

Maths Murder Mystery 11 - Death in the library

People can lose their lives in libraries. They ought to be warned – Saul Bellow

Councillor Fogin was visiting his local library for the last time. He had voted to close it down and next week it would be finally closed. The library staff had been very kind and had made him a cup of coffee which he was drinking as he eyed up the large mahogany table. Slipping a tape measure out of his pocket, he quickly took the measurement. Just as he thought, it would fit his office perfectly.

Smugly he sipped his coffee and read the slogan on the mug: Nothing is pleasanter than exploring a library. “Especially when it’s closing down,” he thought. That was his last thought before the large bookcase he was standing next to toppled on top of him and crushed him.

The police discovered that the bookcase had been pushed from behind. There were 32 people in the library at the time. They found 5 clues. The murderer is referred to as M in the clues. Each clue will eliminate half of the suspects. In clues 1, 3 & 4 $a=1$, $b=2$, $c=3$ etc.

Can you solve the clues to enable the police to throw the book at the killer?

