

Literary Genre Bibliography: Mystery

Grades K-2

Bruchac, Joseph. **Powwow Mystery: The Powwow Dog**. Reycraft Books, 2020. ISBN: 9781478868699.

Summary: This (as of now) trilogy of mysteries are told in a comic book style, with bright bold illustrations that showcase a modern Native American family. Twins Jamie and Marie Longbow travel with their grandparents to sell jewelry at different Powwows. At each Powwow they encounter a mystery and become known for their sleuthing skills. This particular title was set around a ghost dog who was stealing food from a vendor. Author Bruchac is a Nulhegan Abenaki citizen and illustrator Deforest is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. These fun and accessible books will please a broad range of readers.

Curricular use: Teaching how to read comic books (thought bubbles, speech bubbles, left to right panels). Also fun to see different nations and tribes represented in a modern way.

Other books in the series: *The Powwow Treasure* (2020), *The Powwow Thief* (2019)

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Mysteries on Zoo Lane: Meet the Crew at the Zoo**. Holiday House, 2020. ISBN: 9780823446667.

Summary: Luke moves from Florida to New York because his father is a veterinarian at a zoo and has a new job. Luke is sad to leave behind his home and abuelo, but soon finds himself occupied with learning about his new neighborhood and the zoo when he discovers a zebra printed box with 'kid' treasure inside. He meets all sorts of animals at the new zoo and kids in his neighborhood while on the hunt to return the box to its rightful owner. Fun animal facts are sprinkled in and the short accessible chapters and frequent black and white illustrations will make this a successful choice for many readers.

Curricular use: Animal inquiry, map reading

Grades 3-4

Smith, Nikki Shannon. **The Amazing Life of Azaleah Lane**. Picture Window Books, 2020. ISBN: 9781515844648

Summary: Azaleah Lane is a middle child in a middle class Washington D.C. family- and it isn't always easy getting her own stuff done. She is always helping her sisters, as her mom is a chef and her dad a lawyer who both work a lot. Azaleah's little sister loses her favorite stuffie and there will be no peace in the house- and no time for Azaleah to work on her big extra credit report- until it is found. This book stars a young black girl and the bright illustrations sprinkled throughout the story capture the joy and frustrations of siblings.

Other books in the series: *The Dramatic Life of Azaleah Lane*, *The Scrumptious Life of Azaleah Lane*

Terrell, Brandon. **The 30,000-Foot Ghost**. Capstone Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781496598868.

Summary: In this particular title, Ellis Baker is aboard a plane in which a priceless necklace is stolen. The nighttime flight is dark and stormy, and Ellis sees a strange woman who seems to disappear. Is there

a ghost on this flight? Who could have stolen the necklace? This story is written in short chapters with black and white illustrations intermingled. After the story is told, there is a section that reviews the clues from the case to help the reader solve the crime themselves before reading the conclusion. Fun and simple reads that will appeal to a large span of readers.

Curricular use: Logic, close reading

Audience: The packaging and design of these books make these a great hi-lo for 6th graders and junior high readers. They look and feel very grown up- but are super accessible.

Other books in the series: Michael Dahl Presents: Mysteries

The Incredible Shrinking Horror, Poison Moon, The Witch in the Wardrobe

Grades 5-6

Bunce, Elizabeth C. **Premeditated Myrtle**. Algonquin Young Reader, 2020. ISBN: 9781616209186.

Summary: This delightful Victorian mystery stars a young 12 year old woman who is on the cusp of “ladylike” expectations, but would rather use her brain and enjoy life as she wants. She uses her keen logic, departed mum’s microscope, and her dad’s law books to gather knowledge under the tutelage of her encouraging governess. When her elderly neighbor dies, Myrtle is convinced that it was murder and takes it upon herself to investigate. She gets wrapped up in toxicology, the local men’s club, long distance relatives to the deceased, and a newspaper front along the way to truth.

Curricular use: Toxicology, Pollen

Marks, Janae. **From the Desk of Zoe Washington**. HarperCollins, 2020. ISBN:9780062875853.

Summary: From the publisher: “Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. Everyone else thinks Zoe's worrying about doing a good job at her bakery internship and proving to her parents that she's worthy of auditioning for Food Network's *Kids Bake Challenge*. But with bakery confections on one part of her mind, and Marcus's conviction weighing heavily on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies.”

Mystery Writers of America. **Super Puzzletastic Mysteries**. HarperCollins, 2020. ISBN:978062884206.

Summary: This superb collection of twenty short stories is loads of fun to read and offers the chance to be an armchair detective. Authors like Ponti, Grabenstein, Milford, Hale, and Gibbs offer stories for satisfying bite size mystery fun. All cases are “crackable” and the clues are layered in. A modern Encyclopedia Brown style collection for the upper elementary crowd. Makes for a great read aloud!

Look also for ***Coop Knows the Scoop* by Taryn Souders**, “Thirteen-year-olds Cooper Goodman and Justice and Liberty Gordon investigate the eccentric residents of Windy Bottom, Georgia, after the remains of Coop’s long-missing grandmother are uncovered and his Gramps is the prime suspect.”

Look also for ***City Spies* by James Ponti**, a jam packed action and spy story of five children with different talents at a boarding school in Scotland. They train together and participate in an international youth summit- a front to stop a villain. Layers of intrigue and suspense. A must-have!

Look also for ***Valley of Lost Secrets* by Lesley Parr**, a historical fiction book that has a whisper of mystery. Jimmy and his little brother are evacuated from London to a mining village in Wales. Jimmy must learn how to adapt and accept love from others- shedding off the old cliques and routines of his London school boy days. While exploring and escaping into the countryside, he discovers the remains of a body in a tree. Haunted by this mystery- he starts to see the village in a new way.