

Who Kidnapped the Lindbergh Baby?

Background

On March 1, 1932, 20 month old Charles Augustus Lindbergh, the son of world famous aviator Charles Lindbergh, was taken from the second story of his home in Hopewell, NJ. At approximately 10 PM, the child's nurse discovered that he was missing and alerted his parents. Upon further inspection of the nursery a ransom note was discovered on the windowsill. The crudely written note demanded that \$50,000 be delivered to a yet to be disclosed location.

During the primary crime scene investigation mud was discovered on the nursery floor along with several indistinguishable footprints. Sections of a makeshift wooden ladder which had been used to reach the second story nursery were also found. As soon as 10:30 PM that evening, news stations were broadcasting the story to the nation. The New Jersey State Police assumed charge of the investigation headed by Colonel H. Schwarzkopf, the father of Gulf War leader General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. Schwarzkopf was appointed by none other than FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

Lindbergh positioned himself at the head of investigation without much resistance from Schwarzkopf. He accepted Dr. John F. Condon, a retired Bronx school teacher, as the intermediary between himself and the kidnapper. On March 10, 1932, Condon commenced negotiations with the kidnapper using the alias "Jafsie."

Condon met with the alleged kidnapper, a man who called himself "John," on several occasions at a Bronx cemetery. During their final meeting, April 2, a \$50,000 ransom was handed over to "John" in exchange for the safe return of Lindbergh Jr. Instead, a note was given to Condon. It claimed that the boy was safe and aboard a boat, named "Nellie," off the coast of Massachusetts. The boat was never found.

Then, on May 12, 1932, the body of the missing boy was discovered. A truck driver had accidentally stumbled upon his partially buried remains approximately 4 miles away from the Lindbergh residence. A coroner determined the boy had died from a blow to the head and been dead for about two months.

Investigators got their big break when a New York bank alerted the New York Bureau Office to report the discovery of a \$10 gold certificate which was traced back to a German born carpenter by the name of Richard Hauptmann, who was arrested on September 19, 1934. "The Trial of Century" commenced on January 2, 1935 in Flemington, New Jersey to a crowd of sixty-thousand observers. During the trial eight different handwriting experts were called to testify as to whether or not the handwriting of the ransom note matched that of Richard Hauptmann.

Materials

Handwriting samples

Ruler

Procedure

1. Study the ransom note provided by your instructor. Perform an analysis of the handwriting sample using the 12 characteristics.
2. Perform an analysis of the known sample of handwriting that came from Richard Hauptmann using the 12 characteristics.
3. Note at least 5 unique letters or marks from the sample, determine how frequently these occur. Make a copy and enlarge these markers then paste them into the data section.
4. Next you will analyze the fingerprint left behind, classify it and identify at least 5 minutiae that can be used in comparison.
5. Then analyze each of Richard Hauptmann's fingerprints, classify them, and identify at least 5 minutiae in each.
6. After analyzing both samples of handwriting and fingerprints you will need to determine whether or not the handwriting is a match. You will need to prepare your findings in a written report to be submitted to the jury.

Written Lab Report

1. The purpose of the written report is to convince the members of a jury that you are an expert in the area of handwriting analysis.
2. You must reference the handwriting analysis and point to key similarities and/or dissimilarities that have enabled you to determine whether the handwriting in the ransom note matches the known sample.
3. Keep in mind that most juries have no knowledge of handwriting analysis. They may be highly educated, or they may have very little formal education. Therefore any terms you use must be clearly defined.
4. Your report should be typed, proper grammar, and spell checked.
5. The format for your written report to the jury is outlined as follows.

I. Introduction

- a. State the purpose of your report
 - b. No factual or detailed information should be in the introduction
 - c. State how you analyzed the handwriting
 - State how many different characteristics you used
 - State if it was possible to prove whether the handwriting samples are a match or not
 - d. State how you analyzed the fingerprint
 - State how fingerprints are classified and explain minutiae.
 - State if it was possible to prove whether the fingerprint was a match to the suspect or not.
- a. Several Body Paragraphs, at least six
 - a. One main idea or characteristic in each paragraph
 - b. For each handwriting trait you need to
 - describe the trait
 - Explain how the ransom note writer's note matched or didn't match the trait you are describing
 - Remember that you need to explain these terms to the jury and convince them that your comparison is correct.
 - c. For the fingerprint in one paragraph
 - Classify the fingerprint and describe the minutiae used in comparison
 - Explain how the fingerprint on the ransom note matched or differed from the
 - Again explain terms used to convince the jury

III. Conclusion

- a. Summarize your findings
- b. Do not repeat detailed information
- c. How reliable is our conclusion?
- d. Is handwriting evidence enough to convict someone.

e. Is this an important piece of evidence

Data

| Ransom Note Handwriting | | | |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Characteristic # | Yes | No | Comments and measurements in mm where required |
| 1. Is the line quality smooth? | | | |
| 2. Are words and margins evenly spaced? | | | Words: Margins: |
| 3. Is the size of letters consistent | | | |
| 4. Is the writing continuous | | | |
| 5. Are capital and lower case letters connected? | | | |
| 6. Are letter formations complete? | | | Be specific, which letters? |
| 7. Is all of the writing cursive? | | | Be specific, which words? |
| 8. Is the pen pressure the same throughout? | | | |
| 9. Do all letters slant to the right? | | | |
| 10. Are all letters written on the line? | | | |
| 11. Are there fancy curls or loops? | | | Which letters? |
| 12. Are all i's dotted and t's crossed? (top middle or not) | | | i's t's |

| Unique Markers found in Ransom Note | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pasted Examples | | | | | |
| Frequency | | | | | |

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| Richard Hauptmann's Handwriting | | | | |
|---|-----|----|--|--|
| Characteristic # | Yes | No | Comments and measurements in mm where required | |
| 13. Is the line quality smooth? | | | | |
| 14. Are words and margins evenly spaced? | | | Words: Margins: | |
| 15. Is the size of letters consistent | | | | |
| 16. Is the writing continuous | | | | |
| 17. Are capital and lower case letters connected? | | | | |
| 18. Are letter formations complete? | | | Be specific, which letters? | |
| 19. Is all of the writing cursive? | | | Be specific, which words? | |
| 20. Is the pen pressure the same throughout? | | | | |
| 21. Do all letters slant to the right? | | | | |
| 22. Are all letters written on the line? | | | | |
| 23. Are there fancy curls or loops? | | | Which letters? | |
| 24. Are all i's dotted and t's crossed? (top middle or not) | | | i's t's | |

| Unique Markers found in Ransom Note | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pasted Examples | | | | | |
| Frequency | | | | | |

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Documents and Fingerprints Analysis

Answer the following questions. Use complete sentences

1. List the three layers of skin discussed in class from superficial (surface) to deep.

a.

b.

c.

2. Classify each fingerprint below



3. Identify at least five minutiae in the fingerprint below.



4 . Identify each of the following as true or false.

- a. ____ There are 10 major categories of handwriting characteristics.
- b. ____ In handwriting analysis, a person's handwriting is compared to several exemplars.
- c. ____ A person's handwriting is so consistent that nothing alters it.
- d. ____ A biometric pad measures the speed, rhythm, and pressure of your handwriting.
- e. ____ Document experts analyze the paper and ink as well as the writing to determine authenticity.

5 . Differentiate between forgery and counterfeiting.

6 . List five different ways to determine if cash is real or not.

7. Explain how paper chromatography is used in document analysis. Include both procedure and how chromatography actually works. You may draw illustrations if you choose.

Grading Rubric

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Introduction and Conclusion | Little effort was apparent in the introduction and conclusion | Introduction and conclusion are complete but would be difficult for a jury to understand | Introduction and conclusion were clear and concise but did not follow the directions in the rubric | Introduction and conclusion were clear and concise. Stated all necessary information without including detailed information already in the body |
| Handwriting Analysis | Little effort into document analysis is apparent | Significant errors in document analysis, and/or explanation of was difficult to follow or unconvincing throughout. | Minor errors in document analysis, and/or explanation of was not quite clear or convincing in parts. | Each sample of handwriting was correctly analyzed according to the 12 characteristics and unique markers were identified, explanation of the comparison to the suspect was clear and convincing. |
| Fingerprint Analysis | Little effort into examination and comparison of the fingerprint is apparent | Significant errors in classification and comparison of the fingerprints, and/or explanation of was difficult to follow or unconvincing throughout. | Minor errors in classification and comparison of the fingerprints, and/or explanation of was not quite clear or convincing in parts. | Each fingerprint was correctly classified and at least five minutiae were identified for comparison, explanation of the comparison to the suspect was clear |

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|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | and convincing. |
| Suspect Identification | Little evidence of an effort to identify the suspect using evidence is provided. | Suspect was not correctly identified but detailed reasoning for the conclusion was given. Or suspect was correctly identified but little reason is given | Suspect was correctly identified. Detailed reasoning was provided. Data which does not support the theory is not addressed or not sufficiently explained | Suspect was correctly identified. Detailed reasoning was provided citing specific traits. Any data that does not support the theory is acknowledged and explained. |
| Use of Vocabulary | 2 or less words were properly used and defined | 3-4 words were properly used and defined | 5-7 words were properly used AND defined | 8+ words were properly used AND defined |
| Analysis Questions | Fingerprint and Document analysis shows little understanding in the fundamentals of crime scene investigation | Fingerprint and Document analysis shows significant gaps in understanding in three to four areas. | Fingerprint and document analysis show significant gaps in understanding in one to two areas. | All answers on fingerprints and document analysis were correct and well-reasoned. Minor errors may only result in a dock of half a point. |
| Comments | | | | |

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|---|--|---|--|---|--|------|--|--|--|-------------|--|
| APPLICANT <small>* See Privacy Act Notice on Back</small> | | LEAVE BLANK | | TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION IN BLACK LAST NAME NAM FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME | | | | FBI | | LEAVE BLANK | |
| FD-258 (Rev. 5-15-17) 1110-0046 | | SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED | | ALIASES AKA | | ORI | | | | | |
| RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED | | | | | | | | DATE OF BIRTH Month Day DOB Year | | | |
| CITIZENSHIP CTZ | | SEX | | RACE | | HGT. | | WGT. | | EYES | |
| DATE | | SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING FINGERPRINTS | | YOUR NO. OCA | | HAIR | | PLACE OF BIRTH | | POB | |
| EMPLOYER AND ADDRESS | | UNIVERSAL CONTROL NO. UCN | | LEAVE BLANK | | | | | | | |
| | | ARMED FORCES NO. MNU | | CLASS _____ | | | | | | | |
| REASON FINGERPRINTED | | SOCIAL SECURITY NO. SOC | | REF. _____ | | | | | | | |
| | | MISCELLANEOUS NO. MNU | | | | | | | | | |

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| 1. R. THUMB | 2. R. INDEX | 3. R. MIDDLE | 4. R. RING | 5. R. LITTLE |
| | | | | |
| 6. L. THUMB | 7. L. INDEX | 8. L. MIDDLE | 9. L. RING | 10. L. LITTLE |
| LEFT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY | | L. THUMB | R. THUMB | RIGHT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY |

5/15

Dear Sir!

Have 50,000 \$ ready, 25,000 \$ in
20 \$ bills, 15,000 \$ in 10 \$ bills and
10,000 \$ in 5 \$ bills. After 2-4 days
we will inform you when to deliver
the money.

We warn you for making
anything public or for notifying the police.
The child is in your care.

Indication for all letters are
signature and 3 holes.



Nursery Ransom Note

Trenton Archive photo: ronelle delmont

Dear Sir! Have 50,000\$ ready 2500\$ in 20\$ bills 1 5000\$ in 10\$ bills and 10000\$ in 5\$ bills. After 2-4 days we will inform you were to deliver the Money. We warn you for making anyding public or for the police the child is in gut care. Indication for all letters are signature and 3 holes.