2 coins apart from the field, 1 to the right of the field and 1 to the left of the field as shown

Say that the thieves decide to take the sheep from the field and hide them in the barns with them until they get all of the sheep. When they have them all they will steal the sheep from the farmer.

Step 1. Steal

Pick up the thief on the **right** in your right hand turn it over and hold it in a fist. Say this thief and his sheep will hide in this barn (A).

Pick up the thief on the **left** in your left hand turn it over and hold it in a fist. Say this thief and his sheep will hide in this barn (B).

Now say that each thief will steal some sheep and hide them in their barn .

Say:

The thief on the **right** steals 1 sheep for his barn. Put a coin from the field in your **right fist**.

The thief on the **left** steals 1 sheep for his barn. Put a coin from the field your **left fist**.

The thief on the **right** steals a second sheep. Put a coin from the field in your **right fist**.

The thief on the **left** steals a second sheep. Put a coin from the field your **left fist**.

The thief on the **right** steals the last sheep. Put a coin from the field in your **right fist**.

At this point the left fist has 3 coins and the right fist has 4 coins.

Step 2. Return

Say “Now the story changes. The farmer is seen coming down the road. They decide to hurry and put the sheep back before the farmer get there. We started by having the thief on the right stealing sheep but we now have the thief on the left return a sheep first.”

The thief on the **left** returns 1 sheep. Put a coin from your **left fist** back in the field

The thief on the **right** returns 1 sheep. Put a coin from your **right fist** back in the field

The thief on the **left** returns 1 sheep. Put a coin from your **left fist** back in the field

The thief on the **right** returns 1 sheep. Put a coin from your **right fist** back in the field

The thief on the **left** returns the last sheep. Put a coin from your **left fist** back in the field

At this point the left fist has 0 coins and the right fist has 2 coins.

Step 3. Steal

Say “Now the story changes again. The farmer sees all is well and goes back home. The thieves start to steal the sheep and put them in the barns again starting with the thief on the right.”

The thief on the **right** steals 1 sheep. Put a coin from the field in your **right fist**.

The thief on the **left** steals 1 sheep. Put a coin from the field your **left fist**.

The thief on the **right** steals a second sheep. Put a coin from the field in your **right fist**.

The thief on the **left** steals a second sheep. Put a coin from the field your **left fist**.

The thief on the **right** steals the last sheep. Put a coin from the field in your **right fist**.

At this point the right fist has 5 coins and the left fist has 2 coins.

Say “The local police are seen coming down the road. Each thief knows that if they are caught with the sheep in the barn with them they will go to jail or worse. But when the police enter the barn on the right they find 5 sheep.” At this point open you hand and show 5 coins. Say “ And when they enter the barn on the left they find the 2 thieves sleeping like babies as innocent a scan be.” Open your hand and show 5 coins.”