

# The Mysteries of **HARVEST JUNCTION**

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

Bring mystery, reading,  
critical thinking, and fun  
into your classroom!

### Perfect For:

- Read Alouds
- Classroom Discussion
- Critical Thinking
- Interactive Activities
- Fun & Engaging Mysteries!

**READ**

**THINK**

**SOLVE**

**DISCOVER**

Tyler's  
Theories

Read carefully, Think creatively.  
Look for the clues. Solve the mystery!

Great  
For All  
Grades!

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## USING *THE MYSTERIES OF HARVEST JUNCTION* IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Thank you for sharing **The Mysteries of Harvest Junction** with your students!

These stories are designed to do more than entertain. Every mystery invites young readers to become detectives alongside **Tanner** and **Tyler**, encouraging observation, logical thinking, creativity, and teamwork while building reading confidence.

Whether you read a chapter aloud each day, use the books for small-group reading, or assign them as independent reading, the mysteries naturally encourage students to think, predict, and discuss what might happen next.

### Read Along with the Detectives

As students read, encourage them to ask:

- What clues have we discovered?
- Which clues seem most important?
- What theories could explain the mystery?
- Which ideas fit all of the evidence?
- What clues might we have overlooked?

Students quickly learn that good detectives pay attention to details and avoid jumping to conclusions.

### Interactive Detective Activities

Many chapters include:

- **Detective Challenges**
- **Reader Worksheets**
- **Evidence Boards**
- **Suspect Lists**
- **Case Files**
- **Think Before You Turn the Page!** activities

These pages are designed specifically for classroom use.

**Teachers and parents are welcome to freely photocopy or print these activity pages for educational use with their students.**

Students can complete the activities individually, with partners, or in small detective teams before reading the next chapter.

## **Skills Students Practice**

Each mystery helps develop:

- Reading comprehension
- Critical thinking
- Logical reasoning
- Observation skills
- Making predictions
- Drawing conclusions from evidence
- Distinguishing facts from opinions
- Vocabulary development
- Communication and discussion
- Teamwork and collaboration

Students also learn that solving problems often requires patience, careful observation, and changing their minds when new evidence appears.

## **Tyler's Theories**

One favorite feature of the series is **Tyler's imaginative detective theories**.

Tyler often proposes wonderfully creative—and usually hilarious—explanations for each mystery.

Ask students:

- Could Tyler's theory actually work?
- Why or why not?
- Which evidence supports it?
- Which evidence disproves it?
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These conversations help students understand the difference between imagination, possibility, and evidence-based reasoning.

## **Pause and Predict**

Before revealing the solution, consider stopping and asking:

- Who do you think solved the mystery?
- What clues convinced you?
- What clue do you think Tanner noticed?
- What would you do next if you were the detective?

There is often more than one reasonable theory until all the evidence is collected.

## **Encourage Detective Notebooks**

Invite students to keep a detective notebook where they record:

- Important clues
- Interesting observations
- Questions they still have
- Their favorite Tyler theory
- Their own solution before reading the ending

Many students enjoy comparing their notes after the mystery is solved.

## **Build Classroom Discussion**

Harvest Junction Mysteries work well for:

- Read-aloud sessions
- Literature circles
- Guided reading groups
- STEM and logic enrichment
- Morning meetings
- Library programs
- Family reading nights
- Summer reading activities

The short chapters make natural stopping points for classroom discussion.

## Every Mystery Has a Lesson

While each mystery is fun, the stories also gently reinforce important values, including:

- Honesty
- Kindness
- Responsibility
- Perseverance
- Curiosity
- Teamwork
- Respect for history
- Helping others
- Looking beyond first impressions

## A Final Challenge

Before reading the final chapter, ask your class:

**Can you solve the mystery before Tanner does?**

Sometimes you can.

Sometimes Tyler almost can.

And sometimes the smallest clue turns out to be the most important one of all.

Happy reading—and happy detective work!

## Why This Series Works Well in the Classroom

- ✓ Short chapters fit into 10-20 minute reading periods.
- ✓ Engaging mysteries motivate even reluctant readers.
- ✓ Interactive activities reinforce comprehension without feeling like tests.
- ✓ Clean, family-friendly stories appropriate for elementary classrooms.
- ✓ Opportunities for prediction, discussion, and evidence-based reasoning.
- ✓ Humor keeps students engaged while reducing reading anxiety.
- ✓ Encourages both analytical thinking (like Tanner) and creative thinking (like Tyler), showing that good problem-solving often benefits from both.

***“Read carefully. Think creatively. Look for the clues. And remember—sometimes the smallest detail solves the biggest mystery!”***