Mall Scavenger Hunt

Basic Idea-
Most teens know their local mall pretty well. But, finding specific items in specific stores is not quite as easy as they might think and is a lot of fun. You could put a theme into your hunt (Back to School, Christmas Shopping, Colors, Etc.) but for ours, I simply chose random things.

Prepare-
I went to the mall and wandered around with a notepad for two hours. I jotted lots of things down, and narrowed down to my final choices later. For our hunt, I selected the stores and which item in each store. I tried to find things that were not the ‘front and center’ and also selected things that would take both a little thought as well as some eagle eye/where’s waldo type skill. I purposely found a few things and worded the clues so that the teens could have a few ‘store’ options based on the clue, but only 1 store would be correct and actually have the item they were looking for. (ie. There are at least 8 shoe/sports stores in our local mall and they had to find the correct store with the item in it …an item that only 1 of the 8 sport stores actually had)

Once I wrote all the clues/poems, I typed them out and cut each one. I made enough copies of each clue for the amount of teams I was going to have. (Teams were 2 or 3 teens) Once the clues were printed and cut, I took them all and arranged the clues in 8 different orders (for 8 different teams). In other words, Team 1 might go looking for Clue #8 first, but Team #8 might be looking for Clue #1 first. This way, no team would be looking for the same store/item at the same time. Too easy for them to cheat that way. I kept a notepad with each team’s order on it and as each team completed a clue, I checked them off.

Leaders-
In a few stores that had harder to find items, I had let the manager know. But, for the most part, I didn’t need to. But, in case you want to or have a situation you need to….here is an example. For the same clue I was explaining about (Sports Store / Sports Item) the teens were supposed to find a specific sports jersey (Tony Parker / San Antonio Spurs). There are 8 sports stores in our local mall, but only 1 had a Tony Parker Jersey. (I live in Miami/Ft. Lauderdale….we are ALL Miami Heat down here…ha!) The one jersey the store had was up on a top rack by the ceiling and was a child size. Since it was an item that was not on a rack at the teen’s height level, where they could find it themselves by looking at each one, I told the manager that if they ask, he could give them a hint, but shouldn’t tell them exactly where it was. He was totally cool about it and loved the idea of telling them things like, “That jersey is at the HEIGHT of popularity right now.” OR “Basketball players are tall, you might have to look UP to see them.” Definitely tell your teens NOT to run in the mall. A few of ours got fussed at by the ‘mall cop’.

During the competition, I sat in the middle of our mall outside our Starbucks. This was perfect and central for the teens to have as home base.
HOW IT WORKS-

- Once the teens arrive, have them select teams of 2 or 3 players.
  - Have them come up with a team name.
- Explain that each team will be given a different clue, so that they are not trying to find the same store and item at the same time.
- Once the team figures out which store, and finds their item, they must use their cell phone to take a picture of it. Once they have taken a picture of it, they must come back to home base (me at Starbucks in the middle of the mall) to verify if it's correct.
- If they have gone to the wrong store, or even gone the correct store, but found the wrong item, they must try again. I would tell them either ‘wrong store’ or ‘right store, wrong item’. This had them going back and forth quite a bit. Great fun for me! (:  
- Once they had the correct store/item and showed me the correct item in the picture, then I checked off that they completed that clue and gave them the next clue. (DO NOT GIVE THEM MORE THAN 1 CLUE AT A TIME….as they will skip around and end up looking for the same store/item as another team.
- I kept track of which teams finished in which place (1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}, etc.) and awarded a prize to the team who came in first place. Their prize was any drink they wanted at either Starbucks or The Smoothie Store.

They all had a blast and want to do it again. They were surprised at how hard it was but, realized it was a good challenge. If it had been to easy, they would have been bored.

Below you will find the clues by number.

STORE/LOCATION is printed in green  
POEM follows printed & underlined in black. (THIS IS WHAT THE TEENS RECEIVED)  
Special or extra info printed in red.  
Actual teen questions or tips that arose during the hunt printed in blue.

THERE ARE 16 TOTAL CLUES IN THIS HUNT.
My Clues Are As Follows-

**Clue 1**
*Store = Kohls  Item = JLo Bedding / Comforter Set called “Jet Setter”*  (she has many different styles of bedding, but only one set had the name “Jet Setter”).

Poem-  JLo’s career is hot, and she’s such a Jet Setter, when she goes to sleep at night, she bring sequins and leather together.

This Comforter set had faux leather and sequin throw pillows. Jet Setter was clearly printed on the front of the bedding packaging.  
Many of the teens knew JLo was a brand at Kohl’s.  But, most went right to the clothing dept and found a sequined skirt to photograph.  They had to be told a few times, “Right Store, Wrong Item” and READ THE CLUE CAREFULLY!

**Clue 2**
*Store = Build A Bear Workshop  Item = Monkey in Soccer Outfit Heading a Soccer Ball (On a top shelf in the corner of store)*

This little guy’s header is World Cup worthy, but he’s stuck playing soccer in Coral Square Mall, surrounded by all things furry.
**Clue 3**

*Store = NOT ACTUALLY A STORE – THIS WAS A HUGE FISH TANK which is located at one end of our mall. Item = Polka Dot Fish (there was only 1)*

Nemo and Dory left me out of their story, but my dots are so pretty, there are way more than a hundred and fiddy!

The tricky part of this one was to locate the correct fish (who swims in and out of coral all day long) and then actually get a picture of it (it is constantly moving so this is harder than it seems)

Because of the Finding Nemo reference, a few teens went to The Disney store and took a picture of a dalmation. I hadn’t actually thought of that when I wrote the clue, but realized how they came to that connection.

**Clue 4**

*Store = Things Remembered Item = Snow Globe with 2 Panda’s Inside*

*Remember last winter, the snow was all over, some things a black and white duo just can’t get over. Stuck in a storm is the hand they were dealt, on a shelf with others where the snow never melts.*

Two teams found the store and the snow globes, but disregarded the ‘black and white duo’ part and just took a picture of the snow globe shelf, or just the first one they could pick up. This is the fun part for the leader, ‘right store...wrong item...read the clue carefully!’
**Clue 5**

*Store = Bath and Body Works  Item = Sweet Pea Flavor Wallflower (A wallflower is a plug in scented oil diffuser)*

Sweet and fragrant and much loved by many, it smells so good, you'll want to buy plenty. The only remaining scent from this store’s original line, don’t be a wallflower, find it in time!

For this one, they had to not only figure out that it was a wallflower but also had to photograph the correct scent.

![Sweet Pea Wallflowers](image)

**Clue 6**

*Store = Disney Store  Item = Chewbacca's Diary (A journal/notebook which is in the Star War’s section of the store and the entire book is covered in Chewbacca’s Fur and complete on front with his ammunition belt going diagonally across it.)*

They’re filming another sequel and this character is excited, it’s been many, many years since he had been invited. Lots of lines to learn, and director's notes to remember, this notebook should help him during filming in September. Not to worry, it will be easy to find, just like the character, it’s a fur covered one of a kind!

![Chewbacca's Diary](image)
Clue 7 -
*Store* = Francesca’s Boutique & Gift Store  *Item* = Ninja Bread Men Cookie Cutters
(Actually three cooking cutters that are in the shape of Gingerbread men in Ninja Poses...kick, punch, etc.)

Gingerbread men are a great gift to find, but the ninja version is a more fun kind! Only a funky little place would have such a thing, and if you find the right place, you might see this item and lots of earrings.

This store is known by most girls for cute jewelry and clothes, but they also have super cute gifts. This is why I put the earring reference in the clue, because you would have to find a store with both jewelry and funky and fun gifts.

Clue 8 -
*Store* = Macy’s  *Item* = A Painted Rainbow on the ceiling
(Our Macy’s used to be Burdine’s. Burdine’s was known as “The Florida Store” ceiling is high vaulted and has blue sky and clouds painted on it. When Macy’s bought out Burdine’s in the late 90’s, they converted and renovated everything in the store except the pretty sky ceiling. This is unique to this store...and something I thought would be fun for the teens to find. The blue sky and cloud ceiling runs all the way down the center of the store, but there is a rainbow in only one corner of it. The rainbow goes across the corner diagonally, and if there was a pot of gold painted at the end of it (which there isn’t) it would be directly on top of the lady’s shoe dept.

The original Burdine’s had a ceiling so divine, and after all these years, it’s still a gorgeous one to find. There’s a magical part to it if you look real hard, the pot of gold at the end is something most women buy with a credit card.

Many of my teens told me after, “I walk through Macy’s ALL the time, but never noticed the ceiling!” :(
**Clue 9:**
*Store = Yankee Candle*  *Item = Florida Gator Scented Candle*
Our Yankee Candle Store has Florida Gator Candles which are blue and have a Florida Gator Head on the label. The scent is actually ‘Home Sweet Home’ which is usually a Red Candle, but for this special edition, the candle is Florida Gator Blue!

Home Sweet Home is the Orange and Blue, this is the perfect thing for a dorm room that doesn’t smell new!

![Florida Gator Candles](image)

**Clue 10:**
*Store = Garage*  *Item = Headless Mannequins at the entrance to the store*
Garage is a trendy teen clothing store and there were three models at the entrance that had no heads. (On purpose, none of the mannequins inside the store have heads either)

**Take a selfie with this trio of mechanics, they are headless, so don’t you panic!**

I did ask the manager ahead of time (I did my research a few days before the actual hunt) to make sure that the three headless mannequins would still be at the entrance to the store over the weekend. I wanted to make sure that they didn’t change their display from the time I did my research to the time the hunt took place.

![Headless Mannequins](image)
Clue II-
Store = Journey's  Item= World Cup Tom's Shoes
Journey's is a shoe store which carry's more alternative types of shoes. Doc Martins, etc. They carry the most variety of Tom's Shoes. More than any other store in the mall. There was a special design (fabric) for the world cup which had all the different countries flags on them.

Take a step in these shoes and perhaps you will see, your soccer skills might improve drastically. With all the countries represented the World Cup is on fire, and if you buy these shoes, a donation will be made to those whose life is dire.

One team though they were looking for cleats and I had to give them the hint of ‘shoes that make a donation to less fortunate’. Then they figured it out.

We did the hunt during The World Cup so it was relevant at the time. I also have many teens from South American Countries (Peru, Columbia, Venzuela, Argentina, etc.) and they were ALL ABOUT the world cup so it made sense to have it as part of our hunt.
Clue 12:  
Store = Lid’s Locker Room  
Item = Tony Parker San Antonio Spurs Jersey  
This is the item I was explaining in the beginning.

He is the new champion. Wade and Lebron aren’t happy, but at the end of game 5 the Texans got clappy. This Frenchie’s number is popular now after his team won, you see all of his fans are shouting, ‘We Won, Oui Oui!!!’

Most of the teams went to every sports store in the mall until they found the right one. They had to figure out the item before the store on this one.

The NBA Finals had just concluded two weeks prior and down here in Miami Heat Country, EVERYONE knew the outcome. The boys were easier figuring this one out than the girls. I did suggest in the beginning that the teams be mixed (girls and boys), but several teams selected girl only or boy only. The dead giveaway in this clue, if you follow basketball, is that Tony Parker is French (down here we have a lot of Quebec Snow Birds which are referred to as “Frenchies” and obviously, in French, “Yes, Yes” translates to “Oui, Oui”)

Clue 13:  
Store = Hallmark  
Item = TGIF Wall Plaque (Thank God I’m Forgiven)  
Sentimental Sayings is this store’s specialty, not just for holidays, but also for everyday things. We all love Friday and thank God when it’s here, but there is something better God gives to us year after year!

I’m sure you’ve seen the word/saying plaques. They are everywhere! Most are black (antique look) with off white looking words. Hallmark has an ENTIRE WALL of them. The challenge on this one was to stare at the hundreds of saying plaques on the Hallmark wall until you found the right one. (there was a regular TGIF and also the TGIF...Thank God I’m Forgiven one)
**Clue 14-**  
*Store = NOT ACTUALLY A STORE...BUT A RIDE/TOY CHILDREN’S AREA at one end of the mall. Item = City Bus Toy that toddlers can ride on for .25* (Think like the ones they used to have outside grocery stores.)

There’s only one way to get a city tour, this ride is the way to see the city for sure!

The area of our mall has a helicopter, plane, motorcycle, school bus, and city bus. Two teams actually took a picture of the school bus and they were wrong. The city bus actually had the words “CITY TOUR” on the marquee above the driver where real buses display their destination.

![City Bus Toy](image)

**Clue 15-**  
*Store = Perfumania. Item = Take a Selfie with the lifesize Paris Hilton Cardboard Cutout Display* (This cutout is actually about 9 feet tall, much taller/larger than the real Paris Hilton. This is reflected in the clue as there is another Paris Hilton Poster in the display window.)

She’s larger than life, well at least she used to be. A tabloid star whose made a fortune on smelling pretty. Take a selfie with her to get this clue done, she’s in a designer dress, so include everyone!

![Paris Hilton](image)
Clue 16-  
*Store / Restaurant - Buca Di Beppo*  
*Item - Picture of a Communion Boy* (the typical white suit, prayer hands, rosary, prayer book picture from the past). This restaurant is known for “The Pope’s Table” but the restaurant manager would not allow the teens to go into the actual dining area to take a picture of the Pope’s Bust Statue as there would be the possibility of them disturbing guests who were eating at that table. So, I picked a picture (there are hundreds on the walls) where the little boy was looking directly at the Pope’s Table.

One of the sacraments this little boy just made, and off to a large lunch where his father will pay. But this boy is excited and full of hope, he can’t believe he’s actually looking at the Pope!