



Cyber Detectives Lesson: Spot the Red Flags

Teacher Guide · 6th grade (ages 11–12) · 30 minutes

Goal

Students recognize the red flags behind gaming scams, account theft, and fake online friends, and practice the move: Pause. Verify another way. Tell a trusted adult.

You need

- Classroom screen with officerquackers.com (choose Cyber Detectives, then Practice)
- Student worksheet (page 2) for each student; family note (page 3)

Lesson steps

Time	What to do
4 min	Hook: "Raise your hand if you've ever seen an offer for free Robux, V-Bucks, or skins." Explain: most are traps to steal accounts.
6 min	Teach the 5 red flags (worksheet top): Rush, Secret, Free stuff, Move apps, Codes or passwords.
10 min	Run one Practice round on screen. Students hold up 1, 2, or 3 fingers for their answer, then discuss why. Every round shows different scenarios.
8 min	Pairs complete the worksheet cases. Review answers together.
2 min	Exit ticket: each student writes one trusted adult they could tell. Send the family note home.

Discussion questions

- Why do scammers try to rush you?
- Why would someone you just met want to move to a private app?
- How can you check if a message from a friend is really from them?
- What would make it hard to tell an adult? What would make it easier?

Answer key (worksheet)

Case 1: Free stuff + Rush + login link. Don't log in; report and block. Case 2: Codes. Never send it; check with the friend in person. Case 3: Move apps + Secret. Stop chatting and tell a trusted adult. Case 4: Rush + Secret + gift cards. Call the person on a number you already know.

If a student shares that something happened: stay calm, thank them, and don't ask for details in front of the class. Follow your school's reporting procedure; teachers are mandatory reporters. For online exploitation, an adult can report to the NCMEC CyberTipline (report.cybertip.org, 1-800-843-5678). If a child is in danger, call 911.





Cyber Detective Case File

Name: _____

The 5 Red Flags	What it looks like
RUSH	"Act now!" "Expires in 10 minutes!"
SECRET	"Don't tell your parents." "Keep this between us."
FREE STUFF	Free Robux, skins, gift cards, prizes
MOVE APPS	"Let's talk on a different app."
CODES OR PASSWORDS	"Send me the code you just got."

For each case, write the red flags you see and what you should do.

Case	Red flags I see	What I should do
Case 1. A DM says: "FREE 10,000 Robux! Log in at this link in the next 10 minutes!"		
Case 2. You get a text with a 6-digit code. Your friend messages: "I sent my code to you by mistake, send it back?"		
Case 3. A new player is super nice and sends you a skin. Now they want to talk on a different app and say "don't tell anyone."		
Case 4. A voice message sounds like your cousin: "I need a gift card fast. Don't tell your mom."		

My move: Pause. Verify another way. Tell a trusted adult.

One trusted adult I could tell: _____





Note for Families

Today your child learned to spot online red flags.

The 5 red flags

- Rush: pressure to act fast
- Secret: "don't tell your parents"
- Free stuff: free game currency, gift cards, prizes
- Move apps: asking to chat somewhere private
- Codes or passwords: asking for sign-in codes

Try at home (10 minutes)

- Ask your child to explain the 5 red flags to you.
- Play Cyber Detectives → Practice together at officerquackers.com. New scenarios every round.
- Check together: is location sharing off, and is the account private on each app?
- Set a family rule: no chatting on apps that you haven't looked at together.
- See the free App Safety Guide at officerquackers.com/app-guide.html.

If something happens

Stay calm and don't blame your child. Save screenshots, don't pay or reply to threats, and report. Online exploitation: NCMEC CyberTipline, report.cybertip.org, 1-800-843-5678. Child in danger: 911. Full help list: officerquackers.com/grown-ups.html

