

MYSTERY BOOKS



Mystery “Classics”

***Westing Game** by Ellen Raskin, 1978

Newbery Medal, 20th Century’s Most Significant Books for Children and Young Adults List
IL 5-8 RL 7.0 (AR 5.3) 217 pgs.

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton, 1968

Notable/Best Books (ALA), Edgar Allen Poe Mystery Award
IL 5-8 RL 6.0 (AR 4.8) 279 pgs.

An African-American family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Killing Mr. Griffin by Lois Duncan, 1978 (or other books by Duncan)

Notable/Best Books (ALA)
IL YA RL 6.2 (AR 4.8) 223 pgs.

A teenager casually suggests playing a cruel trick on the English teacher, but did he intend it to end with murder?

Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken, 1962

IL 5-9 RL 5.6 (AR 6.5) 181 pgs.

Two girls are sent to an English estate where they outwit a sneaky governess, a hungry pack of wolves, and restore the mansion to its proper owner.

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1902

IL YA RL 6.2 (AR 8.3) 243 pgs.

When Sir Charles Baskerville is found mysteriously dead in the grounds of Baskerville Hall, everyone remembers the legend of the monstrous creature that haunts the moor, but Sherlock Holmes knows there must be a more rational explanation.

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie, 1940

IL YA (AR 5.7)

"Previously published as Ten little Indians." Ten strangers--each with a sordid past--are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and begin to die one by one upon arrival.

Nancy Drew Series by Carolyn Keene

Hardy Boy Series by Franklin W. Dixon

Ghost Canoe by Will Hobbs, 1997

Edgar Allen Poe Mystery Award, Books for Teen Age (NYPL)

IL 5-8, RL5.8 (AR 5.5) 195 pgs.

Fourteen-year-old Nathan, fishing with the Makah in the Pacific Northwest, finds himself holding a vital clue when a mysterious stranger comes to town looking for Spanish treasure.

Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief by Wendelin Van Draanen, 1998

Edgar Allen Poe Mystery Award

IL 5-8 RL 5.9 (AR 4.6) 163 pgs.

Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.

Other Sammy Keyes novels

Ghost in the Tokaido Inn by Dorothy Hoobler, 1999

Edgar Nominee, Books for Teen Age (NYPL)

IL 5-8 RL 6.5 (AR 5.1) 214 pgs.

While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

Demon in the Teahouse

In Darkness, Death

The Sword That Cut the Burning Grass: A Samurai Mystery

Time Stops for No Mouse by Michael Hoeye, 1999

Book Sense Book of the Year Finalist

IL 5-8 RL 6.0 (AR 5.0) 250 pgs.

When Linka Perflinger, a jaunty mouse, brings a watch into his shop to be repaired and then disappears, Hermux Tantamoq is caught up in a dangerous search for eternal youth as he tries to find out what happened to her.

Sands of Time

Time Stops for No Mouse

Never Trust A Dead Man by Vivian Vande Velde, 1999

Edgar Allen Poe Mystery Award

IL YA (AR 5.6) 194 pgs.

In the medieval village of Penryth, seventeen-year-old Selwyn sets out to find the real killer of Farold, a young man he has been wrongfully convicted of murdering, with Farold himself as his only companion, brought back to life in the form of a bat by a cave-dwelling witch.

Dovey Coe by Frances O'Roark Dowell, 2000

Edgar Allen Poe Mystery Award

IL 5-8, RL 6.0 (AR 5.4) 181 pgs.

Accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a stronged-willed twelve-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others, including her deaf brother, as she attempts to clear her name.

Thieves of Ostia by Caroline Lawrence, 2002

SLJ Best Books

IL 5-8 RL 5.3 (AR5.2) 152 pgs.

In Rome in the year 79 A.D., a group of children from very different backgrounds work together to discover who beheaded a pet dog -- and why.

How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found by Sara Nickerson, 2003

IL 5-8 RL 6.9 (AR 4.6) 281 pgs.

With a swimming medal, the key to a mansion, and a comic book about a half-man/half-rat as her only clues, a twelve-year-old girl seeks the true story of her father's mysterious death four years earlier near an island in the Pacific Northwest.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliet, 2004

Edgar Allen Poe Mystery Award

IL 3-6 RL 5.4 (AR 5.4) 254 pgs.

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

The Wright 3

Star of Kazan by Eva Ibottsen, 2004

Notable/Best Books (A.L.A.)

IL 5-8 RL 6.8 (AR 6.1) 405 pgs.

Annika, a twelve-year-old foundling in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, and soon afterwards a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.

House on the Gulf by Margaret Peterson Haddix, 2004

State Awards

IL 5-8 RL 5.0 (AR 4.9) 201 pgs.

A sixteen-year-old boy arranges a housesitting job for the summer, but he starts acting strangely after his family moves in, and his sister begins to suspect they are not supposed to be there.

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery by John Feinstein, 2005

Edgar Allen Poe Mystery Award

IL 5-9 RL 6.4 (AR 4.8) 251 pgs.

After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.

Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery by Peter Abrahams, 2005

Edgar Nominee

IL 5-9 RL 6.0 (AR 4.3) 375 pgs.

Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her home town of Echo Falls.

Behind the Curtain: An Echo Falls Mystery

Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach, 2005

Edgar Nominee, Notable/Best Books (ALA)

IL 5-8 RL 6.1 (AR 4.0) 250 pgs.

Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, misfit sixth-grader Hero becomes interested in exploring this unusual connection because of a valuable diamond supposedly hidden in her new house, an intriguing neighbor, and the unexpected attention of the most popular boy in school.

Cryptid Hunters by Roland Smith, 2005

State Book Awards

IL 5-9 RL 6.8 (AR 4.9) 348 pgs.

Twins, Grace and Marty, along with a mysterious uncle, are dropped into the middle of the Congolese jungle in search of their missing photojournalist parents.

Not the usual "murder, crime, or detective" mystery----

Tangerine by Edward Bloor, 1997

Notable/Best Books (ALA), Books for the Teen Age (NYPL)

IL YA (AR 4.3) 294 pgs.

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen, 2002

Newbery Honor Book, Books for the Teen Age (NYPL)

IL YA (AR 5.2) 292 pgs.

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Flush

I Am the Cheese by Robert Cormier, 1977

Notable/Best Books (ALA)

IL YA RL 5.6 (AR 5.2) 214 pgs.

A young boy's desperate search for his father leads him to discover secrets of his past that might very well threaten his life.

Some Mystery Authors

Bellairs, John

Christie, Agatha

Cooney, Caroline

Duncan, Lois

Hahn, Mary Downing

Kehret, Peg

Nixon, Joan Lowry

Poe, Edgar Allen

Roberts, Wilo Davis

Werlin, Nancy