

## READ Module Title: Mystery Stories

### Book Summaries

- “Inspector Brunswick: The Case of the Missing Eyebrow” by Angela Keoghan and Chris Sam Lam, is about the world’s greatest cat detective. Inspector Brunswick is supported by his trusty assistant, Nelson, as they solve a mystery during their visit to the art museum.
- “Deductive Detective” by Brian Rock is about 12 animal bakers who try to solve the mystery of the stolen cake. Detective Duck tries to crack the case, by ruling out one suspect at a time.
- “The Case of the Miracle Pill” (a story from “Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Jumping Frogs”) by Donald J. Sobol is about crime-solving duo Encyclopedia Brown and Sally Kimball who solve crimes together.

About This Module	
Overview	Youth will explore a variety of mystery and detective books during the week as they build observation and logic skills.
Guiding Question*	What are good strategies for improving problem solving skills?
Culminating Event	<b>Youth will visit with a local librarian to share what they learned and ask questions about mystery and puzzle books. If this isn't an option, youth could help write their own Readers' Theater.</b>
Session 1	<b>Look Closely!</b> Youth will listen to "Inspector Brunswick: The Case of the Missing Eyebrow" and practice their observation skills through a community art activity.
Session 2	<b>Think Carefully!</b> Youth will work through "Deductive Detective" by Brian Rock and learn what deductive reasoning is and recognize when to use it.
Session 3	<b>Readers Theater</b> Youth will perform selected passages from a variety of mystery novels for beginning readers.
Session 4	<b>Use What You Know!</b> Youth will listen to "The Case of the Miracle Pill," a story from "Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Jumping Frog," and do a science experiment to solve the mystery.
Session 5	<b>Visit With a Librarian</b> Youth will visit with a librarian and share what they learned. If no librarian is available, see note below for other suggestions on guests.

\*Guiding questions are intended to help you think about the theme, and how it might be relevant to young people, as you prepare to facilitate the module. Keep these questions top of mind so you can help youth make connections and capture key takeaways.

Key Terms	
Word	Definition
Observant	Watchful, quick to notice something
Inspector	A detective; or one who is employed to look closely at something to find out how or why something happened
Deductive reasoning	A process of using known facts to figure out an answer a question. It includes the idea that if this one thing is true, then this other fact must also be true.

Supplies		
Facilitator Needs	1	“Inspector Brunswick: The Case of the Missing Eyebrow” by Angela Keoghan and Chris Lam Sam
	1	“The Deductive Detective” by Brian Rock
	1	“The Case of the Snack Snatchers” from “West Meadows Detectives” by Liam O’Donnell
	1	“Mystery of the Troubled Toucan” by Lisa Travis from “Pack-n-Go Girls Adventures”
	1	“Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise” by Craig Sharmat and Marjorie W. Sharmat
	1	“Lost in the Tunnel of Time” by Sharon Draper from Clubhouse Mysteries
	1	“Cam Jansen and the Summer Camp Mysteries” by David Adler
	1	“Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Jumping Frogs” by Donald J. Sobol
	10-20	Small items (e.g., Legos, silverware, toys, pencils, books; optional)
	8 sheets	Blank paper
	1	Sharpie pen
Each Group Needs	1	Set of colored pencils
	1	Empty water bottle with lid
	1	Cup
	1	Small bowl
Each Participant Needs	2	3x5 notecards
	1	Pen or pencil

## Literacy Strategies

During this module, readers will...

- Read Aloud
- Think Aloud
- Use Critical Thinking Skills

## Extension Books

If your Club or Youth Center wants to explore other books on this topic, we recommend:

- Picture books:
  - › “Pigeon PI” by Meg McLaren
  - › “Chapter Two Is Missing” by Kevin Cornell
  - › “Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do” by Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook
- Mystery series for ages 6-8
  - › “A to Z Mysteries” by Ron Roy
  - › “Bailey School Kids” Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones
  - › “Ballpark Mysteries” by David A. Kelly
  - › “Buddy Files” by Dori Butler
  - › “Calendar Mysteries” by Ron Roy
  - › “Cam Jensen” by David Adler
  - › “The Chicken Squad” by Doreen Cronin
  - › “Clubhouse Mysteries” by Sharon M. Draper
  - › “Encyclopedia Brown” by Donald Sobol
  - › “Goldie Blox” by Stacy McAnulty
  - › “The Great Mouse Detective” by Eve Titus
  - › “Junie B. Jones” by Barbara Park
  - › “King and Kayla” by Dori Hillestad Butler
  - › “Magic Tree House” by Mary Pope Osbourne
  - › “Milo and Jazz Mysteries” by Lewis B. Montgomery
  - › “Nancy Clancy, Super Sleuth” by Jane O’Connor
  - › “Pack-n-Go Girls Adventures” by Lisa Travis
  - › “Nate the Great” by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Craig Sharmat
  - › “Sly the Sleuth” by Donna Jo Napoli
  - › “The Questioners” by Andrea Beaty
  - › “West Meadows Detectives” by Liam O’Donnell

### Notes to Facilitator

The final session of this module includes a visit with a librarian, which will require planning. Work with your local librarian to determine whether:

- A visit to the library is possible
- The librarian could visit the Club or Youth Center
- There could be a visit from a bookmobile

If none of these options are possible, consider inviting parents, teachers who are off for the summer, or even administrative staff to the Club or Youth Center. Middle school youth might enjoy supporting the event, since many of these books are classics they would have read.

Summer Brain Gain activities are designed to be safe and fun with a staff-to-youth ratio of 1:10-15: That means at least one staff member per 10-15 youth. Summer Brain Gain can be run with large groups of young people as long as adequate staffing is available. BGCA recommends that staff-to-youth ratios should not exceed 1:25 for any type of activity.

If you have not yet run Module 1: Group Agreements, consider making that the first week of your Summer Brain Gain programming. Group Agreements provide a sense of structure and standards of behavior among participating members of the group. This helps to create emotional safety. For more information about how to make a Group Agreement, see the Group Agreements/Positive Club Climate resources at [BGCA.net/ClubClimate](https://www.bgsa.net/ClubClimate). An opportunity to revisit and reflect upon the Group Agreements is included in every Summer Brain Gain session.

The YDToolbox app provides immediate access to tips and activities for creating a high-quality Club experience. Look here for alternative community builders, reflection activities or groupers (quick, inclusive ways to divide a large group into smaller groups or teams). Download the free app from the Apple Store or Google Play, or access online at [ydtoolbox.goodbarber.com](https://ydtoolbox.goodbarber.com).