

Name:

Math Olympiad Exploring! – Problem Due: – March 18, 2004

Stump the Postman

A mailman has been delivering mail on the same street for many years. One of the residents learns that the mailman is a fan of logic puzzles. So she presents the following puzzle to him:

“I have three children, and I would like you to guess their age. I will give you clues, and you must give me the answer as soon as you can.”

Delighted, the postman accepts the challenge.

Here is the first clue: “The product of their ages is 36.”

The postman reflects and says “I can not give the answer.”

Here is a second clue: “The sum of their ages is equal to the number on the house across the street.”

The postman thinks again and says “I still can not give the answer.”

The resident replies, “Agreed”. Here is a final clue: “My oldest child does not like chocolate.”

The postman laughs at this last clue, and gives the correct answer.

Question: What are the ages of the three children?

Hint after Clue 1: Make a table of all possible ages.

Hint after Clue 2: This means that there are two sums are the same.

Hint after Clue 3: If you have twins, neither one is "older"