

Family Book Club

Topic: Mysteries

7 ate 9: The Untold Story by Tara Lazar (E)

The Detective Dog by Julia Donaldson (E)

Baby Monkey, Private Eye by Brian Selznick (J)

The Great Cake Mystery by Alexander McCall Smith (J)

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin (J)

Sherlock Bones and the Natural History Mystery by Renée Trembl (J graphic novel)

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson (YA)

The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware (fiction)

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie (fiction)

Nancy Drew (DVD)



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Book Discussion Ideas

Was the book a 'thumbs up' or a 'thumbs down' for you?

What three words would you use to describe the main character?

What three words would you use to describe where the book is set?

Who was your favorite character and why did you like them?

What did you think of the way the story ended?

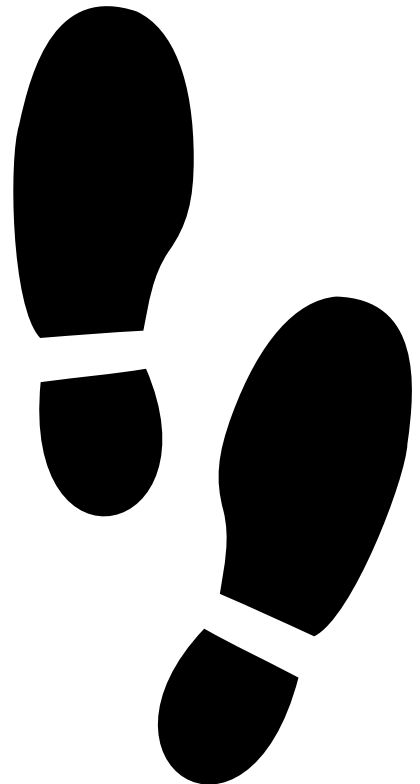
What do you think happens to the characters next?

Did you learn anything new from reading the book?

Why do you think the author wanted to write this story?

If you could give the book another title, what would it be?

Would the book make a cool movie? Video game? TV show?





Mystery Fun Facts

The first modern detective story was “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” by Edgar Allan Poe, published in April 1841.

Arthur Conan Doyle first introduced the character of Sherlock Holmes in his 1887 novel *A Study in Scarlet*. Since then, Sherlock Holmes has been depicted in more than 250 movies, making him the most portrayed literary human character in film & TV.

Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Inc. gang have been solving spooky mysteries for over fifty years, with 12 versions of the show to date! The famous Great Dane was designed by Iwao Takamoto and premiered in 1969.

Teenage sleuth Nancy Drew has starred in over 600 novels since her debut in 1930. Other names considered for the character include: Stella Strong, Diana Dare, and Nan Drew!

Best known for writing whodunits like the *Miss Marple* and *Hercule Poirot* series, mystery writer Agatha Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time! Christie has sold more than 2 billion books worldwide in more than 100 languages.

Both *Murder, She Wrote* (1984-1996) and *Castle* (2009-2016) were successful tv shows featuring a mystery novelist (Jessica Fletcher and Richard Castle, respectively).

In the *Castle* TV series, Richard Castle writes a novel titled *Heat Wave*. That novel was released as a real book in 2009, with "Richard Castle" as the author. The book is entirely in character, from the dedication to the acknowledgments!