

EPS Summer Reading: 5th Grade

The Assignment

Your 5th-grade adventure in Introduction to Literary Thinking begins with a touch of mystery! Mystery books have certain elements in common: a mysterious problem or crime to be solved, detectives or sleuths, suspects, clues - both real and red herrings - and a solution that often includes a twist. Authors of mysteries make sure that their stories include lots of intrigue, interesting characters, and plenty of clues. Authors must also reveal just enough information along the way to keep the reader guessing without giving away the ending. Mysteries are fun because they are usually engaging stories that give the reader the satisfaction of solving a puzzle.

In the few weeks prior to the start of school, each fifth-grade student will **select and read one of the mystery books on the list below**. Use the back of this sheet to track the major plot elements as you read; bring the sheet and a copy of the book to school with you in September!

Option #1: *The Strangers* by Margaret Peterson Haddix



Chess has always been the protector over his younger siblings, Emma and Finn. They have been a happy family, just the three of them and their mom. Everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach them, and they're shocked by the startling similarities between themselves and these strangers.

Option #2: *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen



Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

Option #3: *The Secret of the Old Clock* by Carolyn Keene



Nancy Drew's keen mind is tested when she searches for a missing will.

Option #4: *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by 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.

Option #5: *The Story Collector* by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb



Viviani Joffre Fedeler lives in the New York Public Library. As the daughter of the library's superintendent, the stacks are her playground. When an expensive display of stamps is stolen, Viviani, her brothers, and her friend Eva try to solve the mystery.

Use this page to keep track of the plot elements as you read!

What is the problem/mystery that needs to be solved?

What steps do the characters take to solve the problem/mystery?

How is the problem/mystery eventually solved?

Vocabulary words that you didn't understand or had to look up in order to understand? List here!