Jelena Charcova:
Jelena ist eine gute Freundin von Bob. Sie ist sehr schlau und hat den drei ??? in der Vergangenheit schon bei mehreren Fällen geholfen, obwohl sie ständig Streit mit Justus hat. Jelena fährt nicht mit nach Alaska, aber die drei ??? rufen sie an, um Informationen über die Rennteilnehmer zu bekommen.
1. Nice Dogs and bad Cookies

“I’m cold!” says Peter Shaw.
“Me too!” agrees Bob Andrews.
“But here in Dawson it’s only ten degrees below zero!” says Justus Jonas. “When we go to Alaska, it will be much colder! In the wilderness you get temperatures up to thirty degrees below zero!”

The Three Investigators from California have just arrived in Canada. Now they are on their way to a meeting with Carol Ford. The reporter is a friend of Bob’s father. The Three Investigators already worked for her some months ago. Now Carol Ford has a new job for the boys: She is writing
a report on the sled-dog race “Nordic Wilderness Race” and needs a camera team.

“Great you came!” Carol Ford greets the boys. “It’s so cold, I feel like a snowman. Or better: a snowwoman!”

“We’re glad that we can help you, Carol!” says Justus. He looks around. They are standing by a huge parking area. All the people who take part in the sled-dog race camp here. There is a cabin where you can buy food and a cabin with restrooms. Justus sees a lot of ski-doos and a couple of trucks that have holes in the sides. Dogs are looking out of the holes. People in warm coats are walking across the snowy area. Some are carrying buckets of water, others are loading sleeping bags, lamps and cans
onto their sleds. Everyone is busy.
“I really need your help here!” Carol says while they walk towards the trucks.
“Well,” says Peter, “it’s good you need us now! We don’t have to go to school this week. You’re lucky it’s a school-holiday week in California. **Besides**, at the moment we have a lot of time, because we don’t have a criminal **case**.”
“I actually have a case for you!” Carol Ford says in a low voice.
“Really? A criminal case?” Suddenly, Justus sounds very happy. The word “case” always has a **magical impact** on the First Investigator.
“Yes! I think it’s sabotage!” says Carol. “Somebody is trying **to harm** the other mushers!”
“What are mushers?” asks Peter.
“I’m sorry, Carol,” says Justus. “Your Second Investigator was sleeping when Bob and I talked about the race on the plane.”

“When you talked about the race?” Peter says amused, “You held an endless lecture about sled-dogs and racing rules and the weather in Alaska! After half an hour I really needed a break!”

“Please, don’t argue about this now! We do not have much time. The race starts tomorrow. And you need to be prepared!” says Carol. “To make it short: A musher is the person who stands on the sled and controls the dogs.”

“There are about twelve to sixteen dogs in front of each sled,” Justus Jonas explains. “I know that!” says Peter. He throws his scarf over his shoulder. “They drive