



THE SHERLOCK SOCIETY

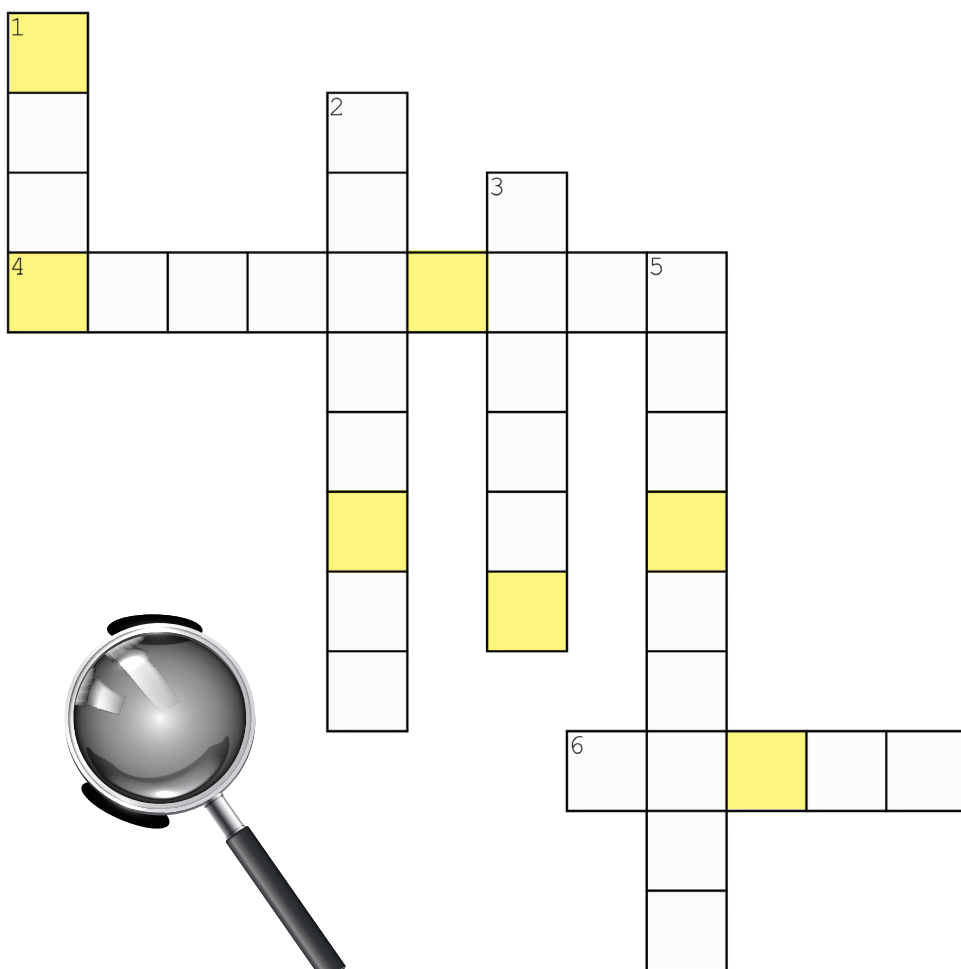
By New York Times bestselling author
JAMES PONTI

Escape Biscayne Bay

The Sherlock Society is in Biscayne Bay to search for Al Capone's treasure, and they need your help! You'll need to use your five W (who, what, when, where, why) skills to solve three tricky puzzles, but act quickly! You are not the only ones on the hunt for this legendary treasure.

Activity #1: Sherlock Society Crossword

Use the clues below to fill out the crossword puzzle with words from *The Sherlock Society*. Make sure to keep track of the highlighted letters...they may prove useful soon!

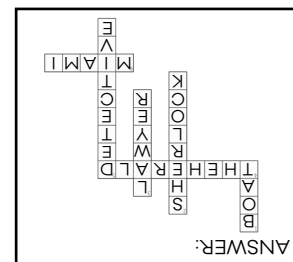


ACROSS

- The newspaper Zoe & Alex's grandpa used to work for. (Hint: "the" will be in your answer.)
- The city where the book takes place, also nicknamed "The Magic City".

DOWN

- The vehicle that Zoe, Alex, and their grandpa jumped off of before it exploded!
- The first name of a famous detective and the last name of the main family in the book.
- Alex and Zoe's mom's profession. (Hint: she does what's right, not what's easy!)
- A person who investigates and solves crimes.





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Activity #2: Sherlock Society Unscrambler

Did you find the clues we left you in the crossword?
Unscramble the highlighted letters to reveal our secret method of transportation!



Highlighted Letters:

Unscrambled Letters:



ANSWER:
ROBERTA



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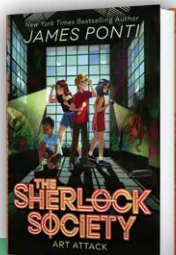
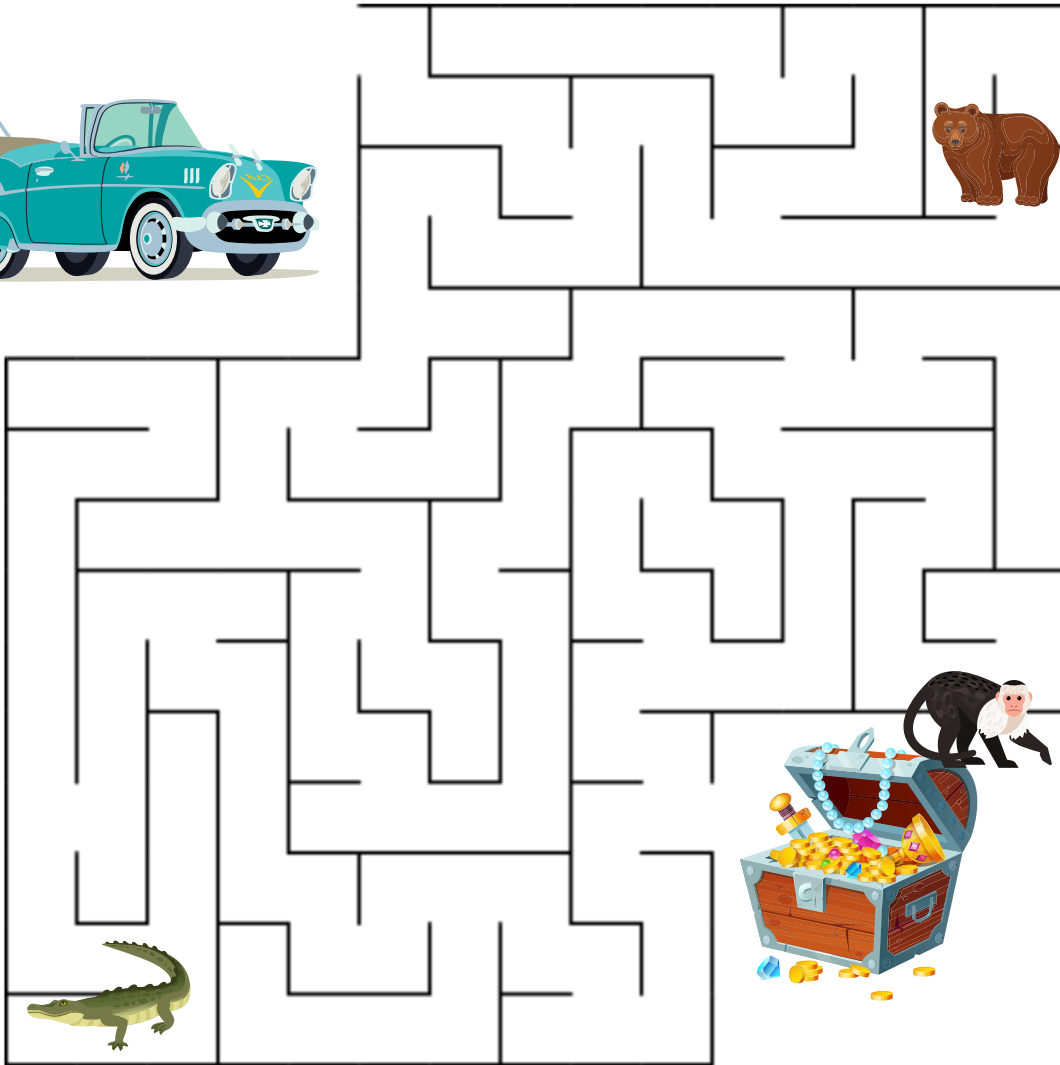
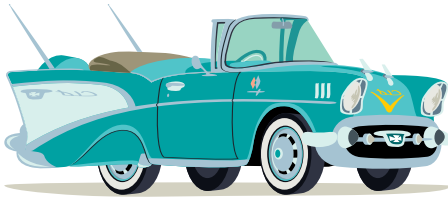
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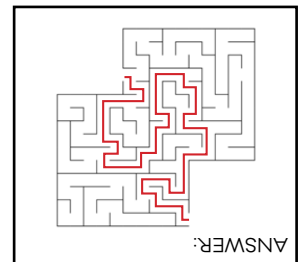
Activity #3: Sherlock Society Maze

You found Roberta! Quick, we need to get going if we want to find the treasure!

It's time to find Al Capone's treasure. Go through the maze, but watch out for the bears, monkeys, and alligators that guard it.



You escaped and found the treasure! You clearly have what it takes to join the Sherlock Society. Welcome, Detective!





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Reader's Theater

Characters: Narrator, Alex, Zoe, Yadi, and Lina

The Sherlock Society Reader's Theater Script

NARRATOR: Welcome to chapter three of *The Sherlock Society*. We're in the media center at Carver Middle School in Miami. It's the second to last day of school and the final two hours have been set aside so clubs can have a year-end celebration. The Student Council is holding a yearbook-signing party in the gym. The band, chorus, and orchestra are throwing a dance in the music room. And the Spanish and French clubs have turned the cafeteria into an international food fair. Alex was in the library with all the other members of the Sherlock Society. And by *all*, I mean Yadi and Lina. That's it. There were only three of them. It was, by far, the nerdiest club at Carver, which is why they were so surprised to see Alex's sister, Zoe, walk through the door.

ZOE: Finally. I've been looking everywhere for you. No one I asked had even heard of your club.

YADI: (Trying to cover.) Yeah...that's because it's a Sherlock Holmes club. It's supposed to be... you know...mysterious.

ZOE: (Smiles.) Mission accomplished.

ALEX: What are you doing here? Are you interested in joining?

ZOE: Hardly. I just need your house key.

ALEX: Why?

ZOE: Because I forgot mine and I'm going home.

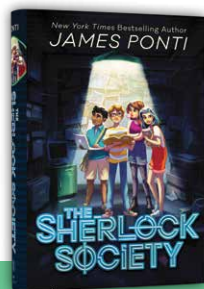
ALEX: School's not out for another two hours.

ZOE: It's early release if you're not in a club, which means I'm done for the day.

YADI: But you're in a ton of clubs. You're vice president of Student Council.

ZOE: Not today, I'm not.

ALEX: This is about summer camp, isn't it?





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NARRATOR: Recently there'd been trouble in popular girl paradise. Zoe and her two best friends were the queen bees of the seventh grade. Yadi and Alex called them the Cerberus, after the three-headed dog monster who guarded the gates of the underworld. Their frequent use of Greek mythology references was a solid indicator of their nerditude. The trouble was that Brooke and Chelsea were headed to a posh summer camp in Maine, and Alex and Zoe's parents wouldn't let her go. This led to weeks of arguments and countless slamming doors at home. Things only got worse when another girl signed up for camp and began angling for Zoe's spot in the squad.

ZOE: It doesn't matter what it's about. I just want the key.

ALEX: I can give it to you, but you still can't go home. You're stuck in here with us.

ZOE: What do you mean?

ALEX: For our year-end party, Ms. Campos turned the library into an escape room. The doors are all locked on the inside.

ZOE: (Panicked.) Then unlock one.

ALEX: I can't. The key's hidden. That's the whole point of the game. We have to find it.

ZOE: She just locked you in? What if there's a fire or something?

LINA: Then we use the emergency door. You can do that if you like. Although, it would set off alarms and interrupt all the parties. Not sure you want to be that person.

ZOE: (Considers this for a moment.) Fine. Let's just solve the puzzle. Where is it?

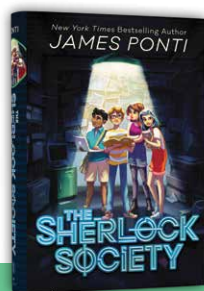
ALEX: First, we have to bring things to order.

ZOE: Whatever.

NARRATOR: Everyone except Zoe gathered around the table and recited a phrase in unison.

ALEX/YADI/LINA: We are the Sherlock Society. It is our business to know things that others do not.

ZOE: What's with that?





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ALEX: It's taken from a Holmes mystery called *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*. It's our official society motto.

ZOE: Don't you think it's an overreach for a club with three members to call itself a society?

ALEX: It's...*aspirational*.

ZOE: I think the word you're looking for is *delusional*.

ALEX: Do you want to find the key? Or do you want to keep making fun of us?

ZOE: Can't I do both?

ALEX: (Ignoring her.) Ms. Campos left us two envelopes.

NARRATOR: He handed the envelopes to Lina and Yadi.

LINA: (Opens envelope.) Greetings from Professor Moriarty! You've been locked inside the royal library and have only sixty minutes to escape. In order to do that, you'll have to solve a series of clues and riddles to find the key. When you're ready to play, start the stopwatch and open the first clue.

YADI: (Opens the other envelope.) Here we go!

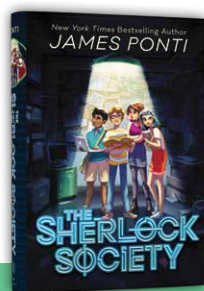
Dear Sherlock,
I've hidden clues for you to find
So take off the jacket and loosen the spine
The very first place that you need to look
Is inside my all-time favorite book:
In Lime Water Ink by Anna Graham

LINA: That's her favorite book? I've never even heard of it.

YADI: Me neither.

ALEX: Is lime water some kind of invisible ink that disappears until you put it over heat or something?

ZOE: Don't overthink things. All we've got to do is find it and get the next clue. It should be in fiction under Graham.





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NARRATOR: Although the others were trying to enjoy the nuances of the game, Zoe just wanted to get through it and find the key so she could leave. She reached the Gs and started listing off the authors.

ZOE: Gerber, Gibbs, Glaser, Gonzalez, Grabenstein, Graff, Gratz. (Annoyed.) There's no Graham.

ALEX: Maybe it's in nonfiction.

YADI: I'll look it up in Destiny.

LINA: You won't find it there.

NARRATOR: It was only then that the others noticed Lina hadn't followed them over to the fiction section. Instead, she'd gone to the game cabinet next to Ms. Campos's desk.

YADI: Why not? All the books are listed in Destiny.

LINA: *In Lime Water Ink* is not a book. Listen to the name of the author.

ALEX: Anna Graham? How did I miss that. It's an *anagram*. The letters are out of order.

LINA: That's right.

NARRATOR: Lina took the Scrabble game from the cabinet. She opened it and dumped the tiles onto a table and pulled out the ones that spelled "In Lime Water Ink." Everyone huddled together and tried rearranging them to find a title. They came up with *Kim Went Airline*, *Male Kiwi Intern*, and (Alex's personal favorite) *Am I Erin Twinkle?* Surprisingly, Zoe was the one who solved it.

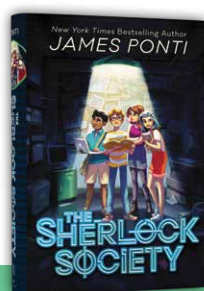
ZOE: *A Wrinkle in Time*.

LINA: That's it!

YADI: Who's the author?

LINA: (Disapproving.) You don't know?

YADI: No, Ms. Readathon, I don't. But I can list every third baseman to ever play for the Marlins. We all have things we know and things we don't.





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LINA: Madeleine L'Engle.

NARRATOR: They found the book on the shelf, and Alex started flipping through the pages but didn't find any clues.

ALEX: (Disappointed.) Maybe this isn't it.

ZOE: It has to be it. It fits too perfectly. What else does the clue say?

YADI: (Reading.) I've hidden the clues for you to find, so take off the jacket and loosen the spine.

LINA: *The!*

ALEX: What do you mean?

LINA: The clue says *the* jacket and *the* spine, not *your* jacket and *your* spine. It's not referring to Holmes, it's talking about the book's jacket and spine.

NARRATOR: Alex took off the jacket and then opened the book all the way to loosen the spine. A folded piece of paper slipped out from within it.

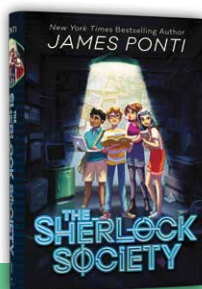
YADI: Nice one!

NARRATOR: Yadi and Lina exchanged a fist bump and Alex gave the clue to Zoe to read.

ZOE: (Getting into it despite herself.) Clue number two: Dear Sherlock. I admit you are the greatest fictional detective of all time, but your next answer depends on how well these young literary sleuths stack up.

Petra Andalee
Harriet Welsch
Aven Green
Leroy Brown
Claudia Kincaid

ALEX: These must all be characters in kids' mystery books. Do you recognize them?



LINA: Harriet Welsch is *Harriet the Spy*. And I think Claudia's the main character in *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.



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Reader's Theater

ZOE: Get those, and I'll look up the others on my phone.

NARRATOR: The library was genrefied, so all the mystery books were together in one section, which made it quick work. They pulled them from the shelves and brought them to the table.

ALEX: So, now what? We're supposed to see how they stack up. Does that mean we compare the mysteries? The detectives?

YADI: No, I bet we're literally supposed to stack the books.

NARRATOR: They put them on top of each other in the same order the detectives' names were listed.

Chasing Vermeer

Harriet the Spy

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

They were stumped and stared at them for a while with no idea how this helped. Then Zoe spoke up.

ZOE: It's the first letters.

ALEX: What do you mean?

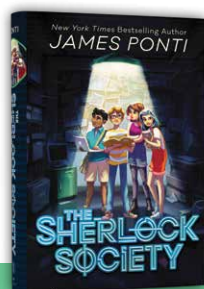
LINA: Of course, like an acrostic.

ZOE: I don't know what that is. But the first letters are C-H-I-E-F. The clue is *chief*.

NARRATOR: This one wasn't hard to solve at all. One wall was decorated with pictures of famous Floridians. Right in the middle was a portrait of Chief Osceola of the Seminole tribe.

ZOE: It's behind the picture.

NARRATOR: She started to get up, but Alex put a hand on her shoulder to stop her.





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ALEX: Wait a second. We need to pause the game.

ZOE: Why?

ALEX: Because I lied to you. The doors aren't really locked.

ZOE: What?! Are you serious?

ALEX: We asked Ms. Campos to lock them, but she said it wasn't safe.

ZOE: So, *you all* lied to me.

ALEX: I was the only one who lied. They just didn't rat me out.

ZOE: Why would you do that?

ALEX: Because you came in here and insulted my friends and me. I was annoyed. Besides, I thought if you played along you might like it. It might be something we could do together. Anyway, here's the key to the house.

NARRATOR: There was a time when Zoe and Alex used to do a lot together. He missed those days, but she obviously did not. She didn't reply. She just shoved the key into her pocket and stormed out of the library.

YADI: You better sleep with your door locked. She's going to want revenge.

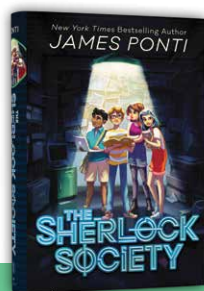
ALEX: I don't care. Let's go check behind Osceola.

NARRATOR: They found an envelope taped to the back of the picture and Lina was about to open it when Zoe came back into the library and beelined straight for the group. Alex thought she was going to explode at him, but instead of yelling, she asked...

ZOE: What does it say?

NARRATOR: Alex was confused for a moment before he realized she was talking about the clue. She wanted to keep playing. He was about to reply when she signaled him to stop.

ZOE: Don't speak and make me regret this. Let's just solve this thing.



SHERLOCK SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CARDS



OFFICIAL MEMBER THE SHERLOCK SOCIETY

NAME: _____

SCHOOL: _____

IT'S OUR BUSINESS TO KNOW WHAT OTHERS DO NOT.

Draw yourself or insert a picture of yourself here!



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