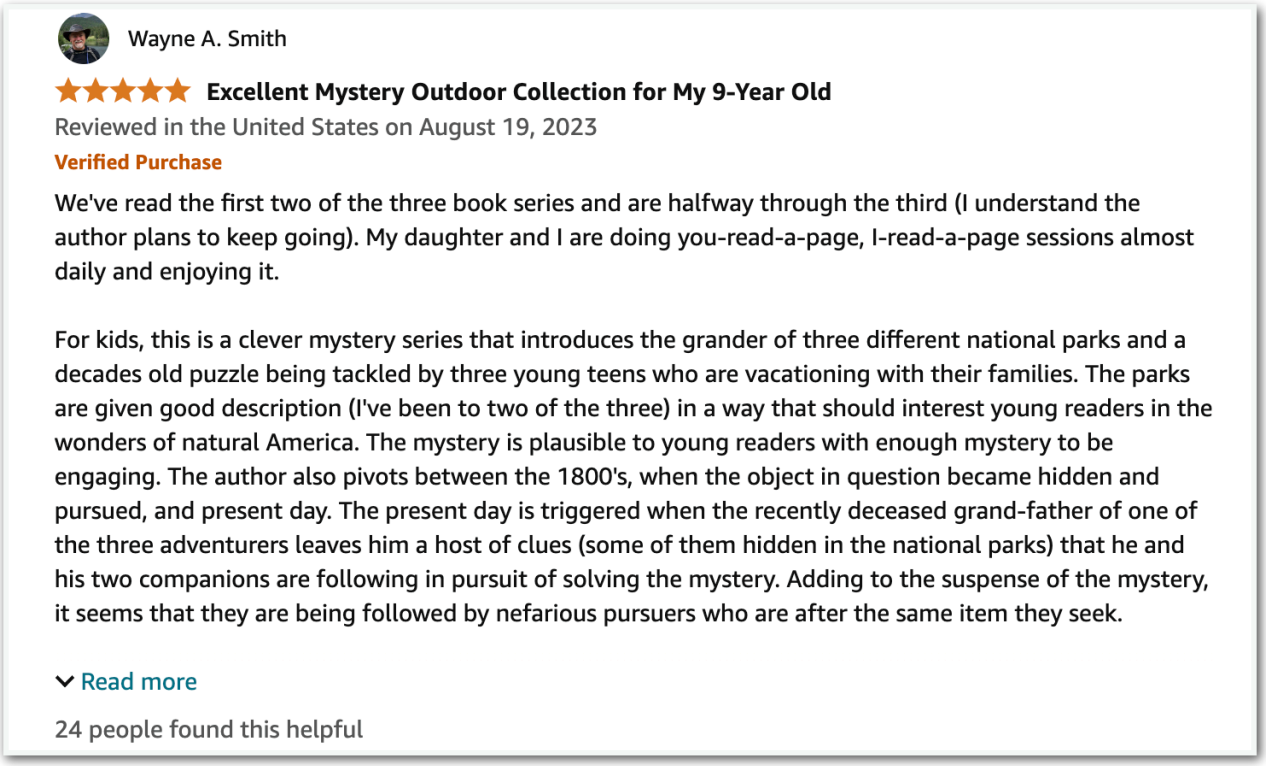
National Park Mystery Series

Anatomy of a Great Book Review

I read through several of the book reviews that Amazon shoppers found most helpful. Here are some of the elements the reviews had in common.

- Shared the kid's experience and the adult's experience reading the book
- Formatting: they had several short paragraphs with a space between the paragraphs. Some used bullet lists by using a dash or a numbered list. This makes your review very readable.
- Focused on *their experience* reading and what they enjoyed about the books. A few reviews reviews read like a story. (See the reviews by Martha and Bella).
- Mentioned their role: teacher, homeschooler, librarian, parent, or grandparent.
- Headline/Subject Line was attention grabbing.
- Mentions the ages of their kids

Reviews voted most helpful



Wayne A. Smith

★★★★★ **Excellent Mystery Outdoor Collection for My 9-Year Old**

Reviewed in the United States on August 19, 2023

Verified Purchase

We've read the first two of the three book series and are halfway through the third (I understand the author plans to keep going). My daughter and I are doing you-read-a-page, I-read-a-page sessions almost daily and enjoying it.

For kids, this is a clever mystery series that introduces the grander of three different national parks and a decades old puzzle being tackled by three young teens who are vacationing with their families. The parks are given good description (I've been to two of the three) in a way that should interest young readers in the wonders of natural America. The mystery is plausible to young readers with enough mystery to be engaging. The author also pivots between the 1800's, when the object in question became hidden and pursued, and present day. The present day is triggered when the recently deceased grand-father of one of the three adventurers leaves him a host of clues (some of them hidden in the national parks) that he and his two companions are following in pursuit of solving the mystery. Adding to the suspense of the mystery, it seems that they are being followed by nefarious pursuers who are after the same item they seek.

Read more

24 people found this helpful

martha

★★★★★ **Fantastic Book for the Whole Family**

Reviewed in the United States on September 1, 2023

Verified Purchase

I bought this book for my 9 year old to read on a recent trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, but before we started our road trip my older son said he wanted to read it as well. We solved the issue by downloading the Audible book, using the text to follow along with the illustrations. Our entire family listened to the author's narration on the way to the National Park, and finished it up while driving from trail to trail and sightseeing. This book made our time in the park so much more meaningful for my kids. We cross referenced the story with a guide book, and the way that Mr. Johnson wove facts and details into the story was fantastic. Oftentimes when I read books set in a particular place, they are disappointingly inaccurate. Not so with the Rocky Mountain Mystery! This story transports readers to the park with exciting and detailed descriptions, and brings the facts and history to life. We were delighted to find that the Alpine Visitor Center carried book 2, and even more delighted to learn that book 2 is set in the Grdat Sand Dunes-- our next road trip stop. We started book 2 and it sparked our interest in the park so much that we added a day to our itinerary there. This series is fantastic. We can't wait for the next books to come out!

18 people found this helpful

Helpful | Report

rella

★★★★★ **Great Read!**

Reviewed in the United States on July 3, 2023

Verified Purchase

I purchased the first 3 books of this series after they popped up on my Amazon account as I was searching for I Survived books for my 4th grade students. I had to pre-read before I put them out on the shelf in the classroom so I held onto them for a month (maybe longer). Summer started and I headed to the beach, grabbing 3 books and planned to read all 3 that day. I finished a poetry book, and instead of reading a book I've started and put down, I picked up book 1 of the National Park Mystery Series. I started reading at 12:00. Took an hour break to swim, and at 4:00 when I had to drive home I had only 100 pages left to read. I drove home, at dinner and by 8:00 the first book was done. I won't let myself start the next ones because I want it to last awhile.

The book is one that starts off with just enough details that you are already attached to the characters. And the last 100 pages had me on the edge of my seat, heart racing and mind boggling challenges. I was so attached to the characters and when I finished, I was sad it was summer and I couldn't share with my students on Monday morning!

As a teacher, I have plans to use this series so that each of my students will have to do a project about the national parks. Maybe they'll write their own mystery book or create dioramas of the books. Whatever they do it'll be so fun to use these for years to come!

10/10 recommend this book series!



35 people found this helpful

dealGrabber

★★★★★ **Finally! The Perfect Middle-Grade book! And bonus that it's a SERIES!!**

Reviewed in the United States on March 6, 2023

Verified Purchase

This book is perfect.

I pre-read books for my son & daughter because so many just aren't a great influence. This book is like striking gold—AND it's part of a 10-book series that is currently being written so we have 7 more to look forward to, AND my kids get the thrill of anticipating the next release—that's rare!! I plan to make each release date a family event!

Here's what sets this book series apart:
-The main characters are ones I want my kids reading about: they are kind, smart & brave.
-These kids are tired of their friends back home always being sucked into video games or only playing on their phones. The author downplays electronics a bit, but by making it cool to do so.
-There is an element of the fantastical, but only in the adventure—the setting, history, geology, outdoor skills, etc. are all very real. And that is AWESOME because while I'm a huge fan of the "boy wizard" books, for example, they leave kids wanting to learn more about that world—which is fun—but THIS series leaves readers wanting to learn more about mysteries in archaeology and history and the marvels of geology and nature!! Which is even MORE fun because it's REAL(!!!) and places they can potentially explore.
-The parents are good people. And aren't dead. That is so rare in kids books! It's refreshing to read about parents being kind role models who trust their kids, and kids being respectful in return.
-The mystery is fresh, surprising and clever and absolutely a page-turner!! All while avoiding anything too scary, and certainly nothing gory or creepy. Hooray! (This is also a plus for adult readers who like mystery but not gore or horror)!
-The illustrations are a gift—a visual glimpse into the national parks, as well as something middle-grade chapter book readers aren't usually treated to.
-The information at the end of each book is such a treat, because you don't want the book to end, and that section gives you more to explore and learn about until the next release date! (Encouraging the skill of self-motivated learning! Yes!!!)

I'm so thankful to the author for this unique gift to kids (and adults)!

Read less

60 people found this helpful

Overall, what I enjoyed most about the book:
-Mentions real places in the National Park to learn and appreciate the park more. Plus, made my kids more excited to go visit the park, which we plan to do one day.
-Interesting story line that even an adult can enjoy trying to puzzle through.
-Seeing how much my son enjoyed the book and the look excitement on his face every time something happened that tied to other clues or previous action.

I asked my son what he enjoyed about the book. His first response was EVERYTHING. Then, he gave me a few of his more specific favorites (spoilers removed):
-The descriptions used in the book were good because then he could imagine the places and people in his mind.
-There were often several levels to the clues, so that you might think you know the answer to a clue and then find out a new piece of information that makes you go back and rethink your answer to come up with a new one.
-You learn the history of how the place came to be there and how what happened in 1880 is related to present day.
-There are some funny parts and lots of exciting parts.
-There are hints of what might be coming in later books in the series.

Overall, I highly recommend this book. Probably best for age 8-12, but I think younger and older kids could enjoy it, too.
Read less

28 people found this helpful

R. Zeilstra

★★★★★ **This series just keeps getting better!**

Reviewed in the United States on March 3, 2023

Verified Purchase

Adventure in Grand Canyon National Park is Book Three of a ten book series (at the time of writing this review it is the latest book).

The premise of the series is that teenager Jake is on a scavenger hunt through that National Parks with his friends Amber and Wes. The scavenger hunt was set by his grandfather and others before the start of the series and his grandfather's death. But the scavenger hunt isn't just for fun. His grandfather was working to discover something important, something that bad people want, too. So, Jake and his friends not only have to solve the clues/riddles that his grandfather left behind, but also keep ahead of the bad guys who are trying to stop them and steal the clues for themselves.

Book three finds the three friends (and their families) at Grand Canyon National Park. Their quest takes them from the rim of the canyon, down to the river, and back up, hunting for clues hidden within the canyon. As they search, the meet new friends, encounter new enemies, and at times have their friendship tested. There is some information at the start of the book that gives back-story for anyone that hasn't read the earlier books. But, I do think this book is best read after the first two books. It is really a continuation of the previous story. As with the previous two books, between the main chapters there are also chapters of a smaller story that takes place in 1880. By the end of the book, it is revealed how the stories are related to each other.

I read this book as soon as I could get it with my 9-year-old son, and as soon as we finished he started reading it again on his own. He loved the first two books and when we finished this book, he said it was even better than the first two. Every time we finished a chapter, he begged to not stop reading. He enjoys the characters, who are a good mix of serious and funny. As with the previous books, he enjoyed trying to figure out the clues before the characters did, predict what might happen, and puzzle out how the 1880 story was related to the present-day story. Some clues he was able to get part of the way, which was rewarding, but not all the way, which made it exciting to read.