

North Allegheny Elementary Libraries

Summer Reading Suggestions

Mystery Fiction

Mystery books keep the reader on the edge of their seat – trying to solve the puzzle or unusual problem presented in the story. Mystery books are filled with suspense and excitement.

Carlson, Caroline World's Greatest Detective

Toby works at his uncle's detective agency. He and his friend Ivy, who thinks she is the best detective around, decide to enter a World's Greatest Detective contest. The contest suddenly turns into a murder mystery and Ivy and Toby are hoping to solve the case. (Available as an eBook in Destiny Discover)

Child, Lauren Ruby Redfort: Take Your Last Breath

If you're a fan of Nancy Drew or Harriet the Spy, then you'll love Ruby Redfort! Follow thirteen-year-old Ruby as she works to crack a mysterious case involving pirates, missing ships, and shark attacks! Oh, and if you're a fan of puzzles, then you'll love trying to crack the Morse codes, graphics, and maps included in the book! Readers may also enjoy Ruby Redfort: Look Into My Eyes.

Funke, Cornelia The Thief Lord

Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice where they meet a mysterious 13-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord". The Thief Lord leads a ring of street children who dabble in petty crimes. Prosper and Bo delight in being part of this colorful new family, but the Thief Lord has secrets of his own and soon the boys are thrust into circumstances that will lead them to a fantastic conclusion. (Try others by this author)

Gibbs, Stuart Spy School

Ben Ripley is definitely a nerd - he's not very coordinated or sleuth-like. So he is thrilled to be recruited to attend the super secret CIA Academy of Espionage. Once there though, he realizes that this place is serious and he might be in over his head. He finds himself in situation after situation where he somehow bumbles through and stays alive. Maybe he will make a good spy after all? (Try others in this series)

Grisham, Theodore Boone: The Activist

Join everybody's favorite eighth-grade detective as he attempts to tackle a local environmental case! This time, the lines between right and wrong are blurrier than ever as Theo attempts to help friends save their family farm. Young environmentalists and civics buffs will love this face-paced novel. If you enjoy reading this, try another Theodore Boone Book: Kids Lawyer, The Accused, The Abduction and The Fugitive!

Haddix, Margaret Peterson The Strangers

Chess, Emma and Finn Greystone are siblings who read about 3 kidnapped children who happen to have the same names and birthdates as they do. Their mother leaves for a business trip before they have a chance to ask her about this situation. The book unravels into an exciting mystery filled with secret codes, hidden rooms and lots of secrets.

Hahn, Mary *Downing Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story*

Ali stumbles across a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years, while spending the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home. (Try others by this author)

Harris, Neil Patrick *The Magic Misfits*

Six young magicians and illusionists team up to save their small town from a crooked carnival owner and his hooligans.

Hopkinson, Deborah *How I Became a Spy: a Mystery of WWII London*

Bertie Bradshaw is living in London during World War II. He never imagines that he will become a spy, trying to solve codes and find traitors. He works with his American friend Eleanor and a Jewish refugee named David to try to stop a double agent from telling secrets to the Nazis.

Johnson, Varian *The Parker Inheritance*

Twelve year old Candice is forced to move to a small town in South Carolina for the summer. Her grandmother has just died, but Candice realizes that, before she died, her grandmother was trying to solve a mystery. Candice finds herself caught up in the same mystery, and with the help of her new friend Brandon, they try to find her 'inheritance' and clear her grandmother's name.

Levin, Mark *The Family Hitchcock*

In order to save money on their family vacation, the Hitchcock family decide to house swap with a family in Paris. While there, they accidentally get mixed up in a ring of international espionage.

Nye, Bill and Gregory Mone *Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World*

Jack is a regular 12-year-old who has 2 foster siblings who just happen to be geniuses. In this adventure, they travel to Antarctica for a science competition and become involved in a missing scientist mystery. (Available as an eBook in *Destiny Discover*)

Quinn, Spencer *Arf*

Bowser is a mutt owned by Birdie Gaus. He thinks of himself as the security guard of their home. So when the house is broken into, Bowser needs to find out who broke in and why. (Try others in this series - Also available as an eBook in *Destiny Discover*)

Pflugfelder, "Science Bob" & Hockensmith, Steve *Nick and Tesla's High-Voltage Danger Lab*

Eleven-year-old twins Nick and Tesla are forced to fend for themselves while their parents are away for the summer; join them as they battle Rottweilers, kidnappers, and science experiments gone wrong. Science lovers will love trying the step-by-step experiments that are peppered throughout the book.

Spratt, R. A. Friday Barnes, Girl Detective

Imagine if Sherlock Holmes was an eleven-year-old girl! When Friday Barnes, girl genius, solves a bank robbery, she uses the reward money to send herself to Highcrest Academy, the most exclusive boarding school in the country--and discovers it's a hotbed of crime! (Try others in this series)

Stead, Rebecca When You Reach Me

In this Newbery Award winning story, Miranda starts receiving mysterious notes and she doesn't know what to do about them. If she follows their directions, she will need to write a letter revealing a secret that she isn't ready to tell. If she doesn't something terrible could happen. (This book is available as an eBook in Destiny Discover)

Stewart, Trenton Lee The Mysterious Benedict Society

Dozens of children respond to a peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. (Try others in this series)

Wood, Maryrose The Incurrible Children of Ashton Place

The three Incurrible Children of Ashton Place learn they are under a curse after traveling to London with their fifteen-year-old governess Miss Penelope Lumley. (Try others in this series)

Many great mystery books come in series - try these Mystery Series for even more mystery fun:

The Young James Bond Adventures by Charles Higson

The Ballpark Mysteries by David
Kelly

Field Trip Mysteries by Steven Brezenoff (Available as an eBook in Capstone
Interactive)

The 39 Clues Series by assorted authors

The A to Z Mysteries, Capital Mysteries and Calendar Mysteries by Ron Roy

Encyclopedia Brown Mysteries by Donald Sobol

Don't forget about these other 'classic' mystery stories that never grow old:

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Holes by Louis Sachar

The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

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