

Mystery

Grades 5 and 6



Youth Services Department
Skokie Public Library

Allison, Jennifer. **Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator.** 2005.

(J Fiction ALL)

Thirteen-year-old Gilda Joyce considers herself not just a detective, but a psychic detective. Ever since her father died, she has been working on communicating with spirits. When she goes to San Francisco to visit her relatives, Gilda discovers that one of them has been seeing a ghost in the tower of their Victorian mansion. Gilda sees this as the perfect case, and she sets out to investigate.

Balliett, Blue. **Chasing Vermeer.** 2004.

(J Fiction BAL)

Sixth grade at the University of Chicago Lab School starts out just fine for classmates Petra and Calder. Ms. Hussey's assignment to find a work of art in your own house seems intriguing. But then things start to get a little weird. For each of them, reminders of the Dutch painter Vermeer keep turning up – in letters, in people, even in dreams. Sharing their strange experiences, Calder and Petra decide to work together to figure out what is going on – and solve a major crime besides.

Bellairs, John. **The House With a Clock in Its Walls.** 1973.

(J Fiction BEL)

Ten-year-old Lewis comes to live with his Uncle Jonathan in an enormous old house in rural Michigan. Lewis loves his kindly uncle. But there is definitely something strange and foreboding about his new home – stained glass windows that change their shape overnight, mirrors which show historical scenes, and a troubling ticking from a clock somewhere within the walls. For some reason, his uncle seems desperate to locate the ticking – before it is too late.

Byars, Betsy. **The Dark Stairs.** 1994.

(J Fiction BYA)

Herculeah Jones has a private detective mother and a police detective father, so of course she is a natural at solving mysteries. When she discovers that a very strange and scary man has been consulting her mother, Herculeah becomes obsessed with finding out more about him – and his interest in an old abandoned house which is rumored to contain the remains of an unsolved murder. Is the killer still at large? Will the body turn up? Herculeah is determined to find out!

Colfer, Eoin. **Half-Moon Investigations.** 2006.

*(J Fiction COL)

Fletcher Moon, Private Eye. That's right, twelve-year-old Fletcher "Half" Moon is the world's youngest certified detective. How did he get certified? On the Internet, of course! Fletcher just has a talent for solving mysteries. So when a classmate hires him for his first case, he's ready.

DeFelice, Cynthia. **The Light on Hogback Hill.** 1993.

(J Fiction DEF)

Eleven-year-old Hadley Patterson is lonely. She lives with her mother, who works long hours and sleeps most of the time when she is home. Staring out her bedroom window, Hadley can see Hogback Hill, a dark, twisted, rocky place which is rumored to be the home of a terrifying old witch. When Josh Carter, a new boy at school, asks Hadley to come over, she is happy at the prospect of having a new friend. There's only one problem – Josh wants to climb Hogback Hill, and he wants Hadley to come with him.

Dowd, Siobhan. **The London Eye Mystery.** 2008.

*(J Fiction DOW)

Kat and her brother Ted don't always get along. Ted is autistic, and Kat sometimes find it hard to understand how he sees things. But when their visiting cousin suddenly disappears from a sealed pod on a roller coaster, Kat finds Ted's unique view of the world invaluable as they join forces to solve the mystery.

Dowell, Frances O’Roark. **Dovey Coe**. 2000.

(J Fiction DOW)

Dovey Coe is a twelve-year-old girl who always says exactly what she thinks. When rich, mean Parnell Caraway starts courting Dovey’s beautiful sister Caroline, Dovey senses trouble. Although Parnell is polite and respectful to Caroline and her parents, Dovey knows what he is really like, and she is not afraid to say so. But speaking out against powerful people can be dangerous, and suddenly Dovey finds herself in a courtroom – accused of murder.

DuPrau, Jeanne. **The City of Ember**. 2003.

*(J Fiction DUP)

The city of Ember is a city of last resort, built to ensure the survival of the last of the human race. The city is self-sufficient – domed and fortified against any traffic. But survival in Ember is becoming more and more difficult, and leaving the city seems to be the only option. Ancient instructions exist on how to leave the city and survive, but they were lost decades ago. Can they be found before it is too late?

Ericson, Helen. **Harriet Spies Again**. 2000.

*(J Fiction ERI)

Harriet is delighted when her yuppie-professional parents announce they are going to Paris on business for three months. Why? Because Catherine Golly, the beloved nanny who raised her, is coming back while they’re gone! But when her nanny actually arrives, Harriet can see that something is terribly wrong. Golly is sullen, moody and always seems sad. Leave it to Harriet the Spy to discover the problem – and try to fix it.

Finney, Patricia. **The Lady Grace Mysteries: Assassin**. 2004.

(J Fiction FIN)

It is sixteenth-century England, and thirteen-year-old Lady Grace is a young maid of honor in the court of Queen Elizabeth I. When it is time to select her future husband, Grace chooses shy, unassuming Lord Robert. But soon Lord Robert is accused of murder. Lady Grace must use all her wits to convince the Queen that her betrothed could not have committed the crime – before he is sent to the Tower.

Grossman, David. **Duel: A Mystery**. 2004.

(J Fiction GRO)

When elderly Mr. Rosenthal receives a letter accusing him of theft and challenging him to a duel to the death, it is up to his twelve-year-old friend, David, to find out what is really going on before it’s too late.

Hoobler, Dorothy. **The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn**. 1999.

(J Fiction HOO)

In a tale of suspense and intrigue from 18th century Japan, fourteen-year-old Seikei wants more than anything to become a samurai, but he knows his dream is impossible; he must follow in his merchant father’s footsteps. But when Seikei is the only person to witness the theft of a priceless ruby, a famous samurai enlists his aid to solve the crime – a task requiring the courage and wisdom of a samurai.

Howe, James. **Howliday Inn**. 1982.

*(J Fiction HOW)

Harold the mild-mannered dog and Chester the crime-solving cat are back in this laugh-out-loud sequel to *Bunnacula*. This time the Monroes are taking their summer vacation, leaving Harold and Chester at an exclusive kennel called Chateau Bow-Wow. Foul play is afoot! Blood-curdling screams, suspicious behavior and a bizarre disappearance force Chester and Harold to put on their detective hats once more.

Kehret, Peg. **I’m Not Who You Think I Am**. 1999.

(J Fiction KEH)

Thirteen-year-old Ginger is convinced that a woman is stalking her, but she can’t imagine why. Her parents and friends think it is just her imagination – but is it?

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Bernie Magruder & the Disappearing Bodies.** 1986.

(J Fiction NAY)

If you like laughter along with your suspense, you'll enjoy the *Bernie Magruder* mysteries. Bernie's parents manage the Bessledorf Hotel, in the lovely town of Middleberg. Everything is fine until the maid, Hildegard, starts finding bodies in the rooms during her morning cleaning. Obviously this is not good for business. Bernie and his friends Weasel and Georgene decide to find out why. The results are not only surprising, but hilarious.

Patneau, David. **Framed in Fire.** 1999

(J Fiction PAT)

If you liked *Holes*, you will love this story of another good kid sent to an institution against his will. Peter Larson is a normal thirteen-year-old who has been committed to a mental hospital by his abusive stepfather, Buck. Why is Buck so anxious to get Peter out of the way? And why did his mother let it happen?

Raskin, Ellen. **The Westing Game.** 1978.

*(J Fiction RAS)

Rich old Sam Westing is dead, and now he seems to be speaking from beyond the grave. Sam has written a letter to his 12 heirs stating that one of them has taken his life. What is the Westing Game? Find the identity of the murderer and inherit the Westing fortune – without getting killed in the process.

Roberts, Willo Davis. **The View from the Cherry Tree.** 1975.

(J Fiction ROB)

Old Mrs. Calloway is the crank of the neighborhood. She spends her days looking out of her window with binoculars, trying to find something to complain to the police about. Usually she's complaining about Rob, the eleven-year-old who has the bad luck to live right next door. No one on the block is really too sorry when Mrs. Calloway is killed in an accidental fall from her window. There is only one problem. It was no accident, and two people know it: the murderer – and Rob.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief.** 1998.

*(J Fiction VAN)

What do you do if you witness a crime but you can't tell the police because you yourself are breaking a law? Thirteen-year-old Samantha Keyes lives illegally with her grandmother in a retirement home for seniors only. One day while looking out the window with binoculars she sees a burglary in progress in the hotel across the street. What's even worse – the burglar sees her!

Wallace, Barbara Brooks. **The Twin in the Tavern.** 1993.

*(J Fiction BRO)

There has been a deadly epidemic and Taddy's guardians, his beloved aunt and uncle, have died suddenly. Taddy is alone in the house. When two thieves break in and discover him, Taddy has no choice but to go with them to their squalid, dirty inn. There, he is forced to work long hours for scraps of food and a bed under the kitchen table. But he remembers his uncle's dying words; "Nothing is what you think. Find your twin and you will know who you are."

The * denotes which books are available on audio.



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