

## *I Was Stumped*

### *A Bulletin Dozen Booklist*

**T**HERE ARE NO AGE LIMITS ON the urge to delve, so in this follow-up to February's Dozen, *And That's When I First Suspected: A Dozen Young Adult Mysteries*, we offer younger readers a collection of satisfying snoopy stories. Whether you're looking for something light and breezy, serious and thoughtful, or far-out and sci-fi, you can find a suitable enigma here.

—Deborah Stevenson  
& Jen Debaillie  
July 2003



## THE BULLETIN

OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The *Bulletin* Dozen is a monthly theme-based booklist available from the *Bulletin's* website. Since we're awfully fond of bakers here at the *Bulletin*, we thought we'd adopt their philosophy of generosity and throw in an extra one or two when we have them to offer—so don't expect an even dozen.

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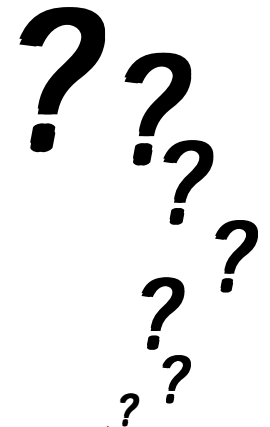
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# I WAS STUMPED

MYSTERIES FOR  
MIDDLE-GRADERS



A Bulletin Dozen  
Booklist

**Ahlberg, Allan.** *The Cat Who Got Carried Away*; illus. by Katherine McEwen. Candlewick, 2003. Gr. 2-4

The marvelous and peculiar adventures of the hapless Gaskitt family take on a mysterious tinge in this third volume, wherein pets are disappearing all over town. (BCCB 6/03)

**Banks, Kate.** *Howie Bowles, Secret Agent*; illus. by Isaac Millman. Foster/Farrar, 1999. Gr. 2-4  
Pretense turns to reality when third-grader Howie, who's been claiming to be a secret agent, must solve a genuine mystery in this accessible chapter book. (BCCB 12/99)

**Byars, Betsy.** *Death's Door: A Herculeah Jones Mystery*. Viking, 1997. Gr. 4-7

One of the strongest in the Herculeah Jones series, this fourth volume sends Herculeah and her sidekick, Meat, off to solve the attempted murder of Meat's Uncle Neiman. (BCCB 6/97)

**Hale, Bruce.** *The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye*; written and illus. by Bruce Hale. Harcourt, 2000. Gr. 3-5

The deadpan monosyllabic style and drolly drafted drawings imbue this story of a fourth-grade lizard gumshoe with ample humor. (BCCB 6/00)

**Keller, Holly.** *Angela's Top-Secret Computer Club*; written and illus. by Holly Keller. Greenwillow, 1998. Gr. 2-4

In this breezy and entertaining mystery, Angela must follow through after recklessly bragging that she and her computer club can find out who's breaking into the school computer. (BCCB 3/98)

**Levin, Betty.** *Shoddy Cove*. Greenwillow, 2003. Gr. 4-8

Clare's work in the living museum brings her face to face with two contemporary runaways and an unsolved nineteenth-century mystery. (BCCB 6/03)

**Maynard, Bill.** *Pondfire*. Putnam, 2000. Gr. 4-7

Fire-shy Jed is the son of the local fire chief, and the misguided results of his attempts to overcome his fear lead people to suspect him when a series of arson fires blaze around town. (BCCB 3/00)

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.** *Bernie Magruder & the Bats in the Belfry*. Atheneum, 2003. Gr. 4-7

In this latest episode of Bernie Magruder's sleuthing exploits, he and his intrepid companions must save the citizens of Middleburg from an infestation of bats in the belfry—and everywhere else. (BCCB 4/03)

**Rector, Rebecca Kraft.** *Tria and the Great Star Rescue*. Delacorte, 2002. Gr. 4-7

Mystery meets sci-fi in this action driven story of sheltered Tria's excursion to the dreaded Outside in order to rescue her kidnapped mother. (BCCB 9/02)

**Stanley, Diane.** *The Mysterious Matter of I. M. Fine*. HarperCollins, 2001. Gr. 4-8

A slyly satiric portrait of R. L. Stine adds enjoyment to this solid mystery, wherein Franny and her best friend investigate the strange effects of a popular author's books. (BCCB 10/01)

**Stenhouse, Ted.** *Across the Steel River*. Kids Can, 2001. Gr. 5-8

The local police brush off the beating of a Siksika Indian war hero in small-town 1950s Canada, but Will Samson goes after the real story to prove his loyalty to his Siksika best friend, Arthur. (BCCB 1/02)

**Stewart, Linda.** *The Big Catnap*. Cheshire House, 2000. Gr. 5-9

This feline homage to Raymond Chandler has enough catty humor and genre play to appeal to a wide variety of young readers. (BCCB 11/00)

**Van Draanen, Wendelin.** *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*. Knopf, 1998. Gr. 5-8.

Seventh-grader Sammy spots a burglary in progress through her binoculars, but when she can't get anybody to believe her, the tough, hard-hitting girl sets out to solve the crime herself. (BCCB 7/98)

