

SHERLOCK HOLMES IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

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There are many children's books that are related to Sherlock Holmes which will get children interested in the Canon or will supplement their reading of the Canon. Some are easier to find than others, but most libraries should be able to get them for their eager readers.

For the youngest group, about four to six years old, [Joe Sherlock](#) by David Keane is a series of books in which fourth grader Joe wants to be like Sherlock Holmes and solves cases for his friends. Even better known are the [Basil of Baker Street](#) books by Eve Titus, made famous by the movie [The Great Mouse Detective](#). However, it is not only mice that take on the detective mantle. [Trouble in Bugland](#) by William Kotzwinkle offers Inspector Mantis with deerstalker and pipe investigating crime with his faithful companion, Dr. Hopper.

For slightly older children, there is [Damian Drooth Supersleuth](#) by Barbara Mitchell Hill. This is another boy who models himself after Sherlock Holmes to solve local mysteries.

For the fourth through seventh grade readers, there are many different types of Sherlock Holmes related books. There are Shane Peacock's book series about "The Boy Sherlock Holmes." The first in the series of six is [Eye of the Crow](#). For a quite different version of Sherlock Holmes as a boy, there is Andrew Lane's "Sherlock Holmes: The Legend Begins" series starting with [Death Cloud](#). Both of these series are recent and readily available. The last book in the Shane Peacock series was published in 2012. The Andrew Lane series has 2011 republication dates.

Nancy Springer's "Enola Holmes Mystery" series should not be neglected. This is also a series of six books starting with [The Case of the Missing Marquess](#). When their mother goes missing, Mycroft wants to send fourteen year-old Enola off to a boarding school. She runs away and sets up her own detective agency, eluding brother Sherlock and solving mysteries ahead of him.

Another enterprising female who is an admirer of Sherlock Holmes in 1900 is Chicago-born Paris McKenzie in the "[My Name is Paris](#)" series. Written by Elizabeth Howard, this series may be difficult to find, but is worth it as Paris encounters many of the famous artists and writers in early 20th century Paris while she is solving mysteries. Also a contemporary admirer of Sherlock Holmes is Griffin Sharpe, a fourteen year old from Boston who goes to live with his uncle, a

detective who lives at 221A Baker Street, but who is no competition for Holmes in [No Place Like Holmes](#), by Jason Lethcoe, the start of another new series.

Series involving the Baker Street Irregulars abound. There is Jake and Luke Thoene's series of the Baker Street Detectives who not only undertake the case of [The Giant Rat of Sumatra](#), but in [The Thundering Underground](#) investigate some crimes involving the newly-built London underground rail service. Robert Newman's series begins with [The Case of the Baker Street Irregular](#). Although Holmes is mostly absent from the subsequent books in the series, the children solve a number of crimes on their own. Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin wrote a five-book series of "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" beginning with [The Fall of the Amazing Zalindas](#). At about the same time, Alexander Simmons introduced "The Raven League" with their leader Wiggins being regularly in touch with Holmes. [Sherlock Holmes is Missing](#) is the first in that series, which is out-of-print but available for Kindle.

As might be expected, there are many British publications about Sherlock Holmes for young people. It often takes detective work to track down some of the older series, but it's worth the effort. Anthony Read's [Baker Street Boys](#) series was based on a television series that he did for the BBC. Tim Pigott-Smith has a three-book series: [The Baker Street Mysteries](#). In the 1970s and 1980s Terrance Dicks wrote about contemporary children in London who solved crimes as [The Baker Street Irregulars](#). The group is more affluent than the original Irregulars, but they are capable investigators. This British series is fast-moving and fun, as one would expect from a former writer for the Dr. Who television series. [The Case of the Crooked Kids](#) is the first in the series, hinting at a Fagin-like gang. In all of these Irregulars series, girls are members of the gang, unlike in the original stories.

Fourteen of the Sherlock Holmes cases have been adapted by Murray Shaw and M. J. Cosson into graphic novels for children. The series is called [On the Case with Holmes and Watson](#). They are illustrated by Sophie Rohrbach. There are questions and suggestions for further reading at the end of each book.

There are more contemporary admirers or relatives of Sherlock Holmes solving mysteries. There is Shirley Holmes, the great-grandniece of Sherlock Holmes, who solved mysteries on Canadian television and is now published in a series of books, [The Adventures of Shirley Holmes](#) by Judie Angell. Then there are Xena and Xander Holmes, great, great, great grand-twins of Sherlock Holmes, who inherit his unsolved cases book and, with their friend Andrew Watson, begin to unravel these mysteries. Written by Tracy Barrett, the "Sherlock Files" series starts with [The 100-Year-Old Secret](#). Ed Dunlop has written the [Sherlock Jones](#) mysteries in which seventh-grade Penny Gordon and her best friend Jasper Sherlock Jones solve mysteries.

Contemporary young people are fascinated by the three [Echo Falls Mystery Series](#) written by Peter Abrahams. These feature sleuth Ingrid Levin-Hill, a great admirer of Holmes, who solves mysteries starting with [Down The Rabbit Hole](#). These books are fun as they combine themes from other children's books such as The Wizard of Oz and Alice in Wonderland.

Steve and Kendra are another mystery-solving pair who appear in two books by Albert A. Bell, Jr. An African-American girl, Kendra Jordan and her best friend Steve Patterson pass a graveyard in [The Secret of The Lonely Grave](#) and decide to investigate. Kendra is a great admirer of Sherlock Holmes so she and Steve unlock a one hundred and fifty year old mystery relating to the Underground Railroad of slave days. The second book is [The Secret of the Bradford House](#).

Not only is there a rich collection of books related to Sherlock Holmes available, but more seem to be published regularly. They are a great supplement to the Canon for children and a rich resource for parents and teachers.