

chasing vermeer summary

chasing vermeer summary provides a comprehensive look at Blue Balliett's acclaimed children's mystery novel. This article delivers an in-depth summary of the book, explores its key characters, major themes, and unique artistic elements, and examines its educational significance. Readers will discover how "Chasing Vermeer" blends art history with a riveting plot, making it a standout in children's literature. Whether you're a student, teacher, parent, or book enthusiast, this guide will enhance your understanding of the story, its mysteries, and its lasting appeal. Continue reading for a detailed breakdown, character analysis, thematic exploration, and answers to the most frequently asked questions about "Chasing Vermeer."

- Overview of "Chasing Vermeer"
- Main Characters and Their Roles
- Plot Summary and Key Events
- Major Themes and Motifs
- Art, Puzzles, and Codes in the Novel
- Educational Value and Impact
- Frequently Asked Questions

Overview of "Chasing Vermeer"

"Chasing Vermeer" is a celebrated children's novel written by Blue Balliett and illustrated by Brett Helquist. The story is a blend of mystery, adventure, and art history, set in the city of Chicago. Targeted towards middle-grade readers, the novel has gained recognition for its thought-provoking narrative, interactive puzzles, and integration of famous artworks.

At the heart of the story is the mysterious disappearance of a priceless painting by the Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer. The novel follows two sixth graders, Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay, as they unravel clues, decode messages, and embark on a quest to recover the missing masterpiece. The book is unique in its use of pentominoes, secret codes, and real-world art history, inviting readers to solve puzzles alongside the protagonists.

Main Characters and Their Roles

Petra Andalee

Petra Andalee is one of the two main protagonists. She is a thoughtful, imaginative, and curious sixth grader who possesses a strong sense of intuition. Petra's love for words and literature helps her find hidden meanings in clues and messages throughout the story. Her determination and creativity play a crucial role in solving the central mystery of the novel.

Calder Pillay

Calder Pillay is the other protagonist, known for his logical thinking and fascination with puzzles. He carries pentominoes—geometric game pieces—everywhere, using them to help solve problems and organize his thoughts. Calder's analytical skills and partnership with Petra are essential in the search for the missing Vermeer painting.

Supporting Characters

- Ms. Isabel Hussey: The children's teacher, who encourages curiosity and critical thinking. She introduces Petra and Calder to the world of Vermeer and art history.
- Tommy Segovia: Calder's friend, who provides additional clues and support during the investigation.
- Mrs. Sharpe: An elderly neighbor who becomes involved in the mystery due to her knowledge of art and her connection to the stolen painting.

Plot Summary and Key Events

Introduction to the Mystery

"Chasing Vermeer" begins with the theft of Johannes Vermeer's painting, "A Lady Writing," while it is being transported to the Art Institute of Chicago. The thief sends enigmatic letters to several people, challenging the public to reconsider the authenticity of Vermeer's works and demanding that the truth be uncovered.

Unraveling the Clues

Petra and Calder become intrigued by the mystery after their teacher, Ms. Hussey, assigns an art project related to Vermeer. As they investigate, they discover coded messages, strange coincidences, and connections between their own lives and the missing painting. The children use Calder's pentominoes and Petra's intuition to decipher clues that others overlook.

The Climax and Resolution

After assembling various pieces of evidence and overcoming numerous obstacles, Petra and Calder uncover the identity of the thief and the location of the stolen painting. Their teamwork and persistence pay off, leading to the recovery of "A Lady Writing" and the restoration of its place in the art world. The novel ends with the characters reflecting on the power of observation, friendship, and the mysteries of art.

Major Themes and Motifs

The Power of Observation

One of the central themes in "Chasing Vermeer" is the importance of careful observation. Both Petra and Calder learn to pay attention to details, question assumptions, and look beyond the obvious. The novel encourages readers to be curious, open-minded, and analytical in their thinking.

Art and Authenticity

The novel explores questions about the authenticity of art and the value of creativity. Through the mystery of the stolen Vermeer, readers are invited to consider what makes art genuine and how perceptions can shift over time. The story promotes a deeper appreciation for artistic expression and the stories behind famous works.

Friendship and Collaboration

Petra and Calder's partnership is a testament to the strength of teamwork. Their contrasting personalities complement each other, showing that combining different perspectives can lead to greater insight and success. The role of trust and support among friends is a recurring motif throughout the book.

Art, Puzzles, and Codes in the Novel

Use of Pentominoes

Pentominoes play a significant role in "Chasing Vermeer." Calder uses these mathematical puzzle pieces to help him solve problems and make sense of the clues they encounter. The pentominoes symbolize logic, creativity, and the interconnectedness of ideas, encouraging readers to use their own problem-solving skills as they read.

Secret Codes and Hidden Messages

The narrative features various codes and riddles that challenge both the characters and the readers. These elements add an interactive dimension to the story, making it more engaging and thought-provoking. The book's illustrations by Brett Helquist also contain subtle clues, further immersing readers in the mystery.

Educational Value and Impact

Promoting Critical Thinking

"Chasing Vermeer" has become a popular choice in classrooms due to its ability to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and an interest in art history. Teachers often use the novel to encourage students to analyze information, look for patterns, and collaborate with peers.

Encouraging Art Appreciation

The book introduces young readers to the works of Johannes Vermeer and the broader world of fine art. By weaving art history into the plot, the novel inspires curiosity about artists, museums, and the cultural significance of masterpieces.

Key Educational Benefits

- Enhances reading comprehension and analytical skills
- Promotes creativity and independent thinking

- Introduces children to art history and museum culture
- Encourages collaboration and discussion among peers

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main plot of "Chasing Vermeer"?

A: "Chasing Vermeer" centers on two sixth graders, Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay, who work together to solve the mystery of a stolen Vermeer painting. Their journey is filled with puzzles, codes, and art history, culminating in the recovery of the missing artwork.

Q: Who are the main characters in "Chasing Vermeer"?

A: The main characters are Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay, two resourceful and curious students. Key supporting characters include Ms. Hussey (their teacher), Tommy Segovia (Calder's friend), and Mrs. Sharpe (a neighbor knowledgeable about art).

Q: What themes are explored in "Chasing Vermeer"?

A: Major themes include the power of observation, the value of art and authenticity, friendship, teamwork, and the importance of questioning and critical thinking.

Q: How does the novel incorporate art and puzzles?

A: The story integrates real-life art history, especially works by Johannes Vermeer, and features puzzles, secret codes, and pentominoes that challenge the characters and readers alike.

Q: Why is "Chasing Vermeer" considered educational?

A: The novel promotes critical thinking, analytical skills, and an appreciation for art. Its interactive elements and historical references make it a valuable resource for engaging young readers in meaningful learning.

Q: What role do pentominoes play in the story?

A: Pentominoes are puzzle pieces that Calder uses to solve problems and decipher clues. They symbolize logical thinking and are an essential tool in

unraveling the mystery.

Q: Is "Chasing Vermeer" suitable for classroom discussions?

A: Yes, "Chasing Vermeer" is frequently used in educational settings. Its themes, puzzles, and art history elements make it ideal for classroom discussions and group activities.

Q: Who is the author of "Chasing Vermeer"?

A: The novel was written by Blue Balliett and illustrated by Brett Helquist.

Q: What makes "Chasing Vermeer" unique among children's books?

A: The combination of a compelling mystery, interactive puzzles, and real art history sets "Chasing Vermeer" apart, inviting readers to become active participants in solving the story's central enigma.

Q: Are there sequels to "Chasing Vermeer"?

A: Yes, "Chasing Vermeer" is the first in a series by Blue Balliett, followed by "The Wright 3" and "The Calder Game," which continue exploring mysteries involving art, puzzles, and young protagonists.

[Chasing Vermeer Summary](#)

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Chasing Vermeer Summary: A Deep Dive into the Mystery and Art

Are you captivated by intricate mysteries, hidden clues, and the allure of the Dutch Golden Age? Then you'll be enthralled by Blue Balliett's "Chasing Vermeer." This blog post offers a

comprehensive summary of this captivating middle-grade novel, delving into its plot, characters, themes, and the enduring appeal that keeps readers hooked. We'll explore the central mystery, the characters' individual journeys, and the underlying messages about friendship, art, and the power of observation. Get ready to unravel the secrets of "Chasing Vermeer"!

The Enigmatic Theft and the Unlikely Detectives

The story centers around two seemingly ordinary 11-year-old girls: Petra Andretti, an observant and detail-oriented girl struggling with social anxieties, and Claudia, a free-spirited artist with a knack for problem-solving. Their seemingly ordinary lives take a dramatic turn when a priceless Vermeer painting is stolen from the local museum. This isn't just any theft; it's a meticulously planned operation leaving behind no obvious clues.

Unraveling the Clues: A Symphony of Suspicion and Deduction

The girls, united by their shared love for art and their intuitive abilities, find themselves unexpectedly drawn into the investigation. They notice details overlooked by the adults, turning their keen observation skills into a powerful tool. Through a series of seemingly insignificant clues—a misplaced hairpin, a peculiar marking on a canvas, an unusual sequence of events—they begin to piece together a complex puzzle. Their journey takes them deep into the world of art forgery, secret societies, and unexpected alliances.

Petra's Analytical Prowess: The Key to Unlocking the Mystery

Petra's strength lies in her meticulous attention to detail. She possesses a remarkable ability to observe seemingly inconsequential things, recognizing patterns and connections that others miss. Her analytical mind is the engine driving the investigation, allowing her and Claudia to decipher hidden messages and crack the code surrounding the theft. She's the embodiment of logical deduction within the narrative, highlighting the power of observation and careful analysis in solving complex problems.

Claudia's Artistic Intuition: Adding a Creative Dimension to the Investigation

While Petra focuses on logical deduction, Claudia brings her artistic sensibilities to the table. Her understanding of art techniques and her ability to visualize scenes help the girls interpret the clues and understand the mindset of the thief. Her creative thinking, complementing Petra's analytical approach, showcases the importance of diverse perspectives in problem-solving. The dynamic between these two vastly different girls forms the heart of the novel's appeal.

The Supporting Characters and Their Impact on the Narrative

The supporting characters in "Chasing Vermeer" are far from one-dimensional. From the enigmatic Mr. Van der Veen, the museum curator with his own secrets, to the initially suspicious but eventually helpful Mrs. Willems, each character adds depth and complexity to the narrative. They challenge the girls' assumptions, forcing them to reconsider their deductions and develop a deeper understanding of the complexities of human relationships and motivations. The interplay between the main characters and the supporting cast enhances the suspense and the overall richness of the story.

Themes Explored: Friendship, Art, and the Power of Observation

"Chasing Vermeer" is more than just a mystery; it explores compelling themes relevant to young readers. The unwavering friendship between Petra and Claudia stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and mutual support. The novel also celebrates the beauty and power of art, highlighting its ability to inspire, intrigue, and even solve mysteries. Finally, the story underscores the importance of observation and critical thinking, emphasizing the value of paying attention to the seemingly insignificant details that often hold the key to solving complex puzzles.

The Climax and Resolution: Unmasking the Culprit and the True Meaning of Art

The climax of "Chasing Vermeer" is a thrilling confrontation that unveils the true identity of the thief and the motives behind the theft. The girls' combined skills—Petra's analytical brilliance and Claudia's artistic intuition—are crucial in bringing the mystery to a satisfying conclusion. The resolution not only solves the crime but also offers a deeper understanding of the characters' personal growth and the meaning of art beyond its monetary value.

Conclusion

"Chasing Vermeer" is more than just a children's mystery; it's a captivating story about friendship, art, and the importance of keen observation. The carefully constructed plot, memorable characters, and insightful themes make this novel an enduring classic, captivating readers of all ages. It's a reminder that even the smallest details can hold the greatest secrets, and that true collaboration can achieve remarkable things.

FAQs

1. Is "Chasing Vermeer" a standalone novel, or is it part of a series? "Chasing Vermeer" is the first

book in a series featuring Petra and Claudia. The sequel is titled "The Man from the Other Side."

2. What age group is "Chasing Vermeer" best suited for? It's primarily targeted towards middle-grade readers (ages 8-12), but its engaging mystery and thought-provoking themes can appeal to older readers as well.
3. What makes "Chasing Vermeer" stand out from other mystery novels? Its focus on the power of observation, its compelling female protagonists, and the integration of art history create a unique and enriching reading experience.
4. Are there any educational aspects to the novel? Yes, "Chasing Vermeer" subtly introduces readers to art history and the techniques of art forgery, making it an engaging and educational read.
5. What is the main message or moral of the story? The novel emphasizes the power of observation, critical thinking, and the importance of friendship and collaboration in overcoming challenges.

chasing vermeer summary: Chasing Vermeer (Scholastic Gold) Blue Balliett, 2012-12-01 Chasing Vermeer joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: Seemingly unrelated events connect; an eccentric old woman seeks their company; an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal, where no one is spared from suspicion. As Petra and Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, they must draw on their powers of intuition, their problem solving skills, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI?

chasing vermeer summary: The Wright 3 Blue Balliett, 2012-12-01 From the New York Times-bestselling team behind Chasing Vermeer comes another thought-provoking art mystery featuring Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie house--now in After Words paperback! Spring semester at the Lab School in Hyde Park finds Petra and Calder drawn into another mystery when unexplainable accidents and ghostly happenings throw a spotlight on Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, and it's up to the two junior sleuths to piece together the clues. Stir in the return of Calder's friend Tommy (which creates a tense triangle), H.G. Wells's *The Invisible Man*, 3-D pentominoes, and the hunt for a coded message left behind by Wright, and the kids become tangled in a dangerous web in which life and art intermingle with death, deception, and surprise.

chasing vermeer summary: The Calder Game Blue Balliett, 2012-12-01 This new mystery from bestselling author Blue Balliett is now available in After Words paperback! When Calder Pillay travels with his father to a remote village in England, he finds a mix of mazes and mystery . . . including an unexpected Alexander Calder sculpture in the town square. Calder is strangely drawn to the sculpture, while other people have less-than-friendly feelings towards it. Both the boy and the sculpture seem to be out of place . . . and then, on the same night, they disappear! Calder's friends Petra and Tommy must fly out to help his father find him. But this mystery has more twists and turns than a Calder mobile . . . with more at stake than first meets the eye.

chasing vermeer summary: Hold Fast Blue Balliett, 2013-03-01 From NYT bestselling author Blue Balliett, the story of a girl who falls into Chicago's shelter system, and from there must solve the mystery of her father's strange disappearance. Where is Early's father? He's not the kind of father who would disappear. But he's gone . . . and he's left a whole lot of trouble behind. As danger closes in, Early, her mom, and her brother have to flee their apartment. With nowhere else to go, they are forced to move into a city shelter. Once there, Early starts asking questions and looking for answers. Because her father hasn't disappeared without a trace. There are patterns and rhythms to what's happened, and Early might be the only one who can use them to track him down and make

her way out of a very tough place. With her signature, singular love of language and sense of mystery, Blue Balliett weaves a story that takes readers from the cold, snowy Chicago streets to the darkest corner of the public library, on an unforgettable hunt for deep truths and a reunited family.

chasing vermeer summary: The Harlem Charade Natasha Tarpley, 2017-01-31 Fans of Chasing Vermeer will love this clever mystery about art, artifice, and the power of community. WATCHER. SHADOW. FUGITIVE. Harlem is home to all kinds of kids. Jin sees life passing her by from the window of her family's bodega. Alex wants to help the needy one shelter at a time, but can't tell anyone who she really is. Elvin's living on Harlem's cold, lonely streets, surviving on his own after his grandfather was mysteriously attacked. When these three strangers join forces to find out what happened to Elvin's grandfather, their digging leads them to an enigmatic artist whose missing masterpieces are worth a fortune—one that might save the neighborhood from development by an ambitious politician who wants to turn it into Harlem World, a ludicrous historic theme park. But if they don't find the paintings soon, nothing in their beloved neighborhood will ever be the same . . . In this remarkable tale of daring and danger, debut novelist Natasha Tarpley explores the way a community defines itself, the power of art to show truth, and what it really means to be home.

chasing vermeer summary: Pieces and Players Blue Balliett, 2016-04-26 When 13 high-value pieces of art are stolen from a secret museum, Calder, Petra and Tommy are grouped with two new companions to solve puzzles that are complicated by the clever Mrs. Sharpe.

chasing vermeer summary: Out of the Wild Night Blue Balliett, 2018-03-27 From the New York Times bestselling author of Chasing Vermeer an unforgettable story about an island haunted by the past . . . and the ghosts who must help with the present. Ghosts are alive on the island of Nantucket. You can hear them in the wind, and in the creaks of the old homes. They want to be remembered. And, even more, they want to protect what was once theirs. The ghosts seem to have chosen a few local kids to be their messengers -- and to help save the island. But in this mystery, the line between those who haunt and those who are haunted is a thin one -- and the past and the present must come to terms with one another in order to secure the future.

chasing vermeer summary: The Gallery Laura Marx Fitzgerald, 2016-06-14 A riveting historical art mystery for fans of Chasing Vermeer and The Westing Game, set in the Roaring Twenties! It's 1929, and twelve-year-old Martha has no choice but to work as a maid in the New York City mansion of the wealthy Sewell family. But, despite the Gatsby-like parties and trimmings of success, she suspects something might be deeply wrong in the household—specifically with Rose Sewell, the formerly vivacious lady of the house who now refuses to leave her room. The other servants say Rose is crazy, but scrappy, strong-willed Martha thinks there's more to the story—and that the paintings in the Sewell's gallery contain a hidden message detailing the truth. But in a house filled with secrets, nothing is quite what it seems, and no one is who they say. Can Martha follow the clues, decipher the code, and solve the mystery of what's really going on with Rose Sewell? Inspired by true events described in a fascinating author's note, The Gallery is a 1920s caper told with humor and spunk that readers today will love.

chasing vermeer summary: Lo! Charles Fort, 2020-09-28

chasing vermeer summary: The Danger Box Blue Balliett, 2012-10-01 An all-new mystery from the bestselling author of Chasing Vermeer and The Calder Game! A boy in a small town who has a different way of seeing. A curious girl who doesn't belong. A mysterious notebook. A missing father. A fire. A stranger. A death. These are some of the things you'll find within The Danger Box, the new mystery from bestselling author Blue Balliett. Open with care.

chasing vermeer summary: Madhattan Mystery John J. Bonk, 2012-05-22 Lexi and her younger brother, Kevin, are spending the summer in New York City with their colorful actress aunt while their father is away on his honeymoon with his new wife. Still mourning the loss of their mother, time in NYC should be a welcome change for Lexi and Kevin—assuming that the day camp they'll be attending isn't super lame. But excitement finds Lexi and Kevin when, while waiting for their aunt in Grand Central in the famous Whispering Gallery, Lexi overhears a conversation about a big jewel heist going down. Once at Aunt Roz's, the siblings meet Kim Ling Levine in the building.

Half Chinese, half Jewish, persuasive and all knowing, Kim Ling urges them to ditch day camp and dig into the more exciting mystery Alexi overheard in Grand Central. After several missteps and a run-in with a mischievous runaway can Lexi, Kevin, and Kim find out who's behind the jewel heist without getting into too much trouble themselves?

chasing vermeer summary: Chasing Secrets Gennifer Choldenko, 2016-07-19 Newbery Honor-winning author Gennifer Choldenko deftly combines humor, tragedy, fascinating historical detail, and a medical mystery in this exuberant new novel. San Francisco, 1900. The Gilded Age. A fantastic time to be alive for lots of people . . . but not thirteen-year-old Lizzie Kennedy, stuck at Miss Barstow's snobby school for girls. Lizzie's secret passion is science, an unsuitable subject for finishing-school girls. Lizzie lives to go on house calls with her physician father. On those visits to his patients, she discovers a hidden dark side of the city—a side that's full of secrets, rats, and rumors of the plague. The newspapers, her powerful uncle, and her beloved papa all deny that the plague has reached San Francisco. So why is the heart of the city under quarantine? Why are angry mobs trying to burn Chinatown to the ground? Why is Noah, the Chinese cook's son, suddenly making Lizzie question everything she has known to be true? Ignoring the rules of race and class, Lizzie and Noah must put the pieces together in a heart-stopping race to save the people they love. Winner of a Los Angeles Public Library FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature) Award Nominated for: Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award (Middle School division) Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) Readers Award California Library Association's Beatty Award, Eureka List

chasing vermeer summary: Finding Serendipity Angelica Banks, 2015-02-03 A magical journey into the land where stories come from "[A] sweet-toned, summer-fun story." —The New York Times Book Review When Tuesday McGillycuddy and her beloved dog, Baxterr, discover that Tuesday's mother—the famous author Serendipity Smith—has gone missing, they set out on a magical adventure. In their quest to find Serendipity, they discover the mysterious and unpredictable place that stories come from. Here, Tuesday befriends the fearless Vivienne Small, learns to sail an enchanted boat, tangles with an evil pirate, and discovers the truth about her remarkable dog. Along the way, she learns what it means to be a writer and how difficult it can sometimes be to get all the way to The End. This title has Common Core connections. Finding Serendipity by Angelica Banks, with illustrations by Stevie Lewis, is the first in a series. that continues with book two, A Week Without Tuesday. "This enchanting story . . . celebrates the imagination and the connection writers feel with their stories. Spunky characters; spot-on pacing, providing perfectly timed plot revelations; and fully imagined worlds make this a charming winner." —Booklist, starred review "With cinematic imagery and keen wit, the authors construct an inventive novel." —Publishers Weekly, starred review "Young writers will find inspiration in the tale—especially those who have a story within them but might be too shy to tell it." —The New York Times Book Review

chasing vermeer summary: Hide and Seeker Daka Hermon, 2020-09-15 One of our most iconic childhood games receives a creepy twist as it becomes the gateway to a nightmare world. Don't let the Seeker find you! Twelve-year-old Zee is back now. He disappeared for a year and nobody knows where he went or what happened to him. Not even his best friends Justin, Nia, and Lyric. But ever since Zee has been back, he's been... different. After Zee freaks out at his friends playing hide-and-seek at an odd party in his backyard -- the first time his friends are back together since his reappearance -- strange things begin to occur. Everyone who played in the game has a mark on their wrist. And then they disappear. The kids are pulled into a shadow world -- the Nowhere -- ruled by the monstrous, shape-shifting Seeker. Justin and his friends will have to band together and face their worst nightmares to defeat the Seeker or lose themselves to the Nowhere forever.

chasing vermeer summary: The Parker Inheritance (Scholastic Gold) Varian Johnson, 2018-03-27 A Coretta Scott King Author Honor and Boston Globe / Horn Book Honor winner! Powerful.... Johnson writes about the long shadows of the past with such ambition that any reader with a taste for mystery will appreciate the puzzle Candice and Brandon must solve. -- The

New York Times Book Review When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery enfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle. So with the help of Brandon, the quiet boy across the street, she begins to decipher the clues. The challenge will lead them deep into Lambert's history, full of ugly deeds, forgotten heroes, and one great love; and deeper into their own families, with their own unspoken secrets. Can they find the fortune and fulfill the letter's promise before the answers slip into the past yet again?

chasing vermeer summary: *Running Out of Time* Margaret Peterson Haddix, 1995-10 When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1996 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

chasing vermeer summary: *Circa Now* Amber McRee Turner, 2014-05-27 Twelve-year-old Circa Monroe has a knack for restoring old photographs. It's a skill she learned from her dad, who loves old pictures and putting fun digital twists on them. His altered Shopt photos look so real that they could fool nearly anybody, and Circa treasures the fun stories he makes up to explain each creation. One day, her father receives a strange phone call requesting an urgent delivery, and he heads out into a storm. The unimaginable happens: a tornado, then a terrible accident, and Circa never sees her dad again. Just as Circa and her mom begin to pick up the pieces, a mysterious boy shows up on their doorstep, a boy called Miles who remembers nothing about his past. The only thing he has with him is the photograph that Circa's dad intended to deliver on the day he died. As Circa tries to help Miles recover his identity, she begins to notice something strange about the photos she and her father retouched???the digital flourishes added to the old photos seem to exist in real life. The mysteries of the Shopt photos and Miles's past are intertwined, and in order to solve both, Circa will have to figure out what's real and what's an illusion. With stunning prose, captivating photographs, and a hint of magic, *Circa Now* is a gripping story full of hope and heart.

chasing vermeer summary: *Healer of the Water Monster* Brian Young, 2021-05-11 American Indian Youth Literature Award Winner: Best Middle Grade Book! Brian Young's powerful debut novel tells of a seemingly ordinary Navajo boy who must save the life of a Water Monster—and comes to realize he's a hero at heart. When Nathan goes to visit his grandma, Nali, at her mobile summer home on the Navajo reservation, he knows he's in for a pretty uneventful summer, with no electricity or cell service. Still, he loves spending time with Nali and with his uncle Jet, though it's clear when Jet arrives that he brings his problems with him. One night, while lost in the nearby desert, Nathan finds someone extraordinary: a Holy Being from the Navajo Creation Story—a Water Monster—in need of help. Now Nathan must summon all his courage to save his new friend. With the help of other Navajo Holy Beings, Nathan is determined to save the Water Monster, and to support Uncle Jet in healing from his own pain. The Heartdrum imprint centers a wide range of intertribal voices, visions, and stories while welcoming all young readers, with an emphasis on the present and future of Indian Country and on the strength of young Native heroes. In partnership with We Need Diverse Books.

chasing vermeer summary: *The Homework Strike* Greg Pincus, 2017-01-03 Gregory K., overwhelmed by homework, decides to make a stand -- but the stand takes on momentum of its own and Gregory has to live with the consequences. Gregory K. has too much homework. Middle school is hard work, and Gregory tries to be a good student. He participates in class, he studies for his tests -- he and his friends even help each other with their assignments. But no matter what he does, there's never enough time to finish all his homework. It just isn't fair. So Gregory goes on a total, complete homework strike. No worksheets, no essays, no projects. His friends think he's crazy. His parents are worried about his grades. And his principal just wants him to stop making trouble. Can Gregory rally his fellow students, make his voice heard, and still pass seventh grade? Find out in this book for anyone who thinks school is stressful, gets headaches from homework, or just wants to be heard.

chasing vermeer summary: *VC* Tom Nicholas, 2019-07-09 "An incisive history of the

venture-capital industry.” —New Yorker “An excellent and original economic history of venture capital.” —Tyler Cowen, *Marginal Revolution* “A detailed, fact-filled account of America’s most celebrated moneymen.” —New Republic “Extremely interesting, readable, and informative...Tom Nicholas tells you most everything you ever wanted to know about the history of venture capital, from the financing of the whaling industry to the present multibillion-dollar venture funds.” —Arthur Rock “In principle, venture capital is where the ordinarily conservative, cynical domain of big money touches dreamy, long-shot enterprise. In practice, it has become the distinguishing big-business engine of our time...[A] first-rate history.” —New Yorker VC tells the riveting story of how the venture capital industry arose from America’s longstanding identification with entrepreneurship and risk-taking. Whether the venture is a whaling voyage setting sail from New Bedford or the latest Silicon Valley startup, VC is a state of mind as much as a way of doing business, exemplified by an appetite for seeking extreme financial rewards, a tolerance for failure and experimentation, and a faith in the promise of innovation to generate new wealth. Tom Nicholas’s authoritative history takes us on a roller coaster of entrepreneurial successes and setbacks. It describes how iconic firms like Kleiner Perkins and Sequoia invested in Genentech and Apple even as it tells the larger story of VC’s birth and evolution, revealing along the way why venture capital is such a quintessentially American institution—one that has proven difficult to recreate elsewhere.

chasing vermeer summary: Ruby on the Outside Nora Raleigh Baskin, 2016-06-14

Eleven-year-old Ruby Danes has a real best friend for the first time ever, but agonizes over whether or not to tell her a secret she has never shared with anyone—that her mother has been in prison since Ruby was five--and over whether to express her anger to her mother.

chasing vermeer summary: *The Secret Deep* Lindsay Galvin, 2020-02-04 When Aster wakes alone, stranded, on a tropical island, she has no idea what has happened, why she is there, or where to find her younger sister, Poppy. The answers lie in the secretive underwater world surrounding the desert island, populated by the beautiful and the unexpected... Aster's last memories are blurred. All she can remember is being on a boat with her aunt and other members of the eco-village where she was sent to live after the death of her mother. But Sam, who once met the sisters on a plane, makes links between the mystery of their disappearance and suspicious happenings in his own life. Though Aster can't think clearly, she feels the answers to all of her questions may lie beneath the sea. But nothing can prepare her for the secrets and revelations that she will uncover in her search for her sister. In a stunning dual narrative, the truth unravels with devastating effect -- and the answer lies in the secret underwater world surrounding the desert island. The more Aster searches for Poppy, the more strange things she finds. There is a secret deep in the water. A secret with the potential to change medical history.

chasing vermeer summary: Flush Carl Hiaasen, 2005-09-13 A hilarious, high-stakes adventure involving crooked casino boats, floating fish, toxic beaches, and one kid determined to get justice. This is Carl Hiaasen's Florida—where the creatures are wild and the people are wilder! You know it's going to be a rough summer when you spend Father's Day visiting your dad in the local lockup. Noah's dad is sure that the owner of the Coral Queen casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor—which has made taking a dip at the local beach like swimming in a toilet. He can't prove it though, and so he decides that sinking the boat will make an effective statement. Right. The boat is pumped out and back in business within days and Noah's dad is stuck in the clink. Now Noah is determined to succeed where his dad failed. He will prove that the Coral Queen is dumping illegally . . . somehow. His allies may not add up to much—his sister Abbey, an unreformed childhood biter; Lice Peeking, a greedy sot with poor hygiene; Shelly, a bartender and a woman scorned; and a mysterious pirate—but Noah's got a plan to flush this crook out into the open. A plan that should sink the crooked little casino, once and for all.

chasing vermeer summary: The Girl Who Threw Butterflies Mick Cochrane, 2009-02-24

For an eighth grader, Molly Williams has more than her fair share of problems. Her father has just died in a car accident, and her mother has become a withdrawn, quiet version of herself. Molly doesn't want to be seen as “Miss Difficulty Overcome”; she wants to make herself known to the kids

at school for something other than her father's death. So she decides to join the baseball team. The boys' baseball team. Her father taught her how to throw a knuckleball, and Molly hopes it's enough to impress her coaches as well as her new teammates. Over the course of one baseball season, Molly must figure out how to redefine her relationships to things she loves, loved, and might love: her mother; her brilliant best friend, Celia; her father; her enigmatic and artistic teammate, Lonnie; and of course, baseball. Mick Cochrane is a professor of English and the Lowery Writer-in-Residence at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, where he lives with his wife and two sons.

chasing vermeer summary: Fake Mustache Tom Angleberger, 2012-04-15 Award-winning author Tom Angleberger flexes his comic muscle in this hairy adventure story with twists at every turn. Regular kid Lenny Flem Jr. is the only one standing between his evil-genius best friend—Casper, a master of disguise and hypnosis—and world domination. It all begins when Casper spends money from his granny on a spectacularly convincing fake mustache, the Heidelberg Handlebar #7. With it he's able rob banks, amass a vast fortune, and run for president. Is Lenny the only one who can see through his disguise? And will he be able to stop Casper from taking over the world? UPraise for Fake Mustache/u DIV“There's no twist too goofy or absurd as Angleberger pulls out all the stops for this unabashedly silly story.”/divDIV—Publishers Weekly Angleberger's foot-on-the-floor zaniness helps pull it off, fueled by a steady stream of gags and utter ridiculousness that make Saturday-morning cartoons seem reasonable in comparison. Pure, unfiltered hilarity. —Booklist The 2012 campaign season just got a little hairier. Kids will delight in the various ways in which Casper exploits his power over grownups. —The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Appropriately goofy. —The Horn Book Angleberger severs all ties with sanity in his latest farce for preteens with hilarious results. There's plenty of action and goofiness. Fans of Angleberger's previous efforts won't be disappointed. Total deadpan lunacy. —Kirkus Reviews This is a cute, although improbable, story about two best friends, Lenny and Casper, who live in the small town of Hairsprinkle.. Jodie brings many positive traits of a strong, female hero. —Library Media Connection /div

chasing vermeer summary: The Frame-Up Wendy McLeod MacKnight, 2018-06-05 When Sargent Singer discovers that the paintings in his father's gallery are alive, he is pulled into a captivating world behind the frame that he never knew existed. Filled with shady characters, devious plots, and a grand art heist, this inventive mystery-adventure celebrates art and artists and is perfect for fans of Night at the Museum and Blue Balliett's Chasing Vermeer. There's one important rule at the Beaverbrook Gallery—don't let anyone know the paintings are alive. Mona Dunn, forever frozen at thirteen when her portrait was painted by William Orpen, has just broken that rule. Luckily twelve-year-old Sargent Singer, an aspiring artist himself, is more interested in learning about the vast and intriguing world behind the frame than he is in sharing her secret. And when Mona and Sargent suspect shady dealings are happening behind the scenes at the gallery, they set out to find the culprit. They must find a way to save the gallery—and each other—before they are lost forever. With an imaginative setting, lots of intrigue, and a thoroughly engaging cast of characters, The Frame-Up will captivate readers of Jacqueline West's The Books of Elsewhere.

chasing vermeer summary: The Mystery of the Third Lucretia Susan Runholt, 2009-06-25 If it hadn't been for Lucas's photographic memory, they might not have remembered the man. It had been almost a year since she and Kari noticed him copying a famous Rembrandt painting in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. But now in the National Gallery in London, they spot the same guy, copying another Rembrandt. Then, when a never-before-seen Rembrandt painting is discovered in Amsterdam, the girls begin to suspect the truth. Convinced that no one will believe them without hard and fast evidence, the teenage sleuths embark on a madcap adventure to find the forger and bring him to justice.

chasing vermeer summary: A Million Shades of Gray Cynthia Kadohata, 2010-01-05 A boy and his elephant escape into the jungle when the Viet Cong attack his village immediately after the Vietnam war.

chasing vermeer summary: Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus Dusti Bowling,

2017-09-05 "Aven is a perky, hilarious, and inspiring protagonist whose attitude and humor will linger even after the last page has turned." —School Library Journal (Starred review) Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms. Autumn 2017 Kids' Indie Next Pick Junior Library Guild Selection Library of Congress's 52 Great Reads List 2018

chasing vermeer summary: Jennifer Murdley's Toad Bruce Coville, 2015-03-17 In this magical fantasy adventure by the award-winning author of Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher, a talking toad takes a girl on a wild ride. Jennifer Murdley has always wanted to be pretty. That's why she's so surprised to leave Mr. Elives's magic shop with a particularly ugly toad. As her worst enemy says, "A toad for a toad." But this toad can talk. And what it has to say sets Jennifer off on a journey that leads her into the company of the Immortal Vermin and straight to the Beauty Parlor of Doom . . . where she comes face-to-face with her deepest fears and dreams. Jennifer Murdley would give anything to be beautiful. But sometimes anything is too high a price to pay. "Endlessly funny . . . A roller-coaster ride of a story, full of humor and even wisdom." —Kirkus Reviews "Fast-moving with slapstick humor . . . Recommended." —Horn Book

chasing vermeer summary: We Are Party People Leslie Margolis, 2017-10-03 Leslie Margolis's We Are Party People is sweet, brave, and laugh-out-loud funny, as Pixie Jones learns that stepping out of her comfort zone might not be so scary after all. I am the opposite of a mermaid and that's exactly the way I like it. Shy and quiet, Pixie does everything she can to fade into the background. All she wants is to survive middle school without being noticed. Meanwhile, her parents own the best party-planning business in town. They thrive on attention, love being experts in fun, and throw themselves into party personas, dressing as pirates, princes, mermaids, and more. When her mom leaves town indefinitely and her new friend Sophie decides to run for class president, Pixie finds herself way too close to the spotlight. How far is she willing to go to help the people she loves?

chasing vermeer summary: The Shadow Cipher Laura Ruby, 2018 It was 1798 when the Morningstarr twins arrived in New York with a vision for a magnificent city: towering skyscrapers, dazzling machines, and winding train lines, all running on technology no one had ever seen before. Fifty-seven years later, the enigmatic architects disappeared, leaving behind for the people of New York the Old York Cipher--a puzzle laid into the shining city they constructed, at the end of which was promised a treasure beyond all imagining. By the present day, however, the puzzle has never been solved, and the greatest mystery of the modern world is little more than a tourist attraction. Tess and Theo Biedermann and their friend Jaime Cruz live in a Morningstarr apartment--until a real estate developer announces that the city has agreed to sell him the five remaining Morningstarr buildings. Their likely destruction means the end of a dream long held by the people of New York. And if Tess, Theo, and Jaime want to save their home, they have to prove that the Old York Cipher is real. Which means they have to solve it.

chasing vermeer summary: Escape K. R. Alexander, 2022-06-07 WESTWORLD meets CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY meets JURASSIC PARK, as kids win a chance to enter the place of their dreams -- and find that it quickly turns into a nightmare. It's all anyone talks about, and it's all Cody dreams about. It's the biggest adventure park in the world, and it's more than mere rides and rollercoasters: At ESCAPE, you can do anything you want, be anyone you want, and there are no adults to tell you no. Cody's a nobody, but for some reason he receives an invitation and the opportunity of a lifetime. At first, it's the most fun he's ever had. But after a few days, everything in the park starts to go haywire. One at a time, rides malfunction. Simulations turn deadly. His fantasy world glitches, and the games become races for survival. A voice comes over the intercoms,

then-ESCAPE was never a theme park for the rich and famous. It was a place for punishment. They have less than a week to escape from the park before it floods. Only five kids will be allowed to leave. It started out as a fight to get to the coolest rides. Now, they have to fight to survive.

chasing vermeer summary: Under the Egg Laura Marx Fitzgerald, 2014-03-18 From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler meets Chasing Vermeer in this clever middle grade debut When Theodora Tenpenny spills a bottle of rubbing alcohol on her late grandfather's painting, she discovers what seems to be an old Renaissance masterpiece underneath. That's great news for Theo, who's struggling to hang onto her family's two-hundred-year-old townhouse and support her unstable mother on her grandfather's legacy of \$463. There's just one problem: Theo's grandfather was a security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and she worries the painting may be stolen. With the help of some unusual new friends, Theo's search for answers takes her all around Manhattan, and introduces her to a side of the city—and her grandfather—that she never knew. To solve the mystery, she'll have to abandon her hard-won self-reliance and build a community, one serendipitous friendship at a time.

chasing vermeer summary: **Fresh** Margot Wood, 2021-08-03 A hilarious, heartfelt, and realistic coming-of-age story. —Buzzfeed Hilarious and heartwarming. —Popsugar “A laugh-out-loud and vulnerable coming-of-age story.” —The Nerd Daily [Movie trailer narrator voice]: In a world, where humanity has crumbled—wait, no, wrong story. Sorry! Let's try that again. [YA movie trailer narrator voice:] Some students enter their freshman year of college knowing exactly what they want to do with their lives. Elliot McHugh isn't one of those people. But picking a major is the last thing on Elliot's mind when she's too busy experiencing all that college has to offer—from dancing all night at off-campus parties to testing her RA Rose's patience to making new friends to having the best sex one can have on a twin-size dorm-room bed. But she may not be ready for the fallout when reality hits. When the sex she's having isn't that great. When finals creep up and smack her right in the face. Or when her roommate's boyfriend turns out to be the biggest a-hole. Elliot may make epic mistakes, but if she's honest with herself (and with you, dear reader), she may just find the person she wants to be. And maybe even fall in love in the process . . . Well, maybe. We're not promising anything. We can't give everything away ahead of time.

chasing vermeer summary: *Romeo Blue* Phoebe Stone, 2013-05-28 The eagerly anticipated follow-up to Phoebe Stone's instant classic, *The Romeo and Juliet Code*. When Flissy Bathburn's parents first dropped her off in Bottlebay, Maine, she hated everything about it. She hated the big gloomy house she was to live in. She hated meeting her long-lost and highly eccentric relatives. And most of all, she hated knowing that she was safe in America while her parents faced the guns of WWII in Europe. But a year has passed now, and Flissy has grown to love her life in Bottlebay -- and especially Derek, the boy the Bathburns have adopted. Then a man claiming to be Derek's true father arrives, and soon he's asking all sorts of strange questions. Flissy has a nose for trouble. Has Derek's new father come to take him away . . . or is there something even more sinister happening in Bottlebay, Maine?

chasing vermeer summary: The Seven Keys of Balabad Paul Haven, 2009 Homesick for New York City, twelve-year-old Oliver feels very much out of his element in war-torn Balabad, until he gets caught up in a centuries-old mystery involving stolen artifacts and buried treasure.

chasing vermeer summary: Framed! James Ponti, 2016-08-23 Get to know the only kid on the FBI Director's speed dial and several international criminals' most wanted lists all because of his Theory of All Small Things in this hilarious start to a brand-new middle grade mystery series. So you're only halfway through your homework and the Director of the FBI keeps texting you for help...What do you do? Save your grade? Or save the country? If you're Florian Bates, you figure out a way to do both. Florian is twelve years old and has just moved to Washington. He's learning his way around using TOAST, which stands for the Theory of All Small Things. It's a technique he invented to solve life's little mysteries such as: where to sit on the on the first day of school, or which Chinese restaurant has the best eggrolls. But when he teaches it to his new friend Margaret, they uncover a mystery that isn't little. In fact, it's HUGE, and it involves the National Gallery, the FBI,

and a notorious crime syndicate known as EEL. Can Florian decipher the clues and finish his homework in time to help the FBI solve the case? Kirkus Reviews praised the “solid, realistic friendship bolstered by snappy dialogue,” and School Library Journal said “mystery buffs and fans of Anthony Horowitz’s Alex Rider series are in for a treat.”

chasing vermeer summary: The Limit Kristen Landon, 2010-09-07 An eighth grade girl was taken today . . . With this first sentence, readers are immediately thrust into a fast-paced thriller that doesn't let up for a moment. In a world not too far removed from our own, kids are being taken away to special workhouses if their families exceed the monthly debt limit imposed by the government. Thirteen-year-old Matt briefly wonders if he might be next, but quickly dismisses the thought. After all, his parents are financially responsible, unlike the parents of those other kids. As long as his parents remain within their limit, the government will be satisfied and leave them alone. But all it takes is one fatal visit to the store to push Matt’s family over their limit—and to change his reality forever.

chasing vermeer summary: The Man in the High Castle Philip K. Dick, 2011 Slavery is back. America, 1962. Having lost a war, America finds itself under Nazi Germany and Japan occupation. A few Jews still live under assumed names. The 'I Ching' is prevalent in San Francisco. Science fiction meets serious ideas in this take on a possible alternate history.

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