

MYSTERIES for 10- to 13-year-olds: A selection.

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It's difficult to separate "mysteries" from "adventure stories," "fantasies," "historical novels," or "humorous stories," especially for children; but I've put together a selection of books for 10- to 13-year-olds that includes books which can arguably be called "mysteries" rather than any of the other labels. In some cases, brief annotations are included.

Willo Davis Roberts: Most of her books, though not all, are well-written mysteries.

The Absolutely True Story... Humorous mystery—won Edgar award from MWA.

The Kidnappers Serious thriller.

What Could Go Wrong? Older humorous mystery, very enjoyable.

Zilpha Keatley Snyder: Most of her books are mysteries, too, with some exceptions. Some have elements of the supernatural. Choose whichever you like best.

The Egypt Game Newbery Honor Book, 1968.

Ellen Raskin: *The Westing Game* won the Newbery Award in 1979, and is a very worthwhile somewhat tongue-in-cheek detective story. *Figgs and Phantoms* might also be considered an offbeat mystery.

Gloria Skurzynski and Alane Ferguson: The *Mysteries in Our National Parks* series. So far there are eleven in the series, each set in a different national park. All are very readable though a bit formulaic. If you want a Florida connection, try *Deadly Waters*, set in the Everglades.

Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler: *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*. Set in 18th century Japan.

Avi. A few of his books are mysteries, such as *Who Stole the Wizard of Oz* and *Smuggler's Island*.

Mary Jane Auch. *Kidnaping Kevin Kowalski*.

Walter Brooks. *Freddy the Detective*. Classic humorous animal story with talking pig

Betsy Byars. Books in the Herculeah Jones series, such as *Death's Door*.

Cynthia DeFelice. A number of mysteries, some with supernatural touches. Examples: *The Ghost of Fossil Glen*, *The Light on Hogback Hill*, and *Lostman's River*, and there are others.

Patricia Reilly Giff. *Have You Seen Hyacinth Macaw?* and *Loretta P. Sweeney* are two books featuring kid detectives.

Phillippa Pearce's classic book *Tom's Midnight Garden* is a supernatural mystery.

Joan Lowery Nixon has won Edgar Awards, too. Try *Search for the Shadowman*, among others.

Margaret Mahy's *The Underrunners* is a New Zealand-based fantasy thriller.

Peg Kehret writes mostly thriller/adventures, often based on a natural disaster, but some of her books are real mysteries. Try the Sunshine State 2002 book *I'm Not Who You Think You Are*.

For classics fan, the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are very accessible. Doyle wrote 60 short stories (in several collections) plus 4 full-length novels, including *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Laurence Yep has a series entitled *The Case of the...* Some entries are
...*the Goblin Pearls*.
... *the Lion Dance*.
...*the Firecrackers*.

Winifred van Draanen's recent (and very well-written) series about young detective Sammy Keyes now contains about 7 or 8 entries. Titles start with *Sammy Keyes and ...*

Diane Stanley's *The Mysterious Matter of I. M. Fine* is a humorous take on the R. L. Stine phenomenon; it has elements of mystery and fantasy, but is more of a parody than anything else.

Peggy Nolan wrote *The Spy Who Came in from the Sea*, chosen for the 2002-2003 Sunshine State Young Reader's Award list. It has a World War II setting.

The Thieves of Ostia by Caroline Lawrence is the first of a very enjoyable and well-written series, THE ROMAN MYSTERIES, about a group of child detectives in Rome about the time Mt. Vesuvius erupted, destroying Pompeii. There are five books now in the series, and more to come.

Carl Hiaasen's *Hoot* might be considered a mystery, if you consider his adult books mysteries, as some people do.

Eve Bunting has a few mysteries among her voluminous output. *The Hideout* and *Coffin on a Case* are a couple of examples.

Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix is a Time Travel tale, mostly, but it has a number of elements of the mystery in its story.

Cynthia Voigt's books are mostly non-mystery; but *The Callender Papers* is an exception that's well-worth reading. (Anything by Voigt is well worth reading.)

A new series by Darren Shan, *Cirque du Freak*, is supernatural horror-mystery. The series is very popular among readers who like their mysteries laced with horror.

And many of Madeleine L'Engle books, in the series about the Austin family and about Poly O'Keefe, have mystery elements, even though most of them are not pure mysteries.