

## Crack Down on Counterfeits: a Dupe Detector Kit Tale

AD LIB YOUR WAY THROUGH CHARMING NUTCRACKERVILLE. JOIN THE FUN BY ADDING IN YOUR OWN WORDS TO PERSONALIZE THIS HOLIDAY STORY. ★

The King scampered past, “Hurry up, can’t be late!” he exclaimed, as he raced toward the toy store, which closes at 8. The toy store, a gingerbread \_\_\_\_\_, was  
(type of building)

topped with candy. Having a neighborhood toy store was oh, so handy! The windows shone bright with \_\_\_\_\_ and white candy canes, all in a line.  
(color) ★



The \_\_\_\_\_, draped with \_\_\_\_\_ white lights  
(part of building) (size)

illuminated the \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSED sign.  
(adjective)

“Hmmm, if I buy online, I must overnight,” but the only option the King saw was a pop-up store called “Discount \_\_\_\_\_ Central.” “What a fright!” The King knew to  
(toy)

stay away from such a sketchy store – he’d have to return to the gingerbread toy store the next day to get his  
★

present for sure.

Ahead, a ballerina in a \_\_\_\_\_ tutu, twirled her way down Main Street, in  
(color)

search of sparkling sugarplums her family could eat. But when she whisked out her \_\_\_\_\_ and paid for the treats, the cashier raised her eyebrow and showed  
(accessory)



the receipt. “Declined,” read the paper, and the ballerina blushed. She \_\_\_\_\_ out the door and into the slush. She checked her bank app,  
(past tense verb)

and was startled to find, her identity stolen, checking account mined! She thought back

to a purchase she made via chat, shook her head and thought “it couldn’t be that!” It was suspect and shady and a little bit hurried, but never did she think she should ever be worried.



A soldier on leave went to pick up a box, but when he got to the post office all he could do was gawk. The box was discolored, and the \_\_\_\_\_ logo  
(famous brand)  
looked bizarre. The gift for his niece was tattered and torn. “That’s what I get for ordering off an unsecured website,” he muttered, forlorn.



Would the children of Nutcrackerville receive their gifts? The many wishes and hopes they wrote down on lists? Did they realize some of the presents wrapped up in ribbons, were sold by people headed for prison? Organized crime backs counterfeit goods, some based overseas, others in nearby neighborhoods.

Drum sets, \_\_\_\_\_, headphones, and electronic things  
(type of toys - plural)

things, \_\_\_\_\_, and gadgets with faulty wiring.  
(clothing type)



Counterfeit goods should make everyone worry. Child labor, poor working conditions, and environmental damage are just half of the story. The \_\_\_\_\_ items are sold by scammers, gangs, and organized  
(word for phony)

crime. You learned about safe purchasing, through our cute, little rhyme. Cheap and cheerful ads sound like a \_\_\_\_\_ idea, but are too good to be true when  
(positive word)

purchased from counterfeiters who could care less about you. Avoid pop-up banners and unsecured sites, stray from purchasing gifts from social media that disappear in the night. Be smart, be aware and above all stay merry. But now and in the new year... always stay wary.

**GO FOR REAL this holiday season!**