

Literary Genre Bibliography: Mystery/Suspense

All summaries are taken from the publisher

* Admittedly this genre is very difficult to find book in the K-2 range *

Grades K-2

Denise, Anika Aldamuy. **The Love Letter**. Harper Collins, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-06-274157-8.

Summary: Fall in love with this endearing and adorable picture book that illustrates how a little bit of heart goes a long way to making the world a better place. Hedgehog, Bunny, and Squirrel are best friends. One day, they each find a letter. But not just any letter...A love letter! My word! My whiskers! Aww, nuts! Someone loves them. But who? The answer may surprise you!

Curricular Use: This book would be a good introduction to letter writing. The illustrations give a good representation of formatting. It could also be used to discuss friendships.

Audience: Younger students who love animals. It is written by the same author as *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpre*

Pfister, Marcus. **Who Stole the Hazelnuts?: A Forest Mystery**. NorthSouth Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-7358-4382-0.

Summary: The peace and quiet of the forest are shattered by a scream. Someone has stolen the squirrel's three hazelnuts! Who could have committed such a terrible crime? The squirrel begins his investigation, and no one is above suspicion.

Curricular Use: A good book to use when trying to work with younger students on gathering information before blaming others/tattle telling.

Audience: Any teacher or student who enjoyed the *Rainbow Fish* will enjoy this book. The cover was enough to draw me to read it.

Also considered:

Duncan, Reid. **Where's Rollo?**. Penguin, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-5247-9246-6

Grades 3-4

Nobel, Julia. **The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane**. Sourcebooks, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-4926-6464-2.

Summary: Emmy's dad disappeared years ago, & with her mother too busy to parent, she's shipped off to Wellsworth, a prestigious boarding school in England. But right before she leaves, a mysterious box arrives full of medallions & a note reading: These belonged to your father. Just as she's settling into life at Wellsworth, Emmy begins to find the strange symbols from the medallions etched into the walls & stumbles upon the school's super-secret society, The Order of Black Hollow Lane. As Emmy & her friends delve deeper into the mysteries of The Order, she can't help but wonder--did this secret society have something to do with her dad's disappearance?

Curricular Use: A good book to introduce family history research. Also one to be used to try and find the best in every situation. The book is written in third person.

Audience: Students who enjoy putting the clues together and especially location books (takes place mainly in England) will read this book quickly. It moves very quickly and the ending leaves you wanting more..which is good because the sequel is due this year.

Patterson, James. **Max Einstein: Rebels with a Cause**. Little Brown Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-316-48816-7.

Summary: Max Einstein's typical day is not your average 12-year-old's. She...

- TEACHES classes at a New York college
- Dodges KIDNAPPING attempts with her best friends
- Goes on SECRET MISSIONS for her billionaire boss
- Has a MYSTERIOUS CONNECTION to Albert Einstein

Just a day in the life of the Change Makers Institute's top agent! What does an Irish town and a village in India have in common? A water crisis that only a group of kid geniuses can fix! Max and her CMI friends attempt to use their smarts to find solutions, but it's hard to save the world when you're trying not to be kidnapped! A greedy corporation with an eye on capturing Max seems to know their every move. It's almost like the bad guys have a spy inside the Change Makers...

Curricular Use: The only book series approved by the Albert Einstein Archives, this book would be a good pairing in researching Albert Einstein.

Audience: Students who enjoyed the first book in the series will want to pick this one up quickly.

Also considered:

Ecton, Emily. **The Ambrose Deception**. Disney Hyperion, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-549-05581-2.

Tucker, Laura. **All the Greys on Greene Street**. Viking, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-451-47953-2.

Grades 5-6

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **The Strangers**. Harper Collins, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-06-283837-7.

Summary: New York Times bestselling author Margaret Peterson Haddix takes readers on a thrilling adventure filled with mysteries and plot twists aplenty in this absorbing series about family and friendships. Perfect for fans of *A Wrinkle in Time* and *The City of Ember*! What makes you you? The Greystone kids thought they knew. Chess has always been the protector over his younger siblings, Emma loves math, and Finn does what Finn does best--acting silly and being adored. They've been a happy family, just the three of them and their mom. But everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach the Greystone kids, and they're shocked by the startling similarities between themselves and these complete strangers. The other kids share their same first and middle names. They're the same ages. They even have identical birthdays. Who, exactly, are these strangers? Before Chess, Emma, and Finn can question their mom about it, she takes off on a sudden work trip and leaves them in the care of Ms. Morales and her daughter, Natalie. But puzzling clues left behind lead to complex codes, hidden rooms, and a dangerous secret that will turn their world upside down.

Curricular Use: A good tie in to ELA unit on personal identity, perception, and what makes us each unique.

Audience: This is a different writing direction for Haddix, but one that I found draws you in quickly. Students who enjoyed *Gregor the Overlander* and the *My Life As A..* book series will enjoy this new series from Haddix.

Patterson, James. **Ali Cross**. Little Brown Books, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-316-3401-5.

Summary: Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve? When Ali's best friend Gabe is reported missing, Ali is desperate to find him. At the same time, a string of burglaries targets his neighborhood---and even his own house. With his father on trial for a crime he didn't commit, it's up to Ali to search for clues and find his friend. But being a kid sleuth isn't easy---especially when your father warns you not to get involved!---and Ali soon learns that clues aren't always what they seem. Will his detective work lead to a break in Gabe's case or cause even more trouble for the Cross family?

Curricular Use: A good book that puts the issues of police brutality against African Americans in a frame of mind for younger students to understand, it may be a good companion with a Current Events unit.

Audience: Adults who enjoyed the *Alex Cross* series by Patterson will enjoy this book. There are a ton of references to that series, while also including references to other younger book series like *Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs.

Also considered:

Grabenstein, Chris. **Mr Lemoncello's All-Star Breakout Game**. Random House, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-525-64644-0.

Hahn, Mary Downing. **Guest: A Changeling Tale**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-358-06731-3

Korman, Gordon. **Notorious**. Harper Collins, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-06-279886-2

Ruby, Laura. **The Clockwork Ghost**. Harper Collins, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-06-230696-8