# THE SHAPE OF THINGS 💡💡

BY MARGERY ALBIS

Every year, math teacher Mr. Metry teaches a unit on Platonic solids, and every year, the same thing happens: The kids just don't get it. They act like they understand, but when test time rolls around, it's painfully obvious that the whole subject is Greek to them—just like it was to Plato.

What's a Platonic solid, you ask? It's simply a multi-sided figure in which each face is an identical shape with angles of equal size and lines of equal length. A cube, for example, has six congruent square faces. Believe it or not, only five Platonic solids exist: the cube, the tetrahedron (made of four triangles), the octahedron (made of eight triangles), the dodecahedron (12 pentagons), and the icosahedron (20 triangles).

This year, Mr. Metry is making one last-ditch effort to get through to these kids: visual aids. Five volunteers from the class have constructed the five different solids out of cardboard, and each student used a different color of cardboard. Using the five clues given below, can you figure out who made what and in which color?

CUBE

DODECAHEDRON

TETRAHEDRON

ICOSAHEDRON

OCTAHEDRON
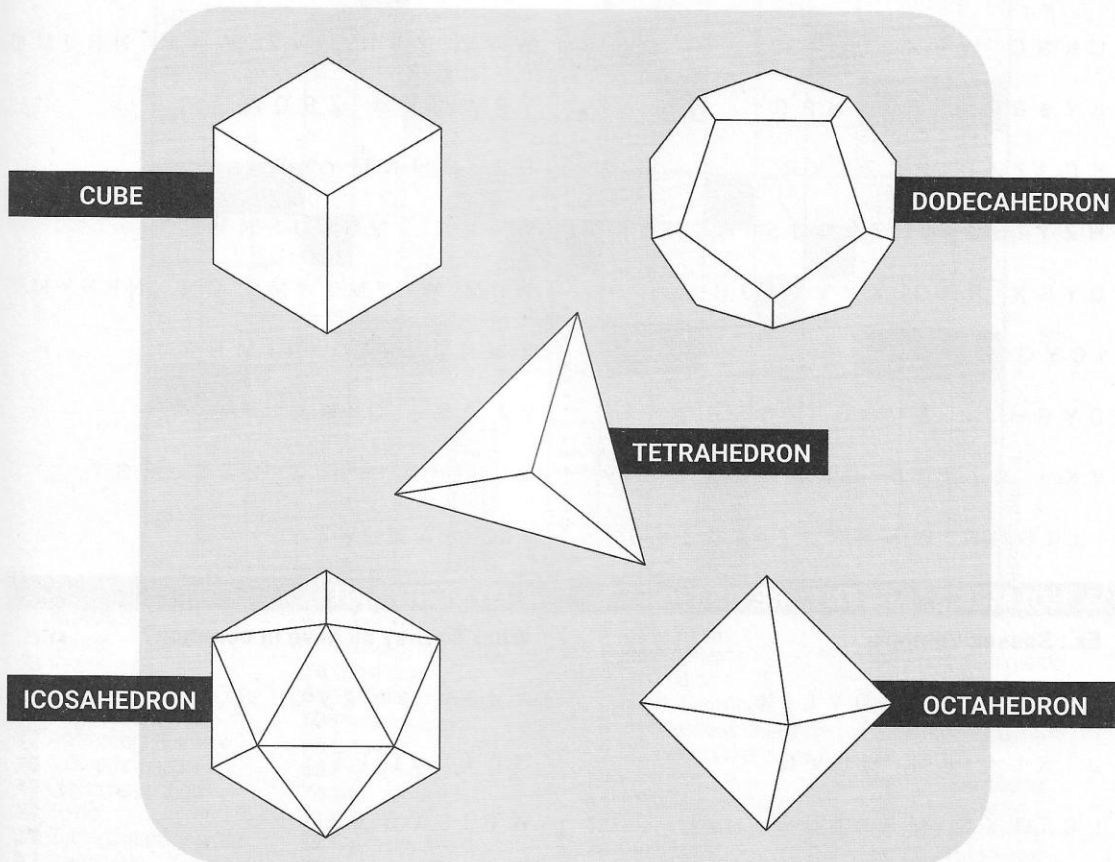
1. The fuchsia figure had more faces than Barry's model but fewer faces than Anita's.

2. Marti and the students who made their models from maroon and violet cardboard are the three students whose figures were made of triangles.

3. The magenta model had more faces than Jordan's and fewer faces than a certain model made from either maroon or turquoise cardboard.

4. The maroon figure didn't have exactly eight more faces than Tori's figure.

5. Three students whose models were made with three different shapes (i.e., triangles, squares, or pentagons, in some order) are: Barry, Jordan, and the student who made his or her model in fuchsia.