



Mystery Book Club
A Simplify Homeschool Class
Fall 2019 - Mondays at 2:00 EST
Jill Harper

Who is this class for?

This class is best suited for middle schoolers ages 10-13 who enjoy reading and discussing books with their peers. It is also a good match for those who are drawn to mysteries. In this class we will be reading 7 books over 12 weeks. Students should have access to the books and be prepared to read daily.

Weekly Work:

Every week the students and I will meet to discuss that week's reading. I will post some discussion questions in the classroom prior to the meeting so students have an idea of what we will be discussing. The purpose of this book club is to get a dialogue going between the students and to help them learn to put their thoughts into words and to debate their opinions with others.

Outside of the live meetings I will be posting a big idea question weekly in our classroom that everyone will be required to respond to. This response can be anywhere from just a

sentence or two to a paragraph. At the end of each book, all students will also rate the book in the classroom and put into words what they liked or did not like about the book. Students will also be required to respond to at least one other student in the classroom to encourage a back and forth discussion.

Assessment:

Like all Simplify Homeschool Classes, we provide a short written assessment of the student and their work for the class. We can provide guidance about assigning a grade if the parent is interested in doing so.

Required resources:

Naturally the student will need to have access to all the books or audiobooks if they prefer.

Schedule:

Prior to the first week of class: Please read [*The Mystery of Black Hollow Lane*](#) by Katherine Arden

1. September 9th - Discuss *Small Spaces*, introduce [*Harlem Charade*](#)
2. September 16th - Discuss first half of *Harlem Charade*
3. September 23rd - Discuss second half of *Harlem Charade*, introduce [*Zap!*](#)
4. September 30th - Discuss first half of *Zap!*
5. October 7th - Discuss second half of *Zap!*, introduce [*The Van Gogh Deception*](#)
6. October 14th - Discuss first half of *The Van Gogh Deception*
7. October 21st - Discuss the second half of *The Van Gogh Deception*, introduce [*Spy Runner*](#)
8. October 28th - Discuss the first half of *Spy Runner*
9. November 4th - Discuss the second half of *Spy Runner*, introduce [*The Supernormal Sleuthing Service*](#)
10. November 11th - Discuss the first half of *The Supernormal Sleuthing Service*
11. November 18th - Discuss the second half of *The Supernormal Sleuthing Service*, introduce [*Winterhouse*](#)
12. November 25th - Discuss *Winterhouse*.