

Holiday Hoopla 2020

Movie Night

Answer: BLIZZARD

Based on your difficulty ratings, we probably should've switched this one with Common Ground in terms of difficulty, but oh well.

First, you put all the letters in each popcorn box in the order of the numbers, and you get something like this:

1. Mpg Zsetz Ghtkxau
2. Gwtdlihtg
3. Zwqn Pnvs Erekegg, Sx'l Vptswmfui
4. Mpg Cegmi Evenlm 2
5. Awoo Eehvg 4
6. Xth
7. Awnshtmm
8. Wmeu xax Pcvpl

Now, you decode each name (individually! we almost messed up the whole puzzle by not decoding each movie name individually!) using the Vigenère cipher (because of the "vinegar" in the flavor text) with keyword "ticket". Once you've decoded the letters, you'll have these holiday movie names:

1. The Polar Express
2. Northpole
3. Good Luck Charlie, It's Christmas!
4. The Santa Clause 2
5. Home Alone 4
6. Elf
7. Holidate
8. Deck the Halls

Next, you find the release dates of each of these movies:

1. 2004
2. 2014
3. 2011
4. 2002
5. 2002
6. 2003

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7. 2020

8. 2006

The next part is what confused a lot of teams. You take the release date modulo 26 (flavor text: MODulate), and then convert that to a letter using the standard system (a=1, b=2, c=3, ..., z=26=0). We didn't include the actual number "26" in the flavor text, because we figured it was fairly intuitive.

The numbers mod 26 are:

1. 2

2. 12

3. 9

4. 0

5. 0

6. 1

7. 18

8. 4

Then, you convert them to letters. When you do that, you should get "BLIZZARD".