



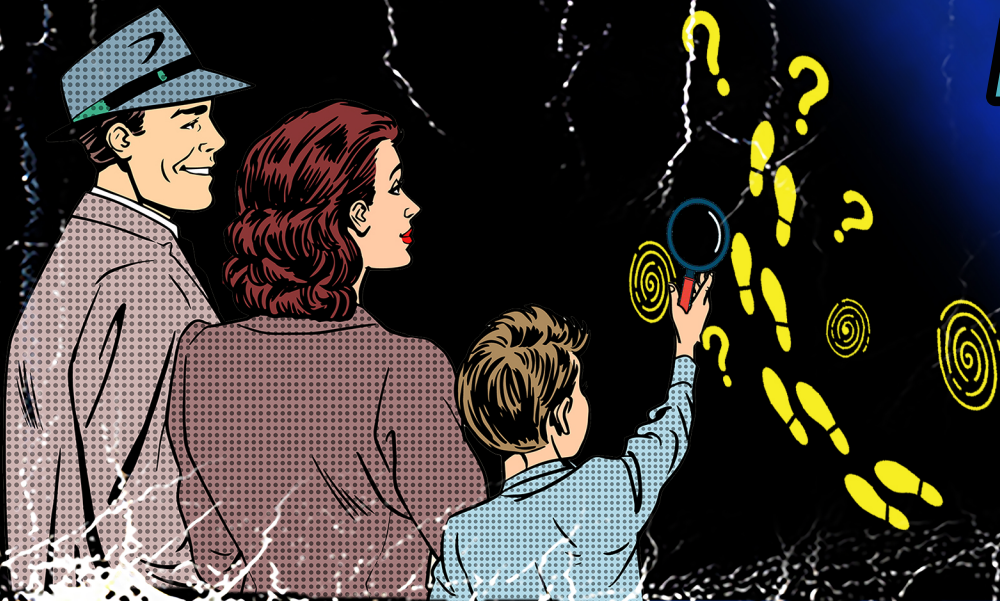
15th

West Virginia

FAMILY READ WEEK

MYSTERIES SOLVED AT THE LIBRARY

FAMILY GUIDEBOOK



LIBRARY
OF THE
**CENTER
FOR THE
BOOK**
WEST VIRGINIA
APPLANDS

West Virginia
Library Commission
Explore • Discover • Create

INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES



Welcome2

Let's Begin3

 Mysteries Solved at the Library4

 The Case of the Book Buddy5

Classic Sleuths6

 Reading List7

Real Life Mysteries9

 Reading List10

Animal Detectives12

 Reading List13

Careers15

 Reading List16

STEM and Mysteries18

 Reading List19

I Spy21

 Reading List22

Resources24

welcome

This fun and exciting guidebook is filled with ideas and tips to bring more reading into your family time. The West Virginia Library Commission and your local public library partner for a week each November to highlight ways reading can strengthen family time and grow academic success in children.

West Virginia Family Read Week gives you the tools to add reading to your family time or ideas and activities to expand the reading time you might already do as a family.

Parents and caregivers are vital role models in getting children interested in reading. Studies show when parents and caregivers talk about books and read with their children, kids develop better language skills, perform well academically, and cultivate a love for reading.

Enjoying books as a family sends powerful messages about the wonders of reading, learning, and creating. It teaches children reading happens everywhere and everyday—not just at school. They see reading not as a chore or assignment, but as a pleasurable activity they can do with the most important people in their lives.

The goal of this reading packet is to help parents and caregivers develop literacy and to create strong readers. Simple and small interactions with adults have a big impact on young children.

Reading is the best way for children to develop literacy skills and boost their vocabulary. When reading books, we often encounter words that are not commonplace in day-to-day conversations.

For **West Virginia Family Read Week**, we encourage you to not only read with your child but to visit your local library together to discover the many offerings it has for keeping your family reading beyond this week.

Let's Begin

This year's **West Virginia Family Read Week** gives us the opportunity to solve mysteries while having fun together as a family.

Reading mysteries help children in many ways. These benefits go beyond improving literacy skills, which all forms of reading do.

Mystery books offer many outlets for children to building cognitive skills, such as thinking, understanding, justifying, questioning, and paying close attention to detail.

For more information about the benefits of children reading mystery books, see the Resources page at the end of the Family Guidebook.

Mystery books build on your child's natural curiosity as well. We hope you and your family take some time to explore some mysteries through the pages of books. There are activities and reading lists for each day of the week in this guidebook. Look through the packet to see what might appeal to your family.

There are only two days where there are specific activities, at the beginning and end of the week. Otherwise, pick any day's topic you would like and make it your own. You might even want to stay on a topic for a few days, especially if your child is enjoying it.

Read the books you select before hand, if possible. Reading the book first allows you to find the twists and turns, areas where questions might pop-up, and parts of the story your child will like most. It might also prompt questions to ask while reading the story.

If your child is very young, don't worry if he/she might not seem interested in sitting still while you read. It takes time to for children to develop listening and reading skills. Start off reading to your child as a newborn and keep reading to them as they grow. It will become a natural part of your family's activities.

When **West Virginia Family Read Week** is over, keep reading! Be sure to continue visiting the library and reading together.



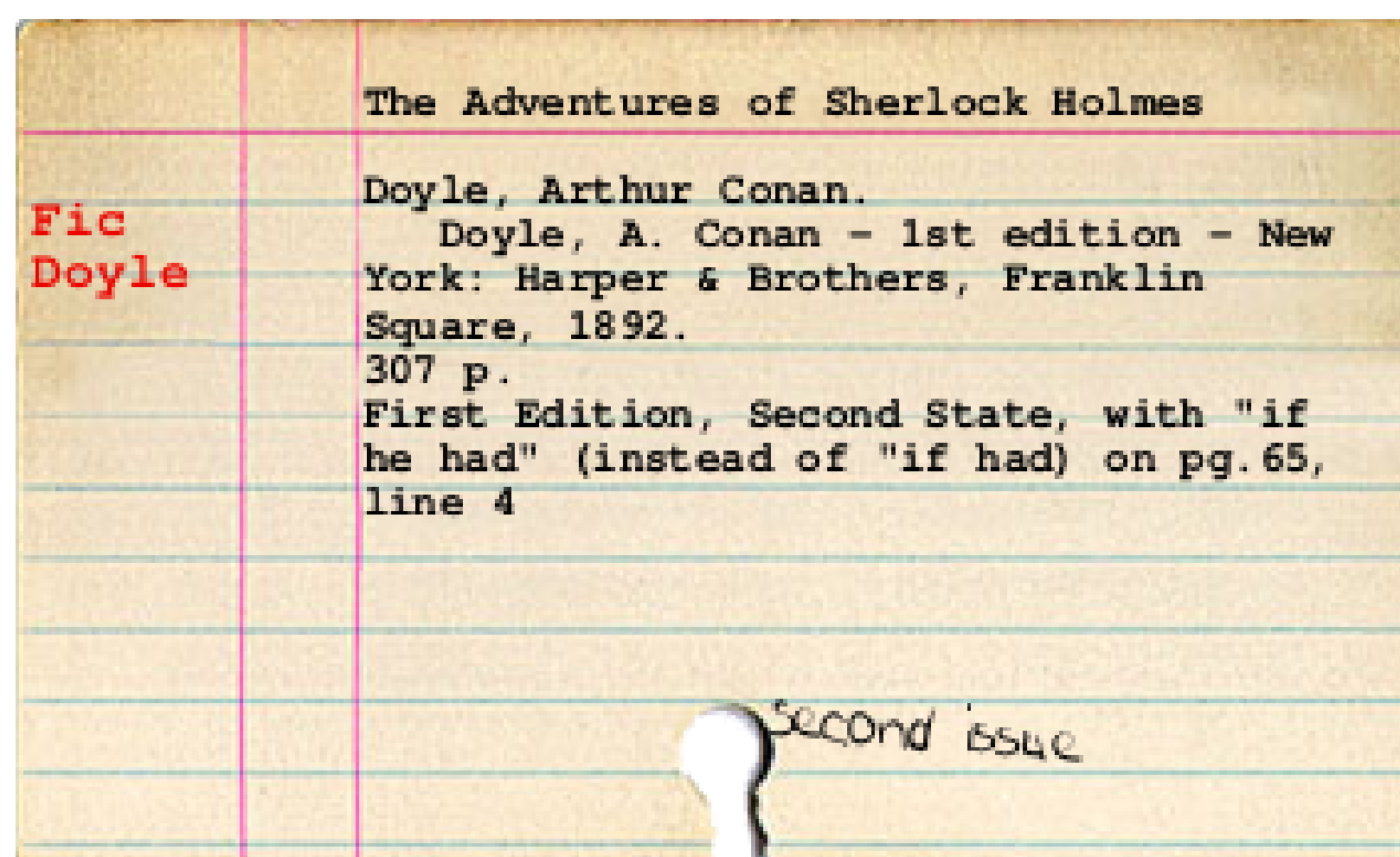
Mysteries solved at the Library



Mysteries Solved with a Library Card

The first step in solving all your mysteries this week, is get a library card. Visit your local public library to get a card and start on your first mystery.

Once you have a card, you are ready to begin to unlock clues to find the answers to all types of mysteries this week.



Search your library's online card catalog to find mystery or thriller titles. Create a list of books to explore at the library. This is a good time to talk about different types of stories (fiction and non-fiction), different types of books (picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, etc.)

In addition to a library card, your family might want to create a Book Detective Journal to track the reading fun. Maybe even invite a Book Buddy to join in the solving the mystery as well.

There are activities to solve mysteries using science, technology, and math. As well as a fun mystery project for National Recycling Day on November 15 developed by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Youth Environmental Program.

The Case of the Book Buddy



Having a **Book Buddy** allows your child to make a friend to read to or with during the week. There are several options for a **Book Buddy**, your child can use a stuffed animal they may already adore, pick a new stuffed friend, or build a **Book Buddy** just for the week.

Book Buddies are a great way for children to boost their reading abilities.

The **Book Buddy** can even search for books it might like to read or hear read.

Once your child has a **Book Buddy** make it an official part of West Virginia Family Read Week activities.

Older kids might enjoy having a **Book Buddy** that travels and takes photos of places. Think of the Flat Stanley Project: www.flatstanleyproject.com or this middle school English teacher's classroom pet project: <https://mrsbsbrainybunch.com/building-a-sense-of-community-in-your-middle-school-classroom/>

More about the benefits of Book Buddies and reading.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/alycia-zimmerman/stuffed-animals-reading-and-writing-buddies/>

<https://food.ndtv.com/health/teddy-bear-helps-your-infant-cultivate-reading-habits-1664816>

<https://parentclub.ganzworld.com/uncategorized/the-benefits-of-plush-toys/>

<https://www.donorschoose.org/project/adopt-a-stuffed-animal-for-buddy-reading/4532555/>





classic sleuths

Thrilling and mysterious tales have long been a popular genre for authors and readers alike. From Sherlock Holmes to the Great Mouse Detective, familiar crime solving characters bring an extra element to the story. Who doesn't love rejoining with an old friend for a new outing?

Do you have a favorite classic detective story?

Who would you most like to solve a mystery with?

If you and your child don't have a favorite detective, start with a book you might want to read and see if you like that story and character. Maybe by the end of the week you will have discovered a favorite classic sleuth.

ACTIVITIES

More Fun with Sherlock Holmes

<https://sloclassical.org/2017/05/23/more-fun-with-sherlock-holmes/>

DIY Detective Dress Up Costume and Hunting Activities

<https://toddlerapproved.com/2013/08/diy-detective-dress-up-costume-and.html>

Nancy Drew Activities from Penguin Random House

https://www.penguin.com/static/pages/yr/features/nancydrew/downloads/nd_activities.pdf

Collection of Nate the Great Worksheets

<https://www.superteacherworksheets.com/book-nate-the-great.html>

Reading List

Classic Starts®: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, edited by Chris Sasaki

No child is too young to appreciate the amazing deductive powers of the world's smartest detective. These easy-to-read Sherlock Holmes stories provide the perfect introduction to the super sleuth and his friend and assistant, Dr. Watson. Among the intriguing tales: "A Scandal in Bohemia," Holmes's first encounter with the mysterious Irene Adler; "The Red-Headed League"; "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons" and others. (from Amazon.com)

Nancy Drew series by Carolyn Keene

First published in 1930, The Nancy Drew Mystery Stories have sold over 70 million copies and become a cherished part of our cultural landscape. The teenage sleuth has been a noted inspiration for generations of women, including Sonia Sotomayor, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Hillary Clinton. (from Penguin Random House)

Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective by Donald Sobol

Leroy Brown, aka Encyclopedia Brown, is Idaville neighborhood's ten-year-old star detective. With an uncanny knack for trivia, he solves mysteries for the neighborhood kids through his own detective agency. But his dad also happens to be the chief of the Idaville police department, and every night around the dinner table, Encyclopedia helps him solve his most baffling crimes. (from Amazon.com)

Nate the Great by Marjorie Sharmat

Join the world's greatest detective, Nate the Great, as he solves the mystery of the lost picture! Perfect for beginning readers and the Common Core, this long-running chapter book series will encourage children to problem-solve with Nate, using logical thinking to solve mysteries! (from Amazon.com)

Trixie Belden #1 The Secret of the Mansion by Julie Campbell

Trixie's summer is going to be so boring with her two older brothers away at camp. But then a millionaire's daughter moves into the next-door mansion, an old miser hides a fortune in his decrepit house, and a runaway kid starts hiding out in Sleepyside! (from Amazon.com)

The Hardy Boys series by Franklin W Dixon

The Hardy boys are active, inquisitive amateur detectives who become involved in all manner of local intrigue, involving thieves, kidnappers, counterfeiter, and thugs. They are always on a roller-coaster of danger, lurching from one precarious situation to another as they try to outwit criminals and solve mysteries. (from BookRags.com)

Reading List

The Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warren

The series follows the four orphaned Aiden children who decide to live in an abandoned boxcar in the forest. In the first book, *The Boxcar Children*, the kids learn that they have a grandfather but initially run from him, believing him to be a cruel and scary old man. This turns out happily not to be the case, and the books that follow in the series each revolve around a mystery that the children solve together. (from BookRiot.com)

The Bunnica series by Deborah and James Howe

Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery is a middle grade mystery-comedy about a fanged rabbit who might be a vampire. When the Monroe family finds a peculiar little bunny at a screening of *Dracula*, they decide to bring him home with them. They call him Bunnica and introduce him to pets Harold the dog and Chester the cat. Strange things start to happen around Bunnica, convincing Chester that this fluffy bunny guy is a vampire. He sets out to prove his theory—is Bunnica really a bloodsucking bunny, or is it all a big misunderstanding? (from BookRiot.com)

The Great Mouse Detective series by Eve Titus, Illustrated by Paul Galdone

Basil is a mouse, but not just any mouse: he's the mouse who lives in the cellar of Sherlock Holmes's house on Baker Street. As such he has observed the genius of the crime-solving mad man upstairs and has picked up a thing or two in the art of sleuthing. In *Basil of Baker Street*, Basil must try and solve his toughest case yet: a mousenapping (hehe) with seemingly zero clues to go on! (from Bookriot.com)

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

When Claudia decided to run away, she planned very carefully. She would be gone just long enough to teach her parents a lesson in Claudia appreciation. And she would go in comfort—she would live at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She saved her money, and she invited her brother Jamie to go, mostly because he was a miser and would have money.

Claudia was a good organizer and Jamie had some ideas, too; so the two took up residence at the museum right on schedule. But once the fun of settling in was over, Claudia had two unexpected problems: She felt just the same, and she wanted to feel different; and she found a statue at the Museum so beautiful she could not go home until she had discovered its maker, a question that baffled the experts, too. (from Barnes and Noble)

Scooby-Doo Mysteries series #1 - Scooby-Doo! and the Haunted Castle by James Gelsey

Scooby-Doo and the gang are having dinner in a millionaire's castle, when suddenly a ghost turns out the lights. It's a chilling new case for the super sleuths and Scooby-Doo! (from GoodReads.com)

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

A highly inventive mystery begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of the very strange will of the very rich Samuel W. Westing. They could become millionaires, depending on how they play a game. All they have to do is find the answer – but the answer to what? The Westing game is tricky and dangerous, but the heirs play on – through blizzards, burglaries, and bombings, Sam Westing may be dead ... but that won't stop him from playing one last game! (from Barnes and Noble)

Real Life Mysteries

Generally, the plot in mystery stories is made up by the author. This is from the characters to the problem needing to be solved. However, there are some stories either based on real crimes--called True Crime--or non-fiction books written about famous or noteworthy mysteries.

These stories about real life events are often as puzzling and captivating as ones dreamed up in the mind of a skilled mystery writer.

Did you know, the Federal Bureau of Investigation created a Top Ten Art Crimes list in 2005 to highlight stolen masterpieces cases that remain unsolved. Visit the site find to out more:
www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/art-theft/fbi-top-ten-art-crimes/?utm_source=artistdaily.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ad-cja-bl-170809

Many puzzling real life events are about people, objects, and cities that vanish without a trace. These types of mysteries might be worth exploring further as well. Consider the strange tales of what happened to Amelia Earhart, why things vanish in the Bermuda Triangle, where did the island of Atlantis go, or what happened to the settlers of The Lost Colony at Roanoke Island?

What are some stories you and your child enjoy that are based on real life mysterious events or unexplained phenomenon?

ACTIVITIES

Create an Art Forgery

<https://www.carmensandiego.com/resource/create-an-art-forgery/>

Make a Wanted Poster

<https://www.tuxpi.com/photo-effects/wanted-poster>

The Lost Cities of Atlantis Primary Resources from Net Geo Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/primary-resource/lost-city-atlantis-primary-resource/>

Amelia Earhart worksheets from Surviving a Teacher's Salary

<https://www.survivingateacherssalary.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/AmeliaEarhartFULL.pdf>



Reading List



Strange but True: 10 of the world's greatest mysteries explained by Kathryn Hulick

Prepare to have your mind blown! As you explore ten of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries, you'll witness a UFO encounter, search for the lost city of Atlantis, tour a haunted house, and discover the kraken's true form. Along the way, you'll use the scientific method and sharp thinking to separate fact from fiction and explain the unexplained.

Learn how sightings of flying saucers and stories of alien abductions can be explained by sleep paralysis, false memories, and hypnosis. Find out what pareidolia is and how this psychological phenomenon may explain some ghost sightings. Explore possible real locations for the lost city of Atlantis. Beautiful, haunting illustrations set the mood and spark the imagination. (from Amazon.com)

The Wolf Girls: An Unsolved Mystery from History by Jane Yolen

In this eerie book from the nonfiction An Unsolved Mystery from History picture book series, travel to an Indian orphanage where two new arrivals are so wild that some claim they were raised by wolves. In 1920 a missionary brought two young girls to an orphanage in India. The girls didn't know how to talk, walk, or eat from a plate. Some people thought the girls had been abandoned by their parents. Some people said the girls were brought up by wolves in the wild. Still others thought that the missionary who ran the orphanage made up the story about the girls. No one knows for sure.

Become a detective, study the clues, and see if you can help solve this chilling mystery from history! (from Amazon.com)

Unsolved Historical Mysteries by Allison Lassieur

What happened to the people of the Roanoke Colony? Why did the crew of the Mary Celeste abandon ship? Who wrote the mysterious Voynich Manuscript and what does it mean? History is filled with many unexplained and baffling mysteries. With dramatic photos and intriguing theories, this fascinating eBook will take readers on a journey through time to explore some of history's most fascinating mysteries. (from Amazon.com)

Mysteries In History For Kids: A History Series - Children Explore History by Baby Professor

Why is it important to go back to the past? Maybe because you want to understand the present and even foresee the future. It could also be because you want to see the struggles and experience the victories the past generations have seen. These, and more reasons, are cleverly written in the pages of this educational book for kids (from Amazon.com), the Sphinx, the disappearance of entire civilizations, the dancing plague, the Voynich manuscript, and so many more. Chock-full of cool photos, fun facts, and spine-tingling mysteries. (from Amazon.com)

Reading List

Real-Life Mysteries: can you explain the unexplained? by Susan Martineau

Have you ever wondered what exactly does go bump in the night? From mysteries like Shackleton's ghostly companion to the Loch Ness Monster and friends, read the amazing evidence about these mysterious cases and make up your own mind. Things are not always what they seem - until they are, then you might wish you had never asked! (from GoodReads.com)

12 Unsolved Mysteries (Scary and Spooky) by Brandon Terrell

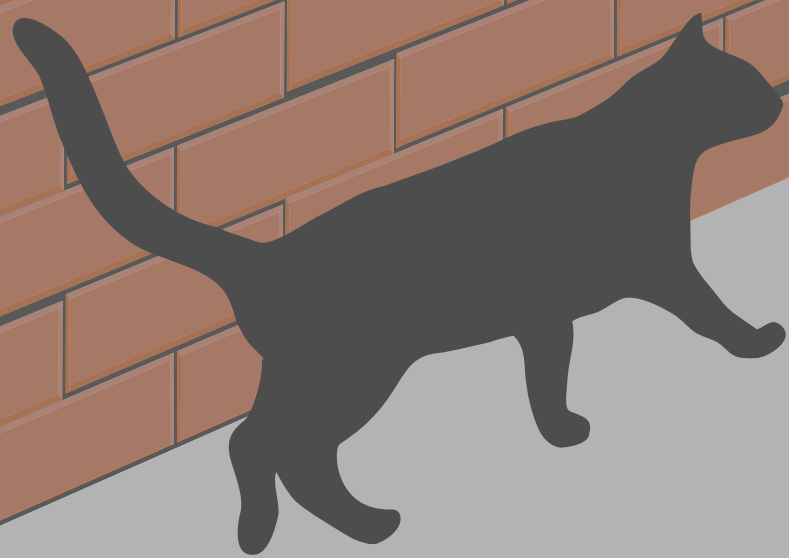
Examines 12 of the spookiest unsolved mysteries. Each spread provides information about a mystery and its origins paired with interesting sidebars and questions to consider. (from Amazon.com)

History's Mysteries: Curious Clues, Cold Cases, and Puzzles From the Past (National Geographic Kids) by Kitson Jazynka

Why were the Easter Island heads erected? What really happened to the Maya? Who stole the Irish Crown Jewels? The first book in this exciting new series will cover history's heavy-hitting, head-scratching mysteries, including the Lost Colony of Roanoke, the Bermuda Triangle, the Oak Island Money Pit, Stonehenge, the Sphinx, the disappearance of entire civilizations, the dancing plague, the Voynich manuscript, and so many more. Chock-full of cool photos, fun facts, and spine-tingling mysteries. (from Amazon.com)



Animal Detectives



Solving mysteries isn't just for two-legged humans. There are many fun adventures from our furry friends that involve tales of intrigue. You can join in on the mystery solving with a story from Scooby-Doo and the gang or with The Dog Detective, or any animal that loves to sleuth.

ACTIVITIES

Printable The Dog Detective activity sheets:

<https://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/books-for-children/detective-dog-activity-sheets>

Scooby Doo coloring pages:

<https://everfreecoloring.com/scoobydoo/8606>

<https://www.scribblefun.com/scooby-doo-coloring-pages/>

King and Kayla series activity kit:

https://peachtree-online.com/pdfs/Activity_Event/KingKaylaActivityKit.pdf

Deductive Detective activity book:

https://www.arbordalepublishing.com/documents/TeachingActivities/DeductiveDetective_TA.pdf

Reading List

The Curious Cat Spy Club by Linda Joy Singleton

Kelsey helps catch a runaway zorse (horse + zebra) with the help of the nicest and most popular girl in school, Becca. The two are walking home when they happen upon a litter of kittens trapped in a dumpster and Leo is the only person around who can help get them out. The three unlikely friends decide to work together to help solve animal crimes with their secret club. (from Amazon.com)

King and Kayla and the Case of the Unhappy Neighbor by Dori Hillestad Butler,

When Jillian's dog, Thor, is accused of digging up Mr. Gary's garden, King and Kayla put their detective skills to work to clear his name. At the scene of the crime, Kayla picks up several clues—there is too much damage for a small dog like Thor to have caused, and several half-eaten vegetables are scattered on the ground. King also finds a clue: A witness to the crime tells King that the culprit is a “new guy” who likes to fight. But who could that be? And can they track down this new guy and clear Thor's name?

With simple, straightforward language and great verbal and visual humor, the King & Kayla series from Geisel Honor Award-winning team Dori Hillestad Butler and Nancy Meyers is perfect for newly independent readers transitioning from easy readers to beginning chapter books. Great for introducing mysteries and the important concepts of fact gathering, list making, clues, and analytical thinking. (from Amazon.com)

The Detective Dog by Julia Donaldson

When Detective Dog Nell puts her nose to the task, there's no mystery she can't solve. Whether she's tracking the missing shoe of her human, Peter, or locating some lost honeycomb, all Nell has to do is sniff, sniff, sniff and she's hot on the trail.

Besides solving mysteries, there's something else Nell loves—listening to children read. Every Monday, Peter takes her to school where children tell her stories. One day, Nell and Peter arrive to find that all the books are gone. Who could have taken them? And why? There's only one dog for the job, and Detective Dog Nell is ready to sniff out the thief!(from Amazon.com)

Paws vs. Claws (Queenie and Arthur Series) by Spencer Quinn

Queenie the cat has a BIG problem. And for once, it's not the slobbery, overly-excited creature who also lives at Blackberry Hill Inn. Sweet Lady Emsworth, the neighbor's prize cow, has disappeared, meaning no morning cream for Queenie. And when Queenie's not happy, NO ONE is happy . . .

Things aren't looking great for Arthur the dog, either. His beloved humans, twins Harmony and Bro, are distressed about the strange activity in their town. Mysterious hi-tech people are suddenly very interested in nearby Catastrophe Falls, bills are piling up at their mom's inn . . . and now the twins might be hiding a fugitive?! Arthur is desperate to help but for some reason, no one seems to think he's up to the task. (Could that be because he can't remember what happened more than ten seconds ago? Surely not!) Can Arthur save the day — and become a hero in Queenie's eyes — without making a disastrous splash? (from Scholastic)

Bark Park by Brandi Dougherty

Scout's a little dog with a big appetite for solving mysteries with her friends! From Epic! Originals, Bark Park is an adventure-filled series about the strange things that happen at Scout's local dog park.

With a little sleuthing and a lot of blueberries, Scout follows her nose to help her friends Maggie, Rocky, and Gus solve the mysteries of the popped ball, the cone of shame, and the missing bone! (from Amazon.com)

Reading List

My Dog Is Better Than Your Dog Crimebiters! #1 by Tommy Greenwald

His self-involved older sister and workaholic Mom think he needs to stop obsessing already! But when his Dad finally allows Jimmy to get a puppy before school starts, everything changes and Jimmy has something new to focus on: his amazing dog, Abby who seems to have some very unusual habits. She sleeps all day but is wired at night, and she runs from the garlic kelp biscuit made by Jimmy's strange new babysitter Mrs. Cragg. There's just something different about Abby. Could she possibly be...a vampire? Jimmy's best friend Irwin thinks Jimmy's being ridiculous, but then when Abby uncovers a real crime in progress and helps him become friends with an actual, human girl, even Irwin has to admit that perhaps Abby might have some super powers after all.. (from Amazon.com)

Real Pigeons Fight Crime by Andrew McDonald

What do REAL PIGEONS do? They fight crime, of course! Wait, what? You didn't know your town is protected by a secret squad of crime-fighting feathered friends? Well, you are about to get schooled. REAL PIGEONS solve mysteries! REAL PIGEONS fight bad guys! And REAL PIGEONS won't stop until your neighborhood is safe and the questions are all answered: Like, why have all the breadcrumbs disappeared? And which food truck smells the best? (from Amazon.com)

Missing! A Cat Called Buster by Wendy Orr

Buster isn't fluffy or pretty like other cats—he's a crazy orange cat with attitude. And Mr. Larsen is the exact right person for him. Every morning Buster and Mr. Larsen sit on their porch in the sun, and every morning Josh sees them when he walks to school.

When Mr. Larsen goes to the hospital and Buster goes missing, Josh and his family look for that crazy cat everywhere. But if Buster turns up, Rainbow Street Animal Shelter will have to help him find another home. That's when Josh and his family realize that—sometimes—life can choose a pet for you.(from Amazon.com)

Digby O'Day and the Great Diamond Robbery by Shirley Hughes

Digby and Percy, best friends forever, have decided to take a vacation by the sea. Little do they know they're about to drive right into another daring adventure! No sooner do they arrive at the Hotel Splendide when a very important guest—the fabulous pop star Peaches Meow—discovers that her priceless diamond necklace is missing. Can Digby and Percy track down the sinister figures at the heart of the mystery? (from Amazon.com)

The Deductive Detective by Brian Rock

Someone stole a cake from the cake contest who could it be? Twelve animal bakers are potential suspects but Detective Duck uses his deductive reasoning skills to quack the case. After all, the thief left hairs behind so the thief wasn't a bird. Follow along as he subtracts each suspect one at a time to reveal just who the culprit was. This clever story will have children of all ages giggling at the puns and the play on words.





The world of mysteries offers many opportunities for real world jobs. First, the most obvious being a detective. That could be either working for a police department or as a private investigator.

But there are other careers related to mysteries as well. Here is a list of a few professions that you and your child can explore this week:

- Forensic investigator
- Crime Scene investigator
- FBI agent
- Cybersecurity professional
- Fingerprint technician

ACTIVITIES

What Does a Detective Do? Crime Scene Investigation for Kids

<https://kidpillar.com/what-does-a-detective-do-crime-scene-investigation-for-kids/>

Who Dunit? Forensic science online game from Cyberbee.com

<http://www.cyberbee.com/whodunit/crime.html>

Free Police Printables for Preschoolers-Kindergarteners

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/primary-resource/lost-city-atlantis-primary-resource/>

Kids' Forensics Fingerprint Activity

<https://cubscoutideas.com/8152/kids-fingerprint-activity/>

Forensic Science Activity for Kids: The Incredible Cookie Caper

<https://www.osc.org/forensic-science-activity/>



Reading List

Crime Scene Investigations: Real-Life Science Activities for the Elementary Grades by Pam Walker

Turn your elementary students into super sleuths with the 60 exciting lessons and worksheets in this unique resource! All provide complete teacher background information and reproducible activity sheets that challenge students to observe carefully, organize and record data, think critically, and conduct simple tests to solve crimes ranging from theft and dog-napping to vandalism and water pollution. Organized into four sections covering Inquiry & Technology...Earth Science...Life Science...and Physical Science. (from Amazon.com)

Forensic Science: Discover the Fascinating Methods Scientists Use to Solve Crimes by Chris Cooper

Explore the fascinating, and sometimes gory, world of forensics, where science helps crack the case. How do you know if a red stain is blood or ketchup, or whose blood it is? Can computers really recognize your face in a crowd? Why are fingerprints so important in an investigation? Learn why it is critical to quickly secure a crime scene, and how DNA sampling works. Find out how maggots can reveal how long someone has been dead, or how a single fabric fiber can lead to the murderer.

From the scene of the crime to testing in the laboratory, you will get to know how all the clues are put together to tell a story and reveal the guilty person. Discover how methods have changed since the days of Sherlock Holmes, the latest technology in use today, and techniques of the future.

Flip to the reference section to learn about pioneers in the field, see a timeline of forensic firsts, and locate museums and special websites to visit for further inspiration and exploration. The glossary gives you all the vocab you need to sound like a real CSI expert. (from Amazon.com)

Science Fair Winners: Crime Scene Science: 20 Projects and Experiments about Clues, Crimes, Criminals, and Other Mysterious Things by Karen Romano Young

Crime Scene Science that puts you inside the head—and the toolbox—of modern-day experts in crime solving. Slip under the yellow crime-scene tape to conduct your own experiments: you'll soon be detecting, inspecting, and connecting the dots of forensic science. Investigate rates of human decomposition; find out what makes fingerprints unique; identify handwriting traits; and discover the secrets of paper fiber analysis.

Each workshop includes suggestions on effective presentation at science fairs, taking experiments one step further, and using science vocabulary correctly. Talk the talk, and walk the walk, your crime scene is this way, Detective. (from Amazon.com)

Science Sleuths: Solving Mysteries Using Scientific Investigations by Howard Schindler and Dennis Mucenski

Building on the growing interest in crime stories, the three cases featured in Science Sleuths: Solving Mysteries Using Scientific Inquiry merge science and literacy as students are required to be critical and active readers as they conduct their investigation. Beginning with an evaluation of the crime scene reproductions, student investigators will analyze lab reports, phone messages, and interviews to extract key information. Students will sort through the evidence to formulate their initial hypothesis as they work to identify the person responsible for each crime. Additional case information requires students to reformulate their initial hypothesis until they arrive at a final conclusion. The students' final write-up consists of a chart explaining the means, motive, and opportunity for each of the suspects in addition to a thorough analysis of the evidence and a recreation of the case. Eventually students are able to determine which suspect should be charged with the crime! (from Amazon.com)

Reading List

Officer Panda: Fingerprint Detective by Ashley Crowley

When Officer Panda notices some strange fingerprints in his neighborhood, he sets out to solve the curious case. Children will giggle along as they help Officer Panda figure out who's been leaving mysterious prints everywhere. This engaging picture book from debut talent Ashley Crowley is sure to delight kids over and over again. A fun and informative "Did You Know" section is included at the back so readers can learn more about fingerprints. (from BarnesandNoble.com)

Forensics: Uncover the Science and Technology of Crime Scene Investigation by Carla Mooney

Forensics: Uncover the Science and Technology of Crime Scene Investigation introduces students to the fascinating world of forensic science and shows them how to find clues, analyze evidence, and crack the case. Combining hands-on activities with forensic science, kids will have fun learning about the world of forensics, evidence collection, and crime lab analysis. Entertaining illustrations and fascinating sidebars illuminate the topic and bring it to life, reinforcing new vocabulary. Projects include documenting a crime scene, identifying fingerprints, analyzing blood spatter, and extracting DNA. Additional materials include a glossary and a list of current reference works, websites, museums, and science centers. (from Amazon.com)

CSI at Work (Amazing Crime Scene Science) by John Townsend

Explores the different steps of crime investigation and the multiple methods crime scene investigators use when collecting evidence and solving murders. Includes real case files and case studies (from the publisher)

Officer Dan Looks for Clues: An Introduction to Forensic Science for Kids by Daniel Anselment

Officer Dan introduces kids to the interesting field of forensic science. You will learn about fingerprints, shoe prints, tool markings, hairs and fibers while exploring photos of clues from a burglary scene. (from Goodreads.com)

Police Dog Recruit: A Puppy's Dream to Become a Crime Fighter by Andy Falco and Kelly Falco

There is a wonderful story written for children with interesting facts and information for adults. In the children's story, learn how a puppy has a dream to be a police dog and how he follows the advice of his mom and dad. Then suddenly he gets a chance to prove that he can be Police Dog just like his father and grandfather. These facts will give you (the adult) the tools to answer the questions we are sure your child will have. It will be fun to learn about how fantastic Police Dogs are and do it together with your child. Police Dogs are so fantastic and we hope you will enjoying learning how they use their nose, speed and smarts to help all of us everyday. (from Amazon.com)



STEM & Mysteries

The science, technology, and mathematics elements of STEM fit perfectly into crime solving. If you and your child explored some of the careers related to mysteries, now is a great time to build on that excitement and start doing some related STEM activities. Select some of the activities below, then talk about a career interest you child might want to explore. If you include some fingerprint art projects, then you'll be introducing Art to the mix for some STEAM activities!

In addition, reading mysteries promote problem solving and critical thinking skills. If you're reading the stories aloud, it shifts a child from being a passive listener to an active listener.

ACTIVITIES

Forensic Science for Kids from A2Z Homeschooling

https://a2zhomeschooling.com/explore/chemistry_kids/csi_unit_study_forensics_for_kids/

Ink Chromatography project from SHODOR

<http://www.shodor.org/workshops/forensic/labs/ink.html>

No Fuss Crime Scene Kit from the Trendy Science Teacher

<https://thetrendyscienceteacher.com/2019/04/17/how-to-create-a-no-fuss-crime-scene-kit-for-your-forensics-classroom/>



Reading List

Exploring the Mysteries of Science by Hayley Birch, Mun Looi, Colin Stuart

Discusses possible scientific answers and theories related to such topics as time travel, consciousness, human characteristics, the origin of life, and robots.(from Amazon.com)

Ada Lace, on the Case by Emily Calandrelli

Ada Lace—third-grade scientist and inventor extraordinaire—has discovered something awful: her neighbor's beloved Yorkie has been dognapped!

With the assistance of a quirky neighbor named Nina (who is convinced an alien took the doggie) and her ever-growing collection of gadgets, Ada sets out to find the wrongdoer. As their investigation becomes more and more mysterious, Ada and Nina grow closer, proving that opposites do, in fact, attract. (from Amazon.com)

65 Short Mysteries You Solve With Sciences by Eric Yoder

Not an ordinary mystery book, One Minute Mysteries makes science fun! Each one-minute mystery (solutions included) exercises critical thinking skills while covering earth, space, life, physical, chemical, and general science. A bonus section includes five mysteries from our upcoming title in the series, One Minute Mysteries: Solve 'em with Math! This entertaining and educational book is great for kids, grown-ups, schools, educators, homeschoolers and anyone who loves good mysteries, good science, or both! (from Amazon.com)

Scooby-Doo! A Science of Chemical Reactions Mystery: The Overreacting Ghost by Megan Cooley Peterson

There's a ghost on the loose at school! Explosions in the science room, metal turning to rust, cakes burning in the cooking lab ... is the ghost to blame? Join the gang as they investigate the spooky mystery and catch the ghost in the act of causing chemical reactions! (from Amazon.com)

Science Detectives: How Scientists Solved Six Real-Life Mysteries by YES Mag, Rose Cowles, Jude Isabella

Think science is a bunch of test tubes, microscopes and guys in lab coats? Think again! Science is bursting with far-out but true stories, fascinating puzzles and mind-boggling mysteries. Science Detectives follows fearless and dedicated science sleuths tracking down leads and solving cases all over the world --- in cities and in deserts, deep underground, high in the sky and even in your DNA. Science Detectives includes five fascinating projects to test your science-detection skills. (from GoodReads.com)



Reading List

Jesse Steam Mysteries Series by Ken Bowser

Solving Mysteries Through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

Young readers can follow amateur sleuth and detective, Jesse Steam as she embarks on fun, exciting and often spooky adventures through her home town of Deenville, USA. Come along as she solves everyday mysteries using her skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (S.T.E.A.M.) (from www.jessesteamystery.com)

The Clue in the Painted Pattern
The Conundrum of the Crooked Crayon
The Riddle of the Spinning Sycamore Seed
The Secret in the Jelly Bean Jar
The Case of the Clicking Clock
The Hint in the Peeping Pupil
The Mighty Lever Endeavor
The Question of the Vomit Vortex
The Microscopic Snot Debacle
The Vexing Hectare Detector



Math Mysteries: Fun, Motivating Stories with Activity Pages that Teach and Reinforce Key Problem-Solving Strategies (Grades 3-5) by Jack Silbert

Take the mystery out of math problem solving! Humorous, reproducible stories guide students step-by-step through the problem-solving process. Students learn to apply key strategies, such as drawing a diagram, making an estimate, finding a pattern, and working backward. Each story includes companion teaching notes, practice problems, and follow-up questions that offer real-life applications and more. For use with Grades 3-5. (from Amazon)

Molly and the Mathematical Mysteries: Ten Interactive Adventures in Mathematical Wonderland by Eugenia Cheng

Join Molly as she ventures into a curious world where nothing is quite as it seems. A trail of clues leads from scene to scene, presenting Molly with a number of challenges. But who is leaving the clues, and where will they lead? This interactive mystery shows math isn't just about numbers—it's about imagination! An explorative and creative approach to the world of mathematics. (from Amazon.com)

I Spy



What would a week about mysteries be without some espionage?

From the classic children's book Harriet the Spy to the current Mac B., Spy Kid series, there is no shortage of thrilling adventures with spies as main characters. Dust off your trench coat and get cracking on that secret code.

ACTIVITIES

Mac B Kid Spy items from Scholastic

<https://kids.scholastic.com/kids/books/mac-b-kid-spy/>

Make a Secret Agent ID Badge

<https://www.itsybitsyfun.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/spy-secret-agent-id-614-ilovepdf-compressed-1.pdf>

Make a Spy Kit

The International Spy Museum has a great resource for making all the items a spy needs. Visit Q's Gadget Lab to select some items.

www.spymuseum.org/education-programs/educators/lesson-plans-activities/q-s-gadget-lab/

Make Invisible Ink

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explorer-academy/article/invisible-ink>

I Spy Games

<https://www.papertraildesign.com/i-spy-game-printables/>

Indoor Spy Obstacle Course

<https://frugalfun4boys.com/indoor-spy-obstacle-course/>



Reading List

Jada Sly, Artist & Spy by Sherri Winston

After years of living abroad, Jada finally returns to New York. She's an artist, but she's also a spy. Or rather, a spy-in-training. She's convinced that her mother was a spy herself, and that she's alive and in New York. Even though everyone thinks she died in a plane crash years ago. So Jada embarks on the biggest adventure of her life while she uses her spy skills to unlock the mystery of her mother's disappearance. It's a spy story with a classic mystery and action, and mixed with Jada's artsy personality it makes for a delightful read.

Recommended for grade levels 3–7. (from BookRiot.com)

Mrs. Smith's Spy School for Girls by Beth McMullen

After a botched escape plan from her boarding school, Abigail is stunned to discover the school is actually a cover for an elite spy ring called The Center, along with being training grounds for future spies. Even more shocking? Abigail's mother is a top agent for The Center and she has gone MIA, with valuable information that many people would like to have—at any cost. Along with a former nemesis and charming boy from her grade, Abigail goes through a crash course in Spy Training 101, often with hilarious—and sometimes painful—results.

But Abigail realizes she might be a better spy-in-training than she thought—and the answers to her mother's whereabouts are a lot closer than she thinks... (from Amazon.com)

Night of Soldiers and Spies by Kate Messner

Ranger, the time-traveling golden retriever with search-and-rescue training, travels to Colonial America to help the patriot cause!

Ranger's next mission finds him in the middle of the Revolutionary War. There he meets Isaac Pope, a fisherman turned soldier for the Continental Army. When General George Washington is in need of a spy to cross into enemy territory, Isaac is chosen for the dangerous task. Ranger must help Isaac remain safe and undetected, or the battle -- and their lives -- will be lost. (from Amazon.com)

Charlotte Spies for Justice: A Civil War Survival Story by Nikki Shannon Smith

Twelve-year-old Charlotte lives on a plantation in Richmond, Virginia, where the American Civil War is raging. All around her, citizens and the Confederate army are fighting to protect slavery -- the very thing Charlotte wishes would end. When she overhears the plantation owner conspiring against the Confederates, Charlotte knows she must join forces with her. Maybe together they can help the Union win the war and end slavery. Helping a spy is dangerous work, but Charlotte is willing to risk everything to fight for what is right -- justice for all people. Nonfiction material on the Civil War, a glossary, discussion questions, and writing prompts are also provided. (from Amazon.com)

Harriett the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

Using her keen observation skills, 11-year-old Harriet M. Welsch writes down in her notebook what she considers the truth about everyone in and around her New York City neighborhood. When she loses track of her notebook, it ends up in the wrong hands, and before she can stop them, her friends read the sometimes awful things she's observed and written about each of them. How can Harriet find a way to keep her integrity and also put her life and her friendships back together? (from Penguin Random House)

Reading List

JaTop Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers and Secret Writing by Paul B. Janeczko

Pssst! Do you know the difference between a code and a cipher? Can you tell a St. Cyr slide from a Cardano grille? Did you know that the discovery of a substitution cipher caused Mary Queen of Scots to lose her head? Don't look now, but packed into this practical field guide is everything a young person needs to know about the art of concealment — making and breaking codes, mastering cipher systems, and experimenting with secret writing. Offering plenty of hands-on practice sessions, tips for creating a code-making kit, sidebars on secret codes in history, and an amusing pair of spies to illustrate techniques, Paul B. Janeczko's tantalizing Top Secret won't stay a secret for long. Back matter includes suggestions for further reading, an author's note, an answer key, and an index. (from Amazon.com)

How to be an International Spy by Andy Briggs

There's no going back, Agent. Once you enter this book, your training will begin as you join the secret world of spies. You'll rise through the ranks from recruit to secret agent, learning a host of skills to put into covert operation immediately. Get the scoop on some of the biggest agencies in the world, discover the coolest gadgets out there, crack some fiendish codes and lots more. Great for on-the-road entertainment. (from the publisher, Lonely Planet)

Code Girls: The True Story of the American Women Who Secretly Broke Codes in World War II (Young Readers Edition) by Liza Mundy

More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking.

Through their work, the "code girls" helped save countless lives and were vital in ending the war. But due to the top secret nature of their accomplishments, these women have never been able to talk about their story--until now.

Through research and countless interviews with the surviving code girls, Liza Mundy brings their story to life. Abridged and adapted for a middle grade audience, Code Girls brings this story to young readers for the first time, showcasing this vital story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment (from Goodreads.com)

Mac B., Kid Spy Book Series by Mac Barnett

Before Mac Barnett was an author, he was a kid. And while he was a kid, he was a spy. Not just any spy. But a spy...for the Queen of England. James Bond meets Diary of a Wimpy Kid with this groundbreaking fully-illustrated chapter book series Mac B., Kid Spy. The precious Crown Jewels have been stolen, and there's only one person who can help the Queen of England: her newest secret agent, Mac B. Mac travels around the globe in search of the stolen treasure...but will he find it in time? From secret identities to Karate hijinks, this fast-paced, witty and historically inspired chapter book will keep readers guessing until the very last page. With full-color illustrations and fascinating historical facts masterfully sprinkled throughout, this series offers adventure, intrigue, absurdity, history and humor. Discover this totally smart and side-splittingly funny series, and experience what it's really like to be a kid spy. (from Amazon.com)

Resources

Six Reasons to Hook Your Kid on Mysteries

https://crimereads.com/6-reasons-to-hook-your-kid-on-mysteries/?fbclid=IwAR3rB0nH2gzfY7tC_1YIMf8CGpFb57j0thrMh64s7lkczlM9K-jqzW9GNZs

Four Unexpected Benefits from Reading Thrillers

<https://joslynchase.com/4-unexpected-benefits-reading-thrillers/>

Improve Reading Skills with Mystery Books

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/parent-child/improve-reading-skills-mystery-books.html>

Five Reasons Parents Should Get Mystery Books for Kids

<https://codepineapple.com/raise-a-reader/5-reasons-parents-should-get-mystery-books-for-kids/>

Why It's Important for Children to Read Mystery Books

<https://thehappyhollisters.com/read-mystery-books/>

Critical Thinking for Kids: Activities, Games and Books

<https://kidpillar.com/games-kids-think-critically-critical-thinking/>

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