

Mystery Book Report

Choose a mystery book appropriate for your reading level. The book could be from the media center, public library, book store, etc. make sure it is a book you have not read before. Your task, after reading the book, is to design a "Mystery Cereal Box Book Report". Use an empty cereal box, and cover it with construction paper. Here are the other guidelines:

√ On the front of the box, illustrate an exciting scene from the book you read. Neatly print the title and author. Print your name on the bottom right hand corner of the front of the box.

√ On one side panel, write 6 vocabulary words from your book. Choose words you thought were interesting, difficult, or unusual. Write those words, along with their definitions. *You may want to keep a list as you are reading.*

√ On the other side panel, list the "ingredients" for your book. The ingredients include:

- The setting (when and where the story takes place)
- The main characters, along with 3 words that describe them (*use your character trait lists*)

√On the back of the cereal box, answer each question completely. This can be hand-written or typed.

- What was the mystery in your novel?
- What clues were given to solve the mystery?
- What surprises were there in the story?
- What details were given to throw the investigator off track (red herring)?
- Who solved the case, and how was it solved?

√The Mystery Prize

Place a small object “the mystery prize” in the box that represents an important element in your book. Make sure you do not seal the box shut.

√Oral presentation

Be prepared to share your project with the class.

Use the attached pages to help you!

Mysteries – a List of Ideas

Note: I have not read each of these books, so I cannot vouch for their content. If it is a book I have read and think there could be a concern about the book's content, I will make note of it. All students have been asked to get parental input before selecting a book. Students may choose books that are not on this list, but the books must meet the criteria: appropriate reading level, not previously read, contains elements of a mystery

Midnight Magic by Avi (ghost theme)

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

Crandall's Castle by Betty Ren Wright (ghost theme)

Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart (several former students have read it and loved the series – a bit lengthy)

Sammy Keyes series by Wendelin Van Draanen

Bunnicula by James Howe

Nancy Drew series by Carolyn Keene

Trixie Belden series by Kathryn Kenny

Hardy Boys series by Franklin W. Dixon

Chet Gecko series by Bruce Hale

The Case of the Goblin Pearls by Laurence Yep

Hoot by Carl Hiassen – mild inappropriate language

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

39 Clues series by various authors

Zeke Armstrong mystery series by Daniel J. Hale & Matthew Labrot