

## Looking for a good mystery? Check out these series...

### Houdini & Nate mystery by Tom Lalicki

The series begins with *Danger in the Dark* and tells the story of Nathaniel Fuller's friendship with Harry Houdini. Nate is 13 years old and lives in New York at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Strange things are going on in his house and Nate believes a con man is taking advantage of his great aunt and his mother. Nate happens to meet Houdini and his wife, who immediately like the boy and want to help him solve the mystery surrounding the con man. This book is a great combination of mystery and historical fiction. *Shots at Sea* is the second book in the series.

### Sammy Keyes mysteries by Wendelin Van Draanen

Sammy Keyes is a 13-year-old girl secretly living with her grandmother in a senior citizens' apartment building. Sammy's first case is laid out in *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*. While using binoculars to spy on people in the hotel across the street, Sammy witnesses a robbery and the burglar sees her! When Sammy finally tells the police they don't believe her. While trying to solve the case Sammy has to deal with her secret living arrangements, a mean detective, and an even meaner girl at school. Suspects are plenty but readers will enjoy the adventure. Sammy is charming as someone who's not popular and gets into trouble while using her powers of deduction and observation to save the day. This is the first book in the series with currently eleven titles available.

### Enola Holmes by Nancy Springer

This series starts with *The Case of the Missing Marquess*. The main character is Enola Holmes, the much younger sister of Sherlock Holmes. In the first book, their mother disappears and Enola sets out to find her after her brothers Sherlock and Mycroft threaten to send her to boarding school. Unwilling to give up her freedom, she searches for clues to her mother's whereabouts. Enola is a brave, resourceful, intelligent girl who, at times, feels lonely and struggles under the social conventions of Victorian England. Enola is an extremely appealing heroine that the reader will cheer for as she outwits grownups and her brothers. Grand adventures, clues, and ciphers help add to the appeal. The series continues with *The Case of the Left-Handed Lady* and *The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets*.

### Boy Sherlock Holmes by Shane Peacock

The first book in this new series, *Eye of the Crow* tells the story of a 13-year-old Sherlock Holmes and his first case. Sherlock lives in poverty and rather watch passersby and read police blotters than go to school. His first case concerns a mysterious woman who is stabbed in London. When a young man is wrongly accused Sherlock attempts to clear him, only to find himself charged as an accomplice to the murder. Readers familiar with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creation will enjoy reading about Holmes as a boy, but this information is not necessary to enjoy the smart boy detective's journey into crime-solving.

### The Christopher Killer by Alane Ferguson

For teens, Alane Ferguson has written a great forensic mystery series. The series doesn't have a specific title but the books revolve around a teenage girl living in a small Colorado town. Cameryn is a teenager who starts off the first book, *The Christopher Killer*, with a new job. Her father is the town's coroner and he agrees to hire her as his assistant. Cameryn wants a career as a medical examiner and is excited about gaining experience before college. But her dreams are tested when a friend is found murdered and she must help her father process the crime scene. Cameryn becomes determined to

help the police find the killer, even when danger finds her. Full of suspense and science, this book puts a new twist on teen mysteries. The other titles in the series are: *The Angel of Death* and *The Circle of Blood*. She is currently writing the fourth novel, *The Dying Breath*.

Other mystery series young readers might be interested in: Cam Jansen by David Adler about a girl with a photographic memory, Encyclopedia Brown by Donald Sobol about a boy genius, Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene, and Hardy Boys by Franklin Dixon. Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys have been around for decades, but new tales have been published and have even been written in graphic novel form. Whether you love mysteries, are new to mysteries, or would like to read something completely different, please stop at the Bartholomew County Public Library. One of the great things about borrowing books from the library is that if you don't like the book, return and try something else! If you're not sure what to read, please don't hesitate to ask anyone at the desk for ideas...we will be glad to help!

*Jennifer Tchida is Children's Librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library*