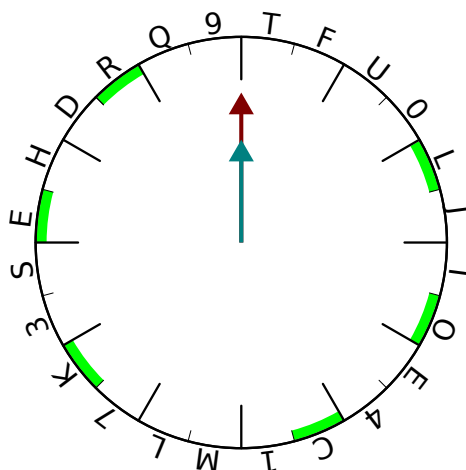




The Key Clue (meta puzzle)- Solution

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Solution: The meta pieces have two parts, a time, and a string of characters. Across the 7 meta pieces, there are 24 characters. The first step is to arrange the 24 characters clockwise around the clock, in the order they appear in the meta pieces (ignoring the 7th piece, the first 6 pieces are in chronological order according to the time on the piece, and the 7th piece should go last), starting with the T in the position just clockwise of the top of the clock. The filled in clock looks like this:



The letters on the green positions spell out **LOCKER**. We'll keep that in mind for later.

Now, for each time on the pieces of the meta, place the hands on the clock to tell the time. The hour and minute hands each point to a character. Recording these characters gives the following information:

Time	00:48	03:18	04:07	06:44	10:21	11:59	01:36	01:58	08:22
Hour	F	I	E	L	D	9	0	0	3
Min	H	O	U	S	E	9	7	9	1

This gives **FIELD HOUSE 99 07-09-31**. Using the LOCKER hint from earlier, you are lead to locker number 99 in the Field House, with the combination 07-09-31.

Author's comments: The first version of the meta had 120 characters that were to be placed around the clock, corresponding exactly to a point on the clock (instead of to an interval like in the final version of the puzzle). It was deemed during testing that it was far too irritating to place 120 characters accurately around a clock, so another way was sought. Additionally, insisting that letters correspond exactly to a point greatly restrains the options for what can appear as the minutes part of the time (with 120 characters you could only have multiples of 6 appearing). Lastly, there was just too much unused information with 120 characters. Only 24 characters appeared the superior choice.