

Terrific Mystery Books for Children and Young Adults

An Amazon List by Geraldine A. (Jeri) Garretson (Jeri is a children's librarian and author of children's and young adult books who lives in Sun City Center, Florida)

"If you love a good mystery like I do, and you have a hard time finding single titles (as opposed to series books), here are some you will surely enjoy! I've included picture book mysteries (which are quite sophisticated!), children's fiction, and young adult mysteries, and even an occasional series title to give you a clue which series I like. Darn, I have to limit this list to just 40 titles, which means I have to leave out some excellent books. I hope you'll find them on your own. One way I limited it was to eliminate sequels. Happy clue hunting!"

1. Where's the Big Bad Wolf? by Eileen Christelow
2. The Mystery of King Karfu (Casebook of Seymour Sleuth) by Doug Cushman
3. The Top Secret Files of Mother Goose! by Gabby Gosling
Jeri says: "This is truly clever, original, and mysterious."
4. Eleventh Hour by Graeme Base
Jeri says: "Sophisticated, puzzling fun."
5. The Ghost and Mrs. Hobbs by Cynthia Defelice
6. The Malted Falcon: A Chet Gecko Mystery by Bruce Hale
Jeri says: "Chet Gecko mysteries are great fun!"
7. Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception (Sammy Keyes) by Wendelin Van Draanen
Jeri says: "One of the excellent Sammy Keyes series. Enjoy them all."
8. Ghost Soldier by Elaine Marie Alphin
9. The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke
10. Following Fake Man by Barbara Ware Holmes
11. How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found by Sara Nickerson
12. Search for the Shadowman by Joan Lowery Nixon
13. The Kidnappers by Willo Davis Roberts
14. The Skeleton in the Smithsonian (A Stepping Stone Book™) by Ron Roy
Jeri says: "Part of the A to Z Mystery series. If you like this one, you have another list to start on. :)"
15. The Case of the Goblin Pearls (Chinatown Mystery No. 1) by Laurence Yep
16. The House With a Clock In Its Walls (Lewis Barnavelt) by John Bellairs
17. The Dead Man in Indian Creek by Mary Downing Hahn
18. Alien Secrets by Annette Curtis Klause

19. The Dollhouse Murders by Betty Ren Wright
20. Counterfeit Son by Elaine Marie Alphin
21. The Presence: A Ghost Story by Eve Bunting
Jerri says: "One of the eeriest, scariest, and most up-to-date ghost stories I've ever read. Ghost stories are often mysteries, too, and this one is."
22. Artemis Fowl (Artemis Fowl, Book 1) by Eoin Colfer
Jerri says: "If you enjoy this one, be sure to read the sequels!"
23. Point Blank (Alex Rider Adventure) by Anthony Horowitz
24. The Wreckers (The High Seas Trilogy) by Iain Lawrence
Jerri says: "If you like it, read the Smugglers, the sequel."
25. The Killer's Cousin by Nancy Werlin
26. The Secret of Whispering Springs by Jerri Garretson
Jerri says: "Eerie, gripping ghost story and mystery. Yes, I wrote it, and I'm sure you'll enjoy reading it."
27. Dead Girls Don't Write Letters by Gail Giles
28. Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
29. The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn (The Samurai Mysteries) by Dorothy Hoobler
30. The Demon in the Teahouse (The Samurai Mysteries) by Dorothy Hoobler
31. Acceleration (Readers Circle) by Graham McNamee
32. The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum-Ucci
33. Twisted Summer by Willo Davis Roberts
34. Never Trust a Dead Man by Vivian Vande Velde
36. The Boy in the Burning House by Tim Wynne-Jones
37. The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore by Joan Lowery Nixon
38. Whispers from the Dead by Joan Lowery Nixon
39. The Grounding of Group 6 by Julian F. Thompson
40. Time Stops for No Mouse: A Hermux Tantamoq Adventure (Hermux Tantamoq Adventure) by Michael Hoeye
Jerri says: "Be sure to read the sequel, The Sands of Time."