

The Treasure Hunt

Once upon a time, in the small village of Numerica, three adventurous friends—Alice, Bob, and Charlie—found an old map. The map promised to lead them to a hidden treasure buried 500 years ago.

"Look," said Alice, pointing to the map. "The first clue says: *Start at the oak tree and take 10 steps north.*"

Excited, the three friends rushed to the large oak tree at the center of the village. They took exactly 10 steps north and found a stone engraved with the number **20**.

"What does this mean?" asked Charlie.

Bob thought for a moment. "I think it's telling us to look for the next clue 20 steps to the east."

Following the map, they walked 20 steps east and found a wooden chest. But it was locked, and the lock had a combination dial with numbers from 1 to 50.

Inside the chest was another clue: *The code is the sum of Alice's age, Bob's age, and Charlie's age.*

Alice smiled. "I'm 12 years old, Bob is 14, and Charlie is 16. Let's add them up!"

" $12 + 14 + 16$ equals **42**!" exclaimed Charlie.

They entered 42 into the lock, and it clicked open. Inside the chest, they found a pile of gold coins—exactly **100 coins**—and a note that read:

"You have found the treasure. Divide the coins equally among yourselves, and may you always treasure your friendship!"

The three friends each took **33 coins**, leaving the remaining **1 coin** in the chest as a token of their adventure.

And so, Alice, Bob, and Charlie returned home, not just richer in gold, but in memories and the joy of teamwork.