



Neil Flambe

Scavenger hunt

KEVIN SYLVESTER

Hello food-loving sleuths!

Neil Flambé the detective chef turns TEN this year! Well, his first adventure – *Neil Flambé and the Marco Polo Murders* – does. Yes, it was way back in 2010 that Neil hit the bookshelves.

If you know the books, you’ll know that they are filled with all sorts of “hidden” jokes, puns and references. You know, Easter eggs.

There are puns based on *haute cuisine*... like naming characters after foods; Tortellini, Stromboli, Fusilli, Nori.

And there are jokes you will only get if you know about me or *really* know the books.

The books are also filled with codes – secret messages that Neil (or usually Larry and Isabella) has to solve to figure out “whodunit”.

Think you know the books? Think you know how to crack codes?



Great! Here are 50 nose-tingling trivia, trivial and tricky questions.

You need to find the answers. Some are simple – heck you might not even need to crack the spine of a book to get them right.

Others will take some digging. But you look pretty smart... I think you can handle it.

Think of each of them as an ingredient in a giant Neil Flambé Birthday Cake! And if you know about baking, you’ll know that you can’t skip a step.

Are there prizes?

YES!

What will you get?

I am offering up three things. If you get all 50 answers right you'll be entered in a draw for one of THREE prizes.

1. An original Neil Flambé illustration. This will be a custom request, drawn just for you! This also comes with a \$100 gift certificate for your local indie bookstore.

2. A complete set of all the Neil books, signed, with original cartoons and bookmarks.

3. I'll name one of the characters in Neil Flambé #7 after you. You get to decide if it's a villain or a hero. And if a whole classroom filled with kids joins together to track down these well... I'll figure out a way to pack you all in somehow.

The deadline is **September 30th, 2020.**

But lets say you don't finish, or you just wanted to, but ran out of time. Or you like the picture clues, but got lost in all the wordy ones. That's like eating the hamburger but skipping the broccoli.

And that's totally cool.

Because for everyone who sends me their scavenger hunt (incomplete, incorrect, filled in by your pet chihuahua) I'll still email or mail you an original cartoon.

See, you can't lose!

There are five levels of clues/questions in the menu. (You can probably tell Neil ranked them.)



Menu

Antipasti - Larry

Primi - Nakamura

Secondi - Angel

Dolce - Isabella

Formaggi e frutta - Neil

Email me your response by September 30th, 2020.

neilflambe10@gmail.com

I'll do a live "pick the winner" announcement a few days after that.

Ready? Set? **SEARCH!**

ANTIPASTI

LARRY LEVEL

Neil thinks any goofball – i.e. Larry - can get these.

1. Who was the first person Neil helped send to jail?

2. What goes on a scone first, according to Larry?

3. What is Neil's first word?

4. Answer this riddle.

*I'm simply made, and simply eaten.
Just some flour, fruit and eggs, beaten.
Fruit goes first but ends up upper
You can have me after supper.*

What am I, and in which Neil book do I appear?

5. Who threw the tuna through the window?

6. Greta Carbo is named after what famous actor?

7. *The Chef* is a manga Larry does with his friend. The Chef uses an atomic avocado to fight his archenemy, Lord Vegemight. What does Neil think the Chef's secret weapon SHOULD be?

8. What's the name Larry gives to their food truck?

9. Larry installed a special ringtone on Neil's cell for calls from Sean Nakamura. What TV show is it from?



10. There's often an illustration at the front and back of each book. Larry has "altered" the second postcard. Can you spot the 6 differences?



PRIMI

NAKAMURA LEVEL

Slightly less goofball than Larry... according to Neil.
But still not a challenge for someone with Neil's intellect.



1. Kevin Sylvester (me) is in jail in the first book, but not named. You know it's me because of my baseball hat. What does it say?

2. What movie series does Sean Nakamura watch as he and Neil fly to Tokyo?

3. Jean-Claude Chili works for what international foodie organization?

4. Take the year Marco Polo died.
Add the year of the Great Fire of London.
Subtract the number of books in the NF Capers... so far.
Multiply by Neil's age at the beginning of Book Six.
Divide by the number of eggs in a two-dozen package.
What do you get?

5. Nakamura wanted to be a chef, but his father told him to avoid the heartaches. Still, he dreams of sushi all the time. What is *unagi*?

6. Knowing he might die, what special item does Larry leave in an envelope for Neil?

7. Nakamura and Neil (with Larry's help) crack a case involving fake Kopi Luwak coffee. Someone is feeding house cats coffee beans and having the cats poop them out! Real Kopi Luwak is made from beans that have been pooped out by what animal?

8. Neil has a legion of feral cats that hang around outside his restaurant waiting for scraps. Neil's enemy Matsumoto Nori also has hungry animals waiting for his chefs to throw stuff out. What are they?

9. What color are Neil's eyes?

10. What's a me-shirt?

SECONDI

ANGEL LEVEL

Angel likes to keep it simple



1. The chef Neil meets in the Grand Canyon is named Ira Hayes. Kevin names him that to honor someone who has been, sadly, erased from most histories. Who was the real Ira Hayes?

2. Angel often relaxes by playing an old guitar. Why is it special?

3. Chapultepec is a park in Mexico City. What does “chapultepec” mean?
4. The Soba twins listen to all sorts of music when they work. What band do they listen to on full blast while demolishing Chez Flambé?
5. What three shapes do I use to make a drawing of Neil Flambé?
6. What jobs do Neil’s not very attentive parents have?
7. What Shakespeare plays do Larry, Neil and Isabella make puns for? (There are 11.)
8. Baby Neil cries and cries, until his parents leave the TV on. It’s showing an old Julia Child cooking show. What is Child making that makes Neil the child calm down?
9. What **font** is used in the Neil Flambé Capers?
10. How often does a Canada Goose poop, according to Larry?

DOLCE

ISABELLA LEVEL

**Almost Neil level. Isabella is a perfumer.
But she's also a detective in her own right.
Think you can match her?**

1. Isabella Tortellini's name is based a famous actor. Name that actor's mother!

2. Deep Blue Cheese is one of Neil's toughest foes, a super-smart cooking computer. Who or what is DBC based on?

3. Why is the cheese shop named Wensleydale's?

4. What does Larry's original me-shirt say?

5. Like many authors I've been inspired by years of fairy tales and myths. Neil tells Larry he feels like they are trapped in the fairy tale "Jerk and the Beanstalk". When does he say this and why?

6. Name the three chefs who judge the battle with Deep Blue Cheese?

7. What is Gary's main job, apart from helping Neil cook amazing salmon?

8. Larry wanted to put the "fun" in his own funeral, so he wrote his own eulogy. What was "fun" about the way he did it?

9. Isabella's father dies in a duel. What fish leads to his demise?

10. What scent does Isabella often wear, and which Neil uses a few times to detect that she's nearby?



FORMAGGI e FRUTTA

NEIL LEVEL

Only for the truly talented.

Genius level, in fact... or so Neil tells me.

1. Going back to the Angel level question #7. Larry tells Neil he can't name one of the Shakespeare plays out loud, and has to call it "The Scottish Plate" instead. Why would he say this?

2. The Neil Flambé Capers have been out for 10 years as books. But there was a Neil story before that. What was IT called?

3. Who joins Neil to run a Vancouver Pride Day food booth? (hint: Book 6)

4. What are C23, F12, B15?

5. WORD SEARCH. Baseball pops up (get it) all the time in the Neil Flambé books. Can you find these baseball references?

- A. A Mark of victory?
- B. An old Brooklyn Dodger with a fishy name?
- C. A Giant egg?

6. The first words Deep Blue Cheese says are "Would you like to plate some game?" It's a pun. How so?

7. What mine is Guillermo's based on?

8. Mxk iye nomszrob drsc myno kxn kxcgob drsc aeocdsyx? Grkd gkc dro xkwo yp dro psbcd Pvkwo dy lo mebcon li dro Fkvoddoc?



9. What's wrong with this picture? There are a lot of things, but pick 4.



10. Draw Neil flipping pizza dough in the air.

