



Children's Mysteries A-L

A Mystery is about a crime or mysterious occurrence and the investigation that leads to its solution.

*Indicates appropriate age

The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones – Rick Riordan – During the reading of their grandmother's will, Dan and Amy Cahill learn that their family is one of the world's most powerful-- and the source of that power is hidden around the world in the form of 39 Clues. The siblings are soon caught in a dangerous race in this interactive book. First in a series.

JF Thirty-nine Lexile: 610

***Ages 9-12**

A to Z Mysteries – Ron Roy – A wacky and fun series about Dink Duncan and his two friends who solve mysteries. Each title in the series starts with a different letter in the alphabet.

JF Roy Lexile: 410-590

***Ages 6-9**

Benjamin Pratt and the Keepers of the School series – Andrew Clements – Benjamin and his friend Jill follow clues to solve a mystery and save their school from being torn down.

JF Clements Lexile: 810-880

***Ages 7-10**

Bones (Series) – David Adler – In this series, young detective Jeffrey Bones solves mysteries using his detective tools, logic and intelligence. A series with a mix of humor and kid related experiences.

JF Adler Lexile: n/a *Ages 6-8

The Boxcar Children – Gertrude Chandler Warner – Four orphaned children run away and live in a boxcar until they are found by their grandfather. First in a series.

JF Warner Lexile: 490

***Ages 7-10**

The Buddy Files: The Case of the Lost Boy – Dori Hillestad Butler – While searching for his mysteriously lost human family, Buddy the dog is adopted by another family and helps solve the mystery of their missing boy. First in a series.

JF Butler Lexile: 450

***Ages 6-8**

Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery – Deborah Howe – Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries

to warn his human family that their founding baby bunny must be a vampire.

JF Howe Lexile: 700

***Ages 8-12**

Calendar Mysteries – Ron Roy – Seven-year-olds Bradley, Brian, Nate, and Lucy make observations and gather clues to solve mysteries.

JF Roy Lexile: 410-510

***Ages 6-9**

Cam Jansen – David Adler – In this series, Cam Jansen solves crimes with the help of her friend, Eric Shelton, and her photographic memory. There are multiple books in this series, including very easy readers.

JF Adler Lexile: 360-590

***Ages 8-12**

Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes

Mystery – Nancy Springer – Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, must travel to London in disguise to unravel the disappearance of her missing mother. Additional Enola Holmes mysteries are available as well.

JF Springer Lexile: 1020

***Ages 8-12**

Chasing Vermeer – Blue Balliett – When strange and seemingly unrelated 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.

I FIC Balliett Lexile: 770

***Ages 8-12**

Chet Gecko (Series) – Bruce Hale – Grade school ain't for sissies. Nobody knows this better than Chet Gecko, finest lizard detective at Emerson Hicky Elementary. This series follows Chet and his partner, Natalie Attired, in their investigations.

JF Hale Lexile: 410-580

***Ages 8-12**

Dead Guys Talk: A Wild Willie Mystery – Barbara Joose – In the dead middle of summer, the Scarface Detectives investigate their creepiest case yet when a mysterious client sends them to Oak Hill Cemetery, where Loonie Loraine is buried.

JF Joose Lexile: 400

***Ages 6-10**

The Dollhouse Murders – Betty Ren Wright – A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night and dolls that have moved from where she last left them lead Amy and her retarded sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago.

I FIC Wright Lexile: 670

***Ages 9-12**

The Door to Time – Pierdomenico Baccalario – After moving from London to an old mansion on the English coast, eleven-year-old twins Jason and Julia discover that their new home has twisting tunnels, strange artifacts from around the world, and a mysterious, locked door. First in a series.

JF Baccalario Lexile: 610

***Ages 8-12**

Encyclopedia Brown Cracks the Case – Donald Sobol – Ten brief cases allow the reader to match wits with ten-year-old crime-buster, Encyclopedia Brown, as he locates stolen jewels, retrieves a stuffed tiger, and more. Solutions included. Part of a series.

JF Sobol Lexile: 750

***Ages 7-10**

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library – Chris Grabenstein – Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker, Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

I FIC Grabenstein Lexile: 720

***Ages 8-12**

The Fall of the Amazing Zalindas: Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars – Tracy Mack – The ragamuffin boys known as the Baker Street Irregulars help Sherlock Holmes solve the mysterious deaths of a family of circus tightrope walkers.

JF Mack Lexile: 850

***Ages 8-12**

The Five Lost Aunts of Harriet Bean – Alexander McCall Smith – When her absent-minded inventor father suddenly remembers that he has five sisters, nine-year-old Harriet Bean, who has never heard of them before, determines to find her unknown aunts so that the unfinished family portrait can be completed. First in a series.

JF McCall Smith Lexile: n/a

***Ages 7-9**

Floors – Patrick Carman – Ten-year-old Leo's future and the fate of the extraordinary Whippet Hotel, where his father is the maintenance man, are at stake when a series of cryptic boxes leads Leo to hidden floors, strange puzzles, and unexpected alliances. First in a trilogy.

JF Carman Lexile: 870

***Ages 8-12**

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E.L. Konigsburg – Twelve-year-old Claudia and her brother Jamie run away to New York and take up residence in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. There she sees a statue so beautiful she wants to discover its maker. The first clue is the statue's former owner, an unusual old woman named Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.

JF Konigsburg Lexile: 700

***Ages 8-12**

Geronimo Stilton (Series) – Geronimo Stilton – Geronimo Stilton, a journalist for the Rodent's Gazette, is a nervous, mild-mannered mouse who keeps getting involved in far-away adventures.

JF Stilton Lexile: 450-720

***Ages 7-10**

Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator – Jennifer Allison – During the summer before ninth grade, Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco home of distant cousin, Lester

Splinter and his daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower. First in a series.

I FIC Allison Lexile: 1000

***Ages 10-12**

The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotwe's Very First Case – Alexander McCall Smith – Before becoming the first female private investigator in Botswana, eight-year-old Precious Ramotwe tracks down a thief who has been stealing her classmates' snacks.

JF McCall Smith Lexile: 720

***Ages 7-10**

Half-Moon Investigations – Eoin Colfer – Fletcher Moon, nicknamed "Half Moon" because of his shortness, must track down a conspiracy or be framed for a crime he did not commit.

I FIC Colfer Lexile: 620

***Ages 10-12**

Hank the Cowdog (Series) – John R. Erickson – Hank the cowdog is the Head of Ranch Security and solves mysteries on the cattle ranch where he lives.

JF Erickson Lexile: 670-940

***Ages 7-10**

The Hardy Boys (Series) – Franklin W. Dixon – Detective brothers, Frank and Joe Hardy, work together to solve crimes.

JF Dixon Lexile: 610-730 *Ages 8-14

The Hundred-Year-Old Secret – Barrett, Tracy – Xena and Xander Holmes, an American brother and sister living in London for a year, discover that Sherlock Holmes was their great-great-great grandfather when they are inducted into the Society for the Preservation of Famous Detectives and given his unsolved casebook, from which they attempt to solve the case of a famous missing painting.

JF Barrett Lexile: 650

***Ages 8-12**

Jigsaw Jones Mystery (Series) – James Preller – Jigsaw and his friend Mila solve mysteries.

JF Preller Lexile: 290-540

***Ages 7-10**

The Light in the Cellar: A Molly Mystery – Sarah Masters Buckley – While volunteering as a magazine delivery girl in a hospital during the World War II, Molly uncovers a mystery involving the theft of rationed food supplies for sale on the black market.

JF American Lexile: 770

***Ages 8-12**

The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd – When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

JF Dowd Lexile: 640

***Ages 8-12**

Max and Maddy and the Bursting Balloons Mystery –

Alexander McCall – When a famous millionaire asks young detectives Max and Maddy Twist to investigate who is sabotaging an international balloon race for charity, they find themselves competing against world-renowned balloonists--and one old nemesis.

JF McCall Lexile: n/a

***Ages 7-9**

Moon Over Manifest –

Clare Vanderpool – Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

I FIC Vanderpool Lexile: 800

***Ages 9-13**

Murder is Bad Manners– Robin Stevens – Hazel Wong is from Hong Kong and has come to boarding school in England. She is befriended by one of the most popular girls in her grade, Daisy Wells, and they form a secret detective agency. When Hazel finds the body of one of their teachers lying in the gymnasium they know they have their first big case.

I FIC Stevens, Lexile 910

***Ages 10-14**

The Mysterious Benedict Society –

Trenton Lee Stewart – After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. First in a series.

I FIC Stewart Lexile: 890

***Ages 8-12**

The Mysterious Howling –Maryrose Wood – Fifteen-year-old Miss Penelope Lumley, a recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is hired as governess to three young children who have been raised by wolves and must teach them to behave in a civilized manner quickly, in preparation for a Christmas ball. First in a series.

JF Wood Lexile: 1000

***Ages 8-12**

Nancy Drew Series – Carolyn Keene – Teenage detective, Nancy Drew, sets out to solve various mysteries in this series of books.

JF Keene Lexile: 660-780

***Ages 8-14**

Nate the Great Talks Turkey – Marjorie Sharmat – Nate the Great and his cousin Olivia are on the case of a runaway turkey, but the clues appear to contradict each other. Part of a series.

JF Sharmat Lexile: 370

***Ages 6-9**

Ottoline and the Yellow Cat – Chris Riddell – A string of daring burglaries has taken place in Big City, and precious lapdogs are disappearing. Who is behind this crime wave? Ottoline Brown and her best friend, Mr. Munroe, are on the case!

JF Riddell Lexile: 760

***Ages 8-12**

The Parker Inheritance – Varian Johnson – Candice has moved in to what used to be her grandmother's home for the summer. There she meets the neighbor boy, Brandon, and together they start to investigate rumors of a hidden treasure and the circumstances surrounding an event many years ago that had brought disgrace on her grandmother.

I FIC Johnson Lexile 610

***Ages 10-13**

Reality Leak – Joni Sensel – Train noises without trains and mysterious explosions baffle the residents of South Wiggot as eleven-year-old Bryan and his friend Spot try to connect the strange happenings with the town's newest industry and its president, Mr. Keen.

JF Sensel Lexile: 700 *Ages 10-12

The Red Blazer Girls– Michael D. Beil – Four girls who attend a private school are asked by an old lady to solve a 20-year-old mystery that will lead them to the hiding place of a valuable historical and religious artifact. Of course, there are those who try to stop them. The girls use their wits, and their considerable academic knowledge to solve the puzzle.

I FIC Beil, Lexile 730

***Ages 11-14**

Room One – Andrew Clements - Ted Hammond, the only sixth grader in his small Nebraska town's one-room schoolhouse, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family.

JF Clements

Lexile: 840 *Ages 8-12

Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief – Wendelin Van Draanen – 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. First in a series.

I FIC Van Draanen Lexile: 840

***Ages 10-14**

Secret Series – Pseudonymous Bosch – Adventurous detectives, Cass, an ever-vigilant survivalist, and Max-Ernest, a boy driven by logic, try to solve mysteries revolving around a secret.

JF Bosch Lexile: 690-810

***Ages 9-12**

The Sisters Grimm Book One: Fairy Tale Detectives – Michael Buckley – Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead. First in a series.

JF Buckley Lexile: 840

***Ages 7-13**

Skeleton Creek series – Patrick Carman – Ryan investigates strange occurrences in his hometown with the help of video clips from Sarah, a fellow detective. The reader may view Sarah's videos on a website by using the links and passwords found in the text.

JF Carman Lexile: 740-830

***Ages 8-12**

Sly the Sleuth and the Food Mysteries – Donna Jo Napoli – Sly uses her detective skills to help her friends solve the case of something fishy, something cooking, and something seedy.

JF Napoli Lexile: 300

***Ages 8-10**

Sly the Sleuth and the Sports Mysteries – Donna Jo Napoli – Sly uses her detective skills to help her friends solve the case of the soccer switch, the kick craze and the basketball blues.

JF Napoli Lexile: 350

***Ages 8-10**

South by Southeast – Anthony Horowitz – Fourteen-year-old Nick and his bumbling detective brother Tim Diamond investigate a mystery involving international spies and assassins.

I FIC Horowitz Lexile: 570

***Ages 8-12**

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer – John Grisham – With two attorneys for parents, thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone knows more about the law than most lawyers do. But when a high profile murder trial comes to his small town and Theo gets pulled into it, it's up to this amateur attorney to save the day. First in a series.

I FIC Grisham Lexile: 790

***Ages 9-12**

Three Times Lucky–Sheila Turnage –Saved from a flooded river during a hurricane Moses is taken in and raised by a quirky but lovable couple who own a diner in a small town in North Carolina. Things in that town get pretty interesting when there is a murder and Mo's friend, Dale, becomes a suspect.

I FIC Turnage, Lexile 560

***Ages 10-13**

The Traitor King – Todd Mitchell – When ten-year-old Darren and his family show up at their family reunion and find their Uncle Will missing, Darren and his sister go in search of clues to discover what happened.

JF Mitchell Lexile: n/a

***Ages 9-12**

Trouble with Chickens– Doreen Cronin –J.J. used to be a rescue dog, but now lives as an "outdoors" dog on a farm. He tries to keep his rescue skills alive by protecting the other farm animals. When a mother hen comes to him and explains that one of her babies has gone missing, J.J. is on the case.

JF Cronin, Lexile 570

***Ages 6-10**

Vanishing Act – John Feinstein – Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.

JF Feinstein Lexile: 760

***Ages 8-12**

The Westing Game – Ellen Raskin – 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.

I FIC Raskin Lexile: 750

***Ages 10-14**

Whales on Stilts – M.T. Anderson – Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.

JF Anderson Lexile: 760

***Ages 10-14**

When You Reach Me – Rebecca Stead – As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1970s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

JF Stead Lexile: 750

***Ages 9-12**

Who Could That Be at This Hour? – Lemony Snicket – Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain'd By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue. First in a series.

I FIC Snicket Lexile: 870

***Ages 9-12**

Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures – Brian Selznick – Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

I FIC Selznick Lexile: 830

***Ages 8-12**

York: The Shadow Cipher – Laura Ruby –Tess and Theo Biedermann, and their neighbor, Jamie Cruz, live in one of the historic Morningstarr buildings in an alternate New York City. When an upstart developer threatens to pull down Tess and Theo's apartment building, the twins team up with Jamie in one last effort to solve an ancient mystery and save their home.

I FIC Ruby, Lexile 780

***Ages 9-13**