

## In the Nick of Time

**ANSWER: CLOCK**

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In general, the idea is that you need to solve the mystery. Since it's immediately obvious who the suspect is, the next apparent question is how the crime was committed.

Read through the materials. In each story, note that someone talks about a ticking noise and identifies it as coming from a particular direction. Using the map, see that everyone identifies it as coming from the general direction of the back of the house/the back hall.

Also note the things that people mention as getting messed up in the evacuation. Find in the inventory and find values. Total. Include the manuscript - the damages are as of a time earlier than the first interview mentions the manuscript being recovered at. Notice that the total damages are no greater than the sum of the known items broken - thus, there cannot *actually* have been a bomb.

Other things to note:

- Windle knows Locket (security guard) from the OVA - this means he has a sense that Locket's association with a mysterious ticking noise would likely be a bomb.
- Windle is a handyman and presumably clever with tools
- Mrs. Vent trips outside music room door - something is up with that location - (by process of elimination, that's also where the clock is)
- Windle does sound systems
- In the nick of *time*

Something is up with ticking noise + Windle is a handyman who does sound systems + he knows Locket in the context of the OVA → Windle has amplified the clock to freak out Locket and make everyone leave

Flavor: "Give your best simple, objective answer" → you want an object and a simple name for it. The object in question is the clock - in the inventory it's listed as "chronometer" but you want a simple answer so call it a CLOCK.