Mikaelsen, Ben, *Sparrow Hawk Red.*

When Ricky Diaz discovers that his mother was murdered by drug dealers, he's desperate for revenge. When his father, an ex-Drug Enforcement agent, refuses to steal back a DEA radar-equipped plane stolen by the same drug cartel that killed Ricky's mom, he takes matters into his own hands. Posing as a homeless Mexican, Ricky invades the drug lord's compound, steals back the plane and flies home.
Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade

Nixon, Joan Lowery. *Search for the Shadowman*. **(JPB)**

Twelve-year-old Andy Thomas isn't thrilled with his teacher's assignment to explore family history. But when he starts asking questions about his ancestors, he's surprised to discover a black sheep named Cody Joe Bonner. No one wants to discuss what happened in the family's past, but Andy is determined to continue his investigation. Will his investigation hurt those he loves or help them realize it's never to late to seek justice?
Reading Level: 5th-8th grade

Raskin, Ellen, *The Westing Game.*

A girl sneaks into the spooky old Westing Mansion and discovers the body of Samuel Westing. According to his will, sixteen people will be paired and given clues to a riddle. The first to solve the riddle will inherit the Westing fortune.
Reading Level: 5th grade and up

Steensland, Mark. *Behind the Bookcase*.

Sarah, her brother Billy, and her parents are moving into her deceased grandmother's house for the summer in order to fix it up and sell it, but this is a house of locked rooms and many dark and dangerous secrets.
Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society.*

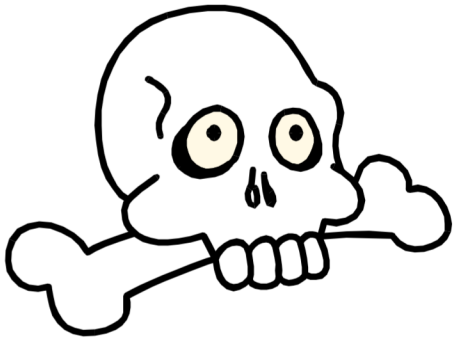
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
Reading Level: 4th — 9th grade

Van Draanen, Wendelin, *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief.*

Sammy gets herself 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.
Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade

These books can be found in the J Fiction section under the author's last name unless otherwise noted.

Mystery and detective books



"I was alone in the house, the storm had knocked out the lights, suddenly a scream pierced the night and something touched my shoulder..."

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Angleberger, Tom, *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*.

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.
Reading Level: 3rd-6th grade

Babbitt, Natalie, *Goody Hall.*

Hercules Feltwright, a bumbling actor, comes to Goody Hall to be a tutor to the young master, Willet Goody. The boy soon announces that his father is not dead and interred in the family tomb. In trying to solve this mystery, Hercules uncovers strange family legends.
Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Buckley, Michael. *Sisters Grimm: Book One, Fairy-Tale Detective*.

Sisters Sabrina and Daphne learn they are descendants of the Brothers Grimm—whose famous fairy tales are actually case files—and are the latest in a long line of fairy -tale detectives.
Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade

Cameron, Eleanor, *The Court of Stone Children.*

In a San Francisco museum of French art and furniture, Nina encounters the ghost of Dominique, a girl who lived in the nineteenth-century. Spurred on by the appearance of the ghost, Nina sets out to untangle a murder mystery which had remained unsolved since Napoleon's day.
Reading Level: 5th grade and up

Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery.*

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.
Reading Level: 4th — 8th grade

Enright, Elizabeth. *Spiderweb for Two: A Melendy Maze*.

Left alone when siblings Rush, Mark and Mona go away to boarding school, Randy and Oliver are lonely and bored until a mysterious letter brings the first of many clues to a mystery that takes all winter to solve.
Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade

Fleischman, Sid, *Jim Ugly.* **(JPB)**

After attending his father's funeral, Jake tries to deal with his dad's part timber wolf "one man dog," whom he calls Jim Ugly. Neighbors think he is a sheep killer and want him shot. Jake decides to run away with the dog, and eventually uncovers a mystery involving stolen diamonds and a dead man who isn't dead.
Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade

George, Craighead Jean, *Who Really Killed Cock Robin?* **(JPB)**

Eighth grader Tony Isidora follows a trail of environmental clues to try to figure out what ecological imbalances might have caused the death of the town's best known robin. Tony and his best friend Mary Ann decide to track down the killer by themselves.
Reading Level: 5th — 7th grade

Hamilton, Virginia, *The House of Dies Drear.* **(JPB)**

A hundred years ago, Dies Drear and two slaves he was hiding in his house, an Underground Railroad station in Ohio, had been murdered. Though Thomas thought the house, huge and isolated, was fascinating, he wasn't sure he was glad Papa had bought it because frightening things kept happening.
Reading Level: 5th grade and up

Hiaasen, Carl, *Hoot.*

When young Roy moves from Montana to Florida with his family, he ends up befriending two kids who are fighting to protect the home of a group of endangered burrow owls from a real estate developer.
Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade

Howe, Deborah, *Bunnicula: a rabbit-tale of mystery.*

When the Monroes find that their vegetables are being drained of juice and turning white overnight, they are at a loss to explain why. But Chester the cat believes that it is the work of a vampire rabbit and he enlists the help of Harold the dog to solve the mystery.
Reading Level: 3rd — 6th grade

Klise, Kate, *Trial By Journal* **(JPB)**

This story told through journal entries, newspaper articles and court documents chronicles the trial of Bob White who is accused of killing eleven-year-old Perry Keet. Perry's classmate, Lily Watson serves on the jury of this trial. However, Keet's body has not been recovered and Lily is receiving clues that he might still be alive.
Reading Level: 3rd — 6th grade