



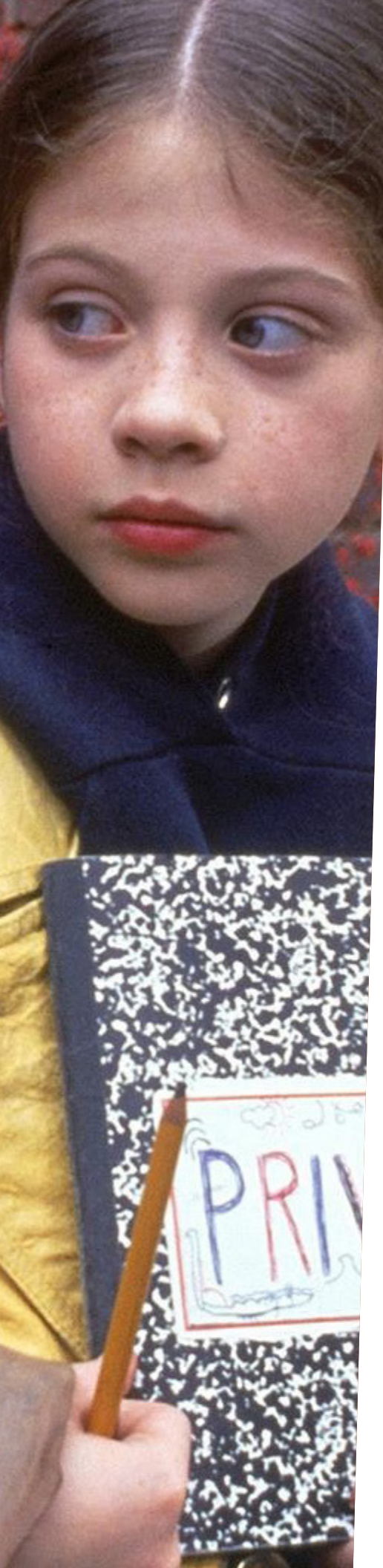
*The
Mystery
Chronicles*

Dear Reader,

Do you like mystery books and movies? If you do, this is the magazine for you! Have fun playing games, learning more about your favorite characters, and reading updates about new additions to the mystery world. Enjoy!

From,
Unyji





04

How to be a Detective

Don't know where to start on how to solve a mystery? Check out these six steps on how to be a detective.

04

Riddles

Solve some of the best and most fun riddles.

06

Games

Enjoy games like Crossword Puzzles, Tic Tac Toe and more.

08

Best Mystery Solvers

Read about some of the best children's mystery solvers.

10

Top 10 Goonies Facts

Love the Goonies? Here's a list of behind the scenes and hidden messages from the movie.

12

Scooby Doo Quiz

Jinkies! There's a lot to know about Scooby and the gang. Take this quiz to test your knowledge on the show and behind the scenes facts.



14

Television Adaptations

Check out the latest television shows based on old mystery reads like the Archie Comics and Lemoney Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events.

16

Encyclopedia Brown

Join Encyclopedia Brown on the hunt to solve the Mystery of the Knife in the Watermelon.

20

Carolyn Keene Article

Read about Carolyn Keene and discover the mystery behind the author of the Nancy Drew books.

26

The Missing Picnic Food Short Story

Read Paula Moore's short story about three children Thomas, Kathy, and Carrie who set out to find who ate their picnic food.

32

Matthew Lillard Interview

Matthew Lillard played Shaggy in the live action Scooby-Doo movies. Read about his thoughts on the movies and how playing Shaggy changed his life.

34

Write Your Own Story

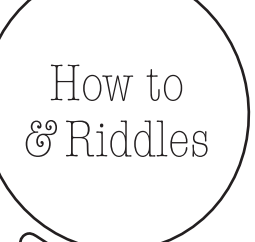
Read this month's short mystery submissions. Children can send in mystery stories and poems of their own.

38

Costumes

Here you can see the best Halloween costumes and cosplays of this month.





How to be a Detective



by Sara West

Create a Code that Only You can Understand

Use symbols for the alphabet or perhaps swap letters around. Write down your code so you can't forget it and then you can write messages for each other that only you can understand. Agree a place where you will leave these notes and see if someone in your team has left you a note.

Take Your Fingerprints

You need a piece of paper, a pencil and some clear tape like Sellotape. Rub the pencil onto the paper so there's a patch covered with pencil big enough to rub your finger on. Rub your finger across it to pick up lots of the grey and then take a piece of tape and stick it on your finger. Remove the tape and stick it down on another piece of the paper. Don't try to remove the tape but you should now be able to see your fingerprint clearly. Why not do this for every member of your team?

Join Forces

Sherlock and Holmes, Mystery Inc – having a partner in your sleuthing makes solving a mystery much more fun. So team up with some friends or a brother or sister and work together.

Give Yourself a Name

What will your bunch of sharp-eyed and quick witted sleuths be called? You need a great name before you can make your badges.

Have a Badge

Create a badge to show you're part of a mystery-solving team. Draw your design on to paper (not too big as it needs to fit on your badge) and then glue the paper on to some cardboard cut from a cereal packet or other cardboard box lying unwanted around the house. Check the recycling! Choose whether you want a badge that's round, oval, square or perhaps a triangle, colored or black and white and then make one for each of your team.

Solve Your First Mystery

This is much more fun if you can get a grown-up or older brother to lay a trail for you. Ask them to write an invisible message for you. The easiest way of doing this is to use white paper and a white crayon. Ask them to write a message on the white paper with the crayon and then get them to hide that message and the other messages you're going to find. They will need to tell you roughly where the first message is hidden. The messages could say where the next messages or clues are that you have to find – one after the other. You can't see the message when it's written in white crayon on white paper so take it to a place where you can get some watered paints out and paint over the paper. The message will appear and now you can head off to find the next one. You can have messages hidden around the house, around the garden. And at the end of the trail! Well, perhaps they'd like to leave a little treat as a reward for being such great kid detectives.

Riddles

You walk into a room with a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. Which do you light first?

What word begins and ends with E but only has one letter?

What type of cheese is made backwards?

In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower - everything was pink! What color were the stairs?

What has hands but can't clap?

What is at the end of a rainbow?

Which letter of the alphabet has the most water?

What goes up but never goes down?

What starts with the letter "T," is filled with "T," and ends in "T?"

A girl is sitting in a house at night that has no lights on at all. There is no lamp, no candle, nothing. Yet she is reading. How?

You draw a line. Without touching it, how do you make the line longer?

Which weighs more, a pound of feathers or a pound of bricks?

How many months have 28 days?

Name four days of the week that start with the letter "T."

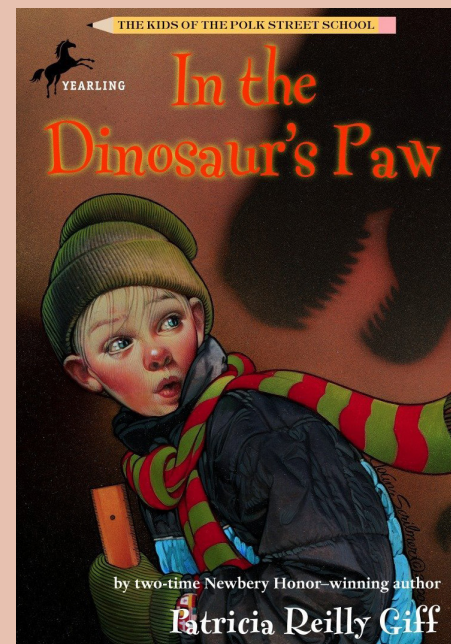
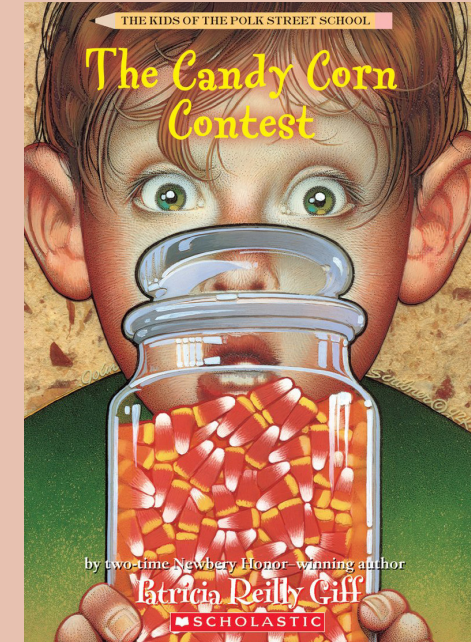
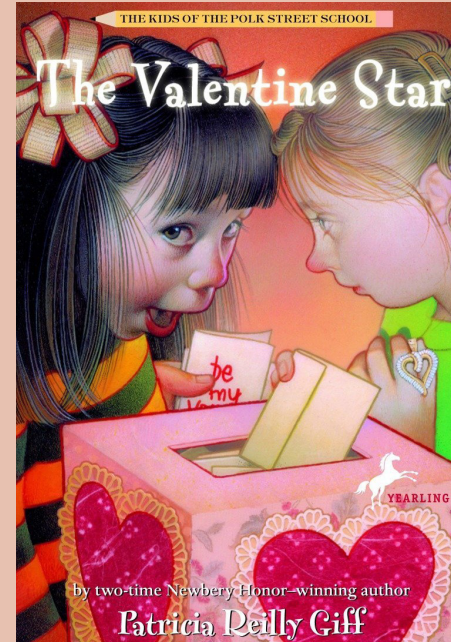
What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

What goes around and around the wood, but never goes into the wood?

Railroad crossing, watch out for cars. Can you spell that without any R's?

Two mothers and two daughters went out to eat. Everyone ate one burger, yet only three burgers were eaten in all. How is this possible?

See answers on page 37



The students of Ms. Rooney's second-grade class are in for all kinds of excitement—there are school trips, friendship struggles, trouble-makers, new things to learn, and more! Discover their highs and lows in this classic and humorous series from master storyteller and Newbery Honor-winning author Patricia Reilly Giff. Series titles include: The Beast in Ms. Rooney's Room;

Fish Face; The Candy Corn Contest; December Secrets; In the Dinosaur's Paw; The Valentine Star; Lazy Lions, Lucky Lambs; Snaggle Doodles; Purple Climbing Days; Say "Cheese"; Sunny-Side Up; Pickle Puss; The Beast and the Halloween Horror; Emily Arrow Promises to Do Better this Year; and Monster Rabbit Runs Amuck! Age 7+

A M E S



TIP

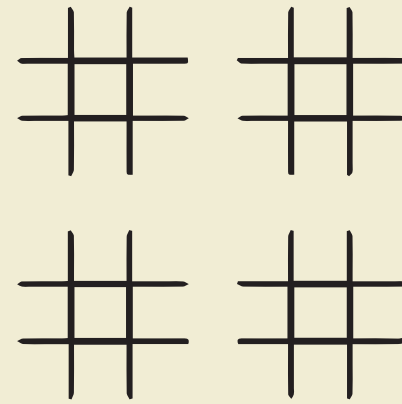
Draw a circle around the word when you find it.

G W S Q E W V O K S E W K T Y
 R N R U Q V S M T U V I M U S
 M V I Q S L I O W E I T G C O
 Q V X R E P E T V Y T N R K L
 T H J U R M E I O G C E Y K O
 R F T Y I E Z C E M E S P D J
 N H A R F J H C T B T S Y Z Q
 Q D C S T S N D E I E I F Q P
 C L U E P E Z R E O D B R B Y
 P Q J S D L Q W E R P I X Z A
 P L G I M Y S T E R Y L U U M
 F Y V Q P M O O U H E A T C Y
 X E M I T C I V W D V P B D N
 P C E E M B O F D D O C D I I
 P I E F C M V C I Q C C C I K

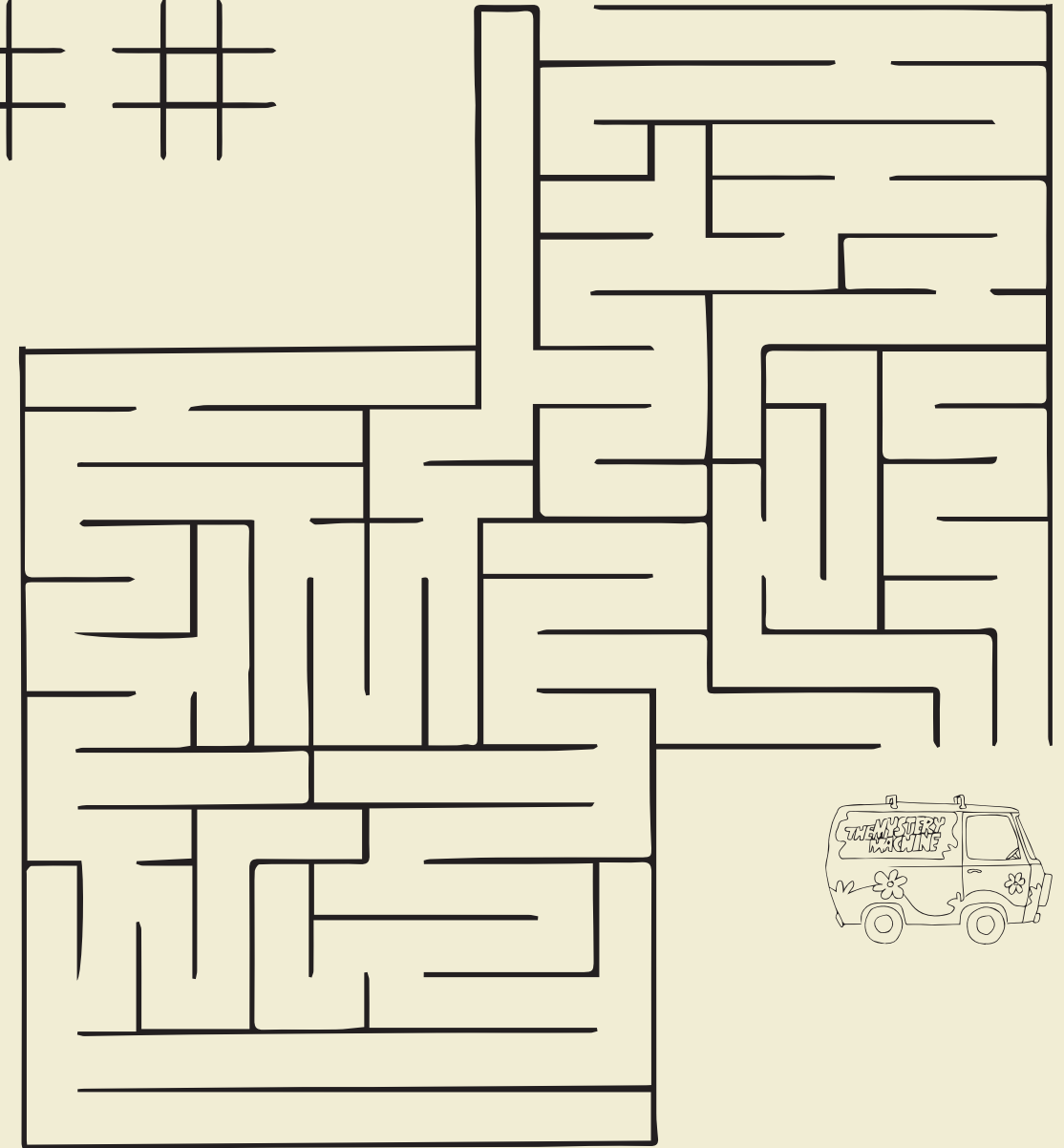
ALIBI
 DETECTIVE
 MYSTERY
 SUSPECT

CLUE
 EVIDENCE
 RED HERRING
 VICTIM

CRIME
 MOTIVE
 SLEUTH
 WITNESS



Help Scooby get to the Mystery Machine!



Fun Fact

Scooby Snacks are caramel flavored snacks that Scooby goes crazy for!

BEST



The Baudelaire Orphans

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are the three main characters of Lemony Snicket's, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. They are orphaned when their parents are killed in a fire and they're sent to live with a relative named Count Olaf, who is utterly awful, conniving, creepy, and mean. Throughout the book series, while terrible things keep happening to the Baudelaire children, they nevertheless work to uncover information surrounding the mysterious death of their parents, finding that they were part of a secret organization, the V.F.D. Age 10+



Sammy Keyes

Sammy Keyes is sort of accidental detective. She happened to witness a burglary in the hotel across the street, with the help of her binoculars, and decides she must help get to the bottom of it. This is just the first of many adventures for this kid detective. Age 9+



The Scooby Doo Gang

Scooby Doo, the mystery-solving Great Dane, is never without his trusty crew of teenage detectives, Fred, Daphne, Velma, and of course, Shaggy. No to mention the one and only Mystery Machine. I'm fairly certain no other kid detectives on this list have their very own mystery-themed psychedelic van. If it wasn't for these meddling kids, we would have a lot more cartoon villains on the loose. Age 5+



The Sisters Grimm

Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are shuffled through foster homes until they find themselves living in Everafters, a town full of characters from fantasy stories and fairy tales. It's here that they stay and begin solving mysteries that might have some connection to the disappearance of their parents. It's a series of nine books that lead the sisters on adventures where they meet the likes of Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Prince Charming, The Queen of Hearts, and many more. Age 9+

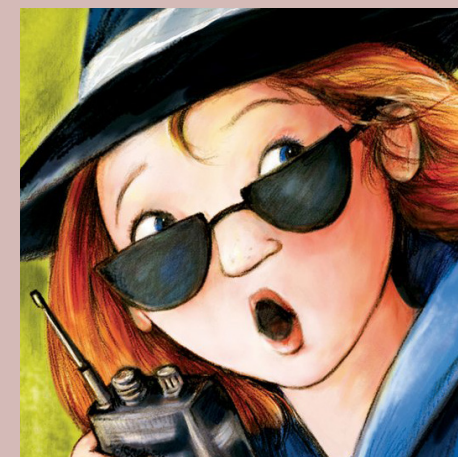
Harriet the Spy

Harriet M. Welsch, in her signature yellow raincoat, is one of the most recognizable kid detectives. Astonishingly astute and observant, Harriet "spies" on the people around her, documenting what she discovers in a notebook. The movie adaptation of the book with Michelle Trachtenberg and Rosie O'Donnell will remain in our hearts forever. Age 9+



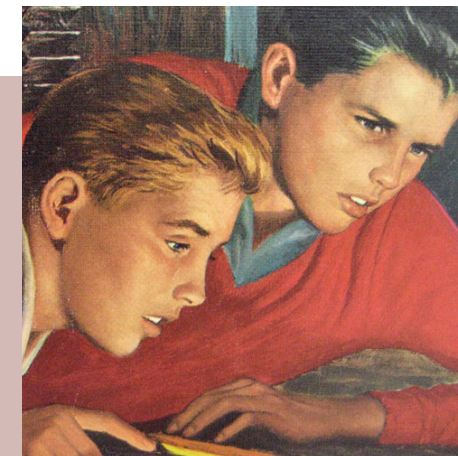
Nancy Drew

Everyone knows Nancy Drew -- she's the cream of the crop when it comes to kid detectives. First appearing in 1930, Nancy Drew is truly an icon. Powerful women like Sonia Sotomayor and Hillary Clinton cite her as an influence for them when they were little girls. Nancy Drew is independent and outspoken, not to mention super smart, so it's no wonder this female role model took off and became a staple for kid detective (or you know, Secretary of State) wannabes everywhere. Age 9+



Cam Jansen

Cam Jansen is a kid detective with a very cool skill -- a photographic memory. All she has to do is close her eyes and say, "Click!" and she remembers that moment. This proves quite helpful when solving mysteries, as you can imagine. Age 6+



The Hardy Boys

Frank and Joe Hardy have been solving mysteries since 1927. (And they still look great!) They have gone through several permutations throughout the years, but they never tire of their adventures. More than a million Hardy Boys books are sold each year, and they have been translated into 25 languages. The Hardy Boys are truly a cornerstone of the young detective genre. Age 9+

MYSTERY

SOLVERS



TOP TEN GOONIES FACTS

By Sean Hutchinson

1. IS IT BRAND OR BROLIN?

In a small goof, Sean Astin (who plays Mikey) calls Josh Brolin by his actual name, not by his character's name, in the scene after Chunk breaks the water cooler in the basement of the abandoned restaurant.

2. THE TREASURE MAP WAS SPECKLED WITH REAL BLOOD.

Production designer J. Michael Riva thought the prop treasure map looked too new, so to make it look over 300 years old he spent an afternoon aging it. After pouring coffee in the map, he wanted to add blood, but the prop department was out of paint. In a quick bit of improvisation, Riva cut his finger and dripped his own blood along its edges.

3. IT TOOK A LONG TIME FOR MATUSZAK TO BECOME SLOTH.

Makeup artists needed five hours every morning to transform the football star into Sloth.

4. THE BATS IN THE CAVES WERE CREATED USING MOVIE TRICKERY.

The "bats" were actually just bowties and wads of black paper mache blown out of air cannons.

5. THE MOVIE TAKES PLACE IN THE SAME UNIVERSE AS GREMLINS.

Believing Chunk is pranking him over the phone again, the police officer Chunk talks to recalls one of Chunk's stories about "little creatures that multiply when you pour water on them," which is a reference to the movie Gremlins. Steven Spielberg was an executive producer on both films, and screenwriter Chris Columbus wrote both movies as well. Corey Feldman also appeared in both movies.

6. THE SLIDE AT THE END WAS REAL.

The slide the Goonies ride to get to the cave with One-Eyed Willy's ship was a fully functioning waterslide (the end credits thank the Langford Surf Coaster Corporation for building it). Donner and the crew would allegedly sneak in after filming wrapped for the day to ride the slide.

7. THE GOONIES' REACTION TO ONE-EYED WILLY'S SHIP IS GENUINE.

Donner denied the child actors access to the massive soundstage where a full pirate ship was built. The scene in the final movie is their actual reactions to seeing it for the first time. The ship took two months to build, and was supposed to resemble Errol Flynn's ship from the film The Sea Hawk.

9. DATA MENTIONS A SCENE THAT WAS CUT FROM THE MOVIE.

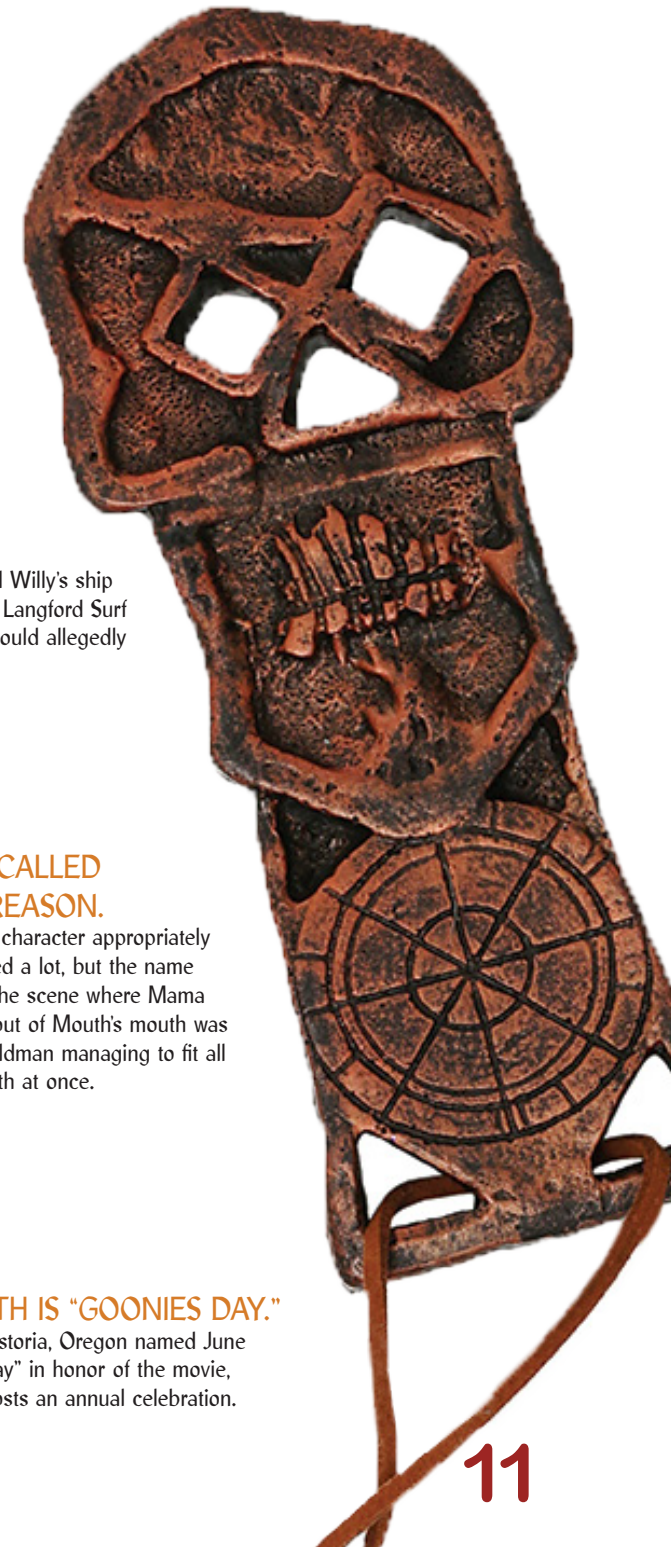
Sharp-eared viewers will notice that Data mentions that "the octopus was very scary" to the reporters at the end of the movie. No scenes involving an octopus are in the final cut of the movie. The line refers to one that was cut which involved Stef and Mouth getting attacked by an octopus after they flee One-Eyed Willy's ship.

8. MOUTH WAS CALLED MOUTH FOR A REASON.

Not only was Feldman's character appropriately named because he talked a lot, but the name fit for another reason. The scene where Mama Fratelli pulls the jewels out of Mouth's mouth was shot in one take with Feldman managing to fit all of the jewels in his mouth at once.

10. JUNE 7TH IS "GOONIES DAY."

The mayor of Astoria, Oregon named June 7th "Goonies Day" in honor of the movie, and the town hosts an annual celebration.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW SCOOBY-DOO?

1. Who owns the Mystery Machine van?

- A. Shaggy's Uncle
- B. Fred's Mother
- C. Daphne's Father

2. Who is Norville Rogers in the Scooby-Doo universe?

- A. Fred's Uncle
- B. The show's creator
- C. Shaggy's real name

3. Kasem requested that Shaggy become a vegetarian because he himself is one.

- A. True
- B. False

4. The original incarnation of Scooby-Doo premiered in what year?

- A. 1971
- B. 1969
- C. 1968

5. What was Scooby's name in the original concept pitch?

- A. Too Much
- B. Scrabby
- C. Rolf

6. What shows helped inspire the original idea behind Scooby-Doo?

- A. "The Many Loves of Dolbie Gillis"
- B. "The Archie Show"
- C. Both

7. True or False: Scooby's original breed was a sheepdog.

- A. True
- B. False

8. What Frank Sinatra song supposedly inspired the theme song from Scooby-Doo?

- A. "That's Life"
- B. "Stranger's In The Night"
- C. "New York, New York."

9. What was the name of the first Scooby cartoon?

- A. "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?"
- B. "Scooby, Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?"
- C. "The Scooby-Doo/Dynomutt Hour."

10. Shaggy took part in which activity at his high school?

- A. track team
- B. wrestling team
- C. basketball team

11. What is Velma's last name?

- A. Dankley
- B. Dinky
- C. Dinkley

11. What is the name of Scooby's Nephew?

- A. Scrappy-Doo
- B. Scrappy-Dum
- C. Scooby-Dum

13. What kind of animation was the original Scooby-Doo cartoon?

- A. "cut and paste" animation
- B. cell animation
- C. stop-motion animation

14. What was the name of the first episode of "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?"

- A. "Ghost of a Dog"
- B. "Where are You?"
- C. "What a Night for a Knight"

15. What other iconic cartoon character aside from Scooby-Doo did actor Don Messick voice?

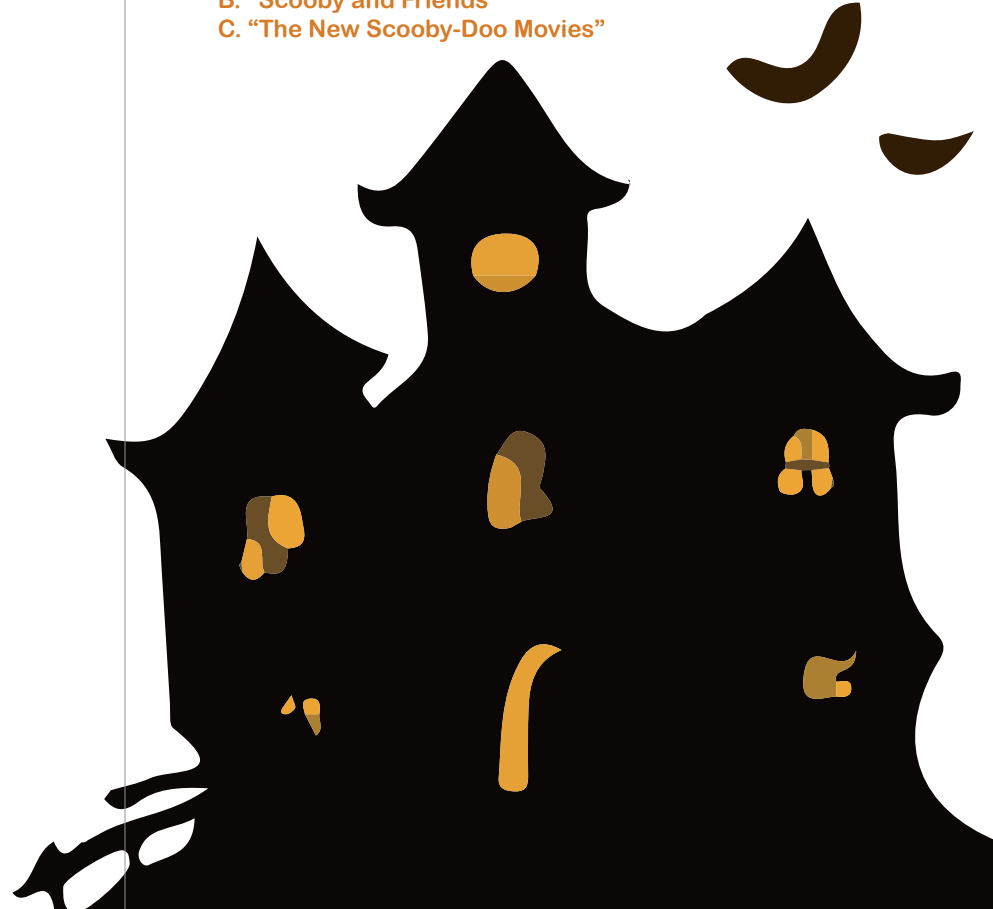
- A. Yogi Bear
- B. Josie of Pussycats Fame
- C. Papa Smurf

16. What version of Scooby-Doo featured such guests as Cher and The Harlem Globetrotters?

- A. "The Scooby-Doo Show"
- B. "Scooby and Friends"
- C. "The New Scooby-Doo Movies"

Write your answers down on a separate sheet of paper to keep track of your answers.

TIP



Flip the book to see the answers.

And the answers are...

1. Daphne's Father
We all love the Mystery Machine, the flowery blue and green van that transports the crew from one adventure to the next.

2. Shaggy's real name

Not many people know this off the top of their head, so don't feel bad if you didn't know Shaggy's real name.

3. False

Kasem did not request that Shaggy become a vegetarian because he himself is one.

4. 1969

It was in 1969 that Hannah-Barbera Productions first created the now famous original cartoon.

5. Too Much

Definitely a name inspired by the late 1960s, Scooby was originally named "Too Much."

6. Both

"Dobie Gillis" and "Archie" were clear influences on the creators of Scooby-Doo.

7. True

Scooby was both a German shepherd and a sheepdog at various times before they settled on Great Dane.

8. "Strangers In The Night"

The "dooby-doo-doo" at the end of "Strangers in the Night" inspired the famous "Scooby-Doo, Where are You?" theme.

9. "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?"

There have been many versions of Scooby over the years, but the first was called "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!"

10. Track Team

In addition to being a gymnast, Shaggy was also on his high school's track team.

11. Dinkley

Pay attention and you'll know that Velma's last name is Dinkley. She even looks like a Dinkley.

12. Scrappy Doo

The pint-sized wonder that was Scrappy-Doo was Scooby's nephew and one of the more devious characters on the show.

13. Cell Animation

Like all kinds of early animation, Scooby-Doo was hand drawn on individual sheets of acetate called "cells."

14. What a Night for a Knight

The first case the gang cracked had to do with a spooky knight in shining armor.

15. Papa Smurf

Messick is a legendary voice actor who also tackled the iconic role of Papa Smurf.

16. The New Scooby-Doo Movies

Not the best name ever, but "The New Scooby-Doo Movies" was the one with a host of famous guest stars.

TELEVISION ADAPTATIONS



The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

by Alexander McCall Smith

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is a series of novels by Alexander McCall Smith set in Botswana and featuring the character Mma Precious Ramotswe. The series is named for the first novel, published in 1998. Eighteen novels have been published in the series between 1998 and 2017.

Mma Precious Ramotswe is the main character in this series. The country of Botswana is in a sense a character as well, as it is a crucial aspect of how the stories flow. Mma Ramotswe starts up her detective agency when she is 34 years old, using the inheritance from her father to move to the capital city Gaborone to buy a house for herself and find an office for her new business. She feels a detective needs to

know about people more than anything, to solve problems for them. The novels are as much about the adventures and foibles of different characters as they are about solving mysteries. Each book in the series follows from the previous book.

The readership was at first small, then gained abruptly in popularity in the US and in England, beyond the author's home in Scotland. In 2004, sales in English exceeded five million, and the series has been translated to other languages. Critical reception has matched the sales of the novels, generally positive, and considering the strength of the novels to be in the characters and Mma Ramotswe's wisdom rather than in the specific mysteries solved in each novel. The novels have been adapted for radio by the author and for television.

Age 13+

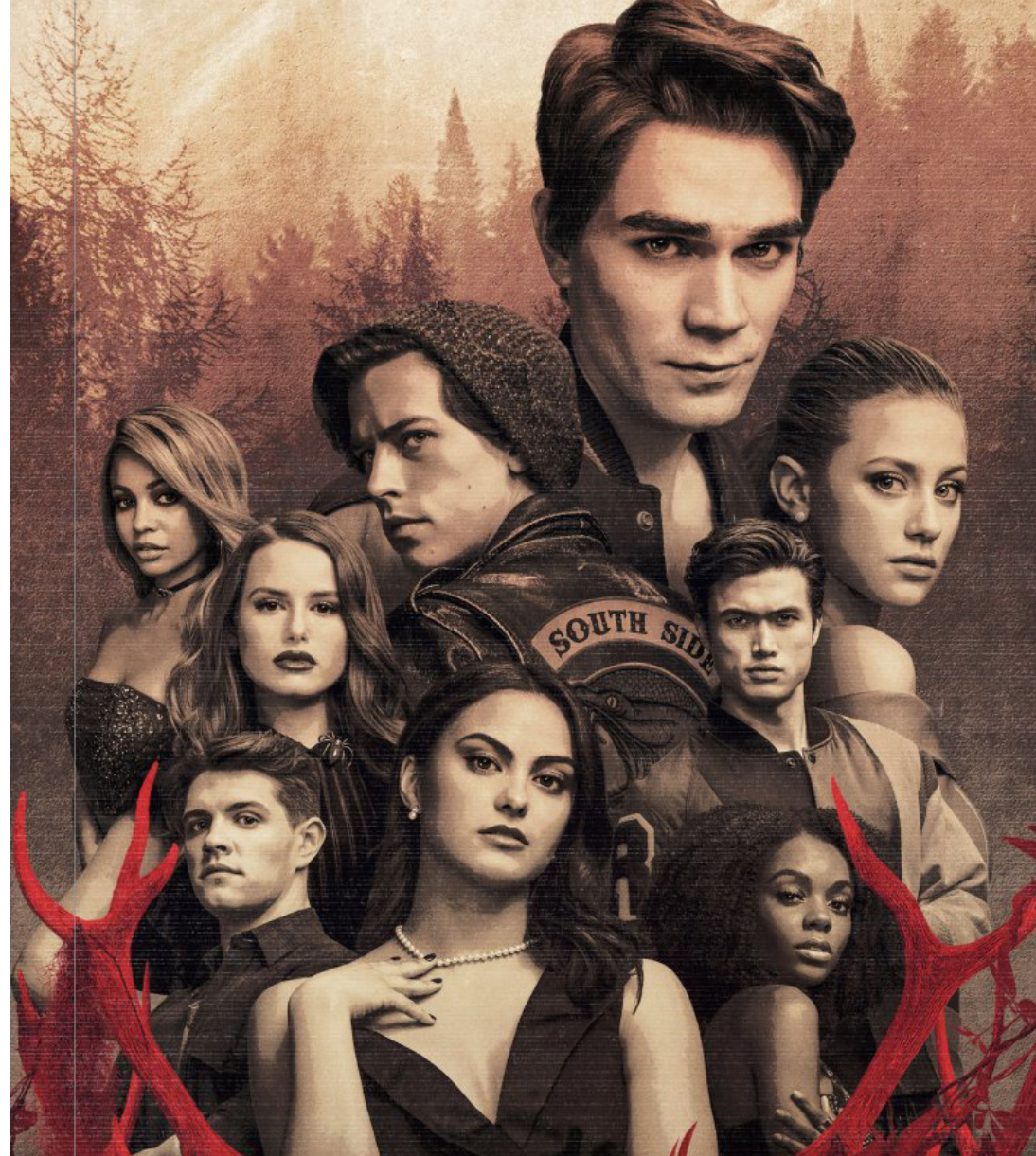
Riverdale

by Kara Nesvig

The CW's new series Riverdale finally premiered last week, and it's already set to be the new Gossip Girl if we know our iconic dramas. (Hint: we do.) The show is an addicting, clever 21st century reboot of the classic Archie franchise, a series of comic books that have been in print for over 75 years. It follows a core group of four teens — Archie, Betty, Veronica, and Jughead — as they navigate high school, young adulthood, and the world around them. But every reboot usually contains some major changes, and this new retelling of the sleepy little town of Riverdale is no different.

While Riverdale has throwback roots, the show also marks another significant shift in the Archie canon, and many of the familiar characters received an update to reflect the current culture. While the comics have also changed quite a bit since the very first Archie issues, Riverdale the show really brings those changes to light. The names are the same, but everything in Riverdale is just a little darker and more complex, more suited to 2017 than 1942. Think fewer battles-of-the-bands and burger jokes and more murder and intrigue.

Age 14+



A Series of Unfortunate Events

by Aaron Bady

"If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off somewhere else," Lemony Snicket (Patrick Warburton), the alter ego of the children's author Daniel Handler, warns at the outset of Netflix's "A Series of Unfortunate Events." The new show, faithfully adapted by Barry Sonnenfeld from Handler's popular series of novels, has the familiar structure and feel of an uplifting children's story: three resourceful orphans struggle to escape the machinations of an evil and greedy count. But much more than the previous adaptation of Handler's books—a film version from 2004, starring Jim Carrey, which lightened the tone of the books almost beyond recognition—the series embraces its source material's dark, more violent fictional world.

Age 10+

The Magic School Bus Rides Again

Distributed by Netflix

The Magic School Bus Rides Again is a Canadian-American animated children's television series, based on the book series of the same name by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen. It also serves as a continuation of the 1994–97 PBS Kids series The Magic School Bus, with Lily Tomlin reprising her role as Ms. Frizzle. The series premiered on Netflix on September 29, 2017. The second season premiered on April 13, 2018.

In a sequel to the original 1994–97 series, Valerie Frizzle retires from teaching and passes the keys of the Magic School Bus over to her younger sister, Fiona Frizzle, to embark on new adventures with her class. As they journey on their exciting new field-trips, they discover new locations, creatures, time periods and more to learn about the wonders of science, educating young viewers along the way.

Age 5+





THE
CASE
OF

THE
KNIFE
IN THE

WATERMELON

An Encyclopedia Brown Story

by Donald J. Sobal

Mr. Patch was the first grown-up to come to the Brown Detective Agency. He was carrying a watermelon. Mr. Patch owned a grocery store. He showed the watermelon to Encyclopedia. It had a knife buried in it up to the handle. "Find the boy who owns this knife!" roared Mr. Patch. "Look what he did!" Encyclopedia looked at the watermelon. "Stabbing a watermelon isn't against the law," he pointed out. "I mean, it's not the same as stabbing a person." "The knife ended in my watermelon," Mr. Patch shouted. "It started in the window of my storeroom." "Someone used the knife to break into your storeroom?" "And to open my money box!" cried Mr. Patch. "How much was stolen?" asked Encyclopedia. "The thief didn't have time to take anything," said Mr. Patch, in a calmer voice. "He heard me coming and he got scared. When he started to run, he tripped and fell. His knife plunged into this watermelon. He didn't have time to pull it out." "Did you see his face?" Mr. Patch shook his head. "No, but I did see he had the letter L on the back of his jacket." "That means he's a Lion—a member of the boys' club on Woodburn Avenue," said Encyclopedia. "A real lead!"

The private detective stepped closer to the watermelon. The knife had plunged into it so deeply that only the carved wood handle showed above the green skin. Mr. Patch laid a quarter on the gasoline can. "Find the owner of this knife, quick!" "I'm sorry," replied Encyclopedia, thinking he would have to charge for expenses on this case. "I'll need a little time. I have to buy a fingerprint kit. Then I have to dust the handle of the knife and—" "There are no fingerprints," said Mr. Patch heavily. "I wiped them off." "Y-you wiped them off?" said Encyclopedia weakly. Mr. Patch explained. "My cat knocked a bag of flour off a shelf. It broke and spilled over the watermelon and knife. I wiped off the flour—" "And the fingerprints too!" Encyclopedia clasped his head and moaned. Then he looked up. "Still, the thief doesn't know that you wiped off his fingerprints—" Encyclopedia took out his handkerchief. He wrapped it carefully around the handle of the knife. "That does it," he said. "That makes it look as though we have fingerprints we are trying to save. The thief may try to wipe them off, and give himself away. We'll have to watch all the Lions. Let's go—"



Encyclopedia got into Mr. Patch's truck. They drove over to Woodburn Avenue. Four Lions—John, Frank, Corky, and Buster—were outside the club, working on the engine of an old black car. Although few in number, the Lions were all big boys—bigger than Bugs Meany. But Mr. Patch was bigger than any of them. He had strong hands and big arms. So the Lions listened when Encyclopedia spoke. "Do you see this watermelon?" he asked. "Now I take off the handkerchief. There! What do you see?" "The handle ..." said Buster. "... of a knife," said Corky. "Very interesting," said John. "So what?" said Frank. "There are no fingerprints," said Mr. Patch. "The knife," said Encyclopedia, "was used in an attempt to rob Mr. Patch's store." "The knife..." said Buster.

"... doesn't belong ..." said Corky. "... to any ..." said John. "... of us," said Frank. "Maybe not. But the police will probably take your fingerprints," said Encyclopedia. "If the guilty boy steps forward now, Mr. Patch will ask the police not to be too hard on him." The Lions looked serious. Mr. Patch looked serious. The only boy detective in the state looked serious. But that was all. "It's not working the way you planned," said Mr. Patch in a whisper. "None of them has tried to wipe the handle of the knife." Encyclopedia nodded. "Leave the knife in the watermelon, just as it is. Don't touch it," he whispered back. To the Lions he said, "The police will break up your club if they find one of you is a thief." The Lions stopped looking serious. They looked scared. Suddenly John said softly, "Frank owns a knife like that." "A lot of fellows own knives with carved handles," retorted Frank. "Cut it out!" "You showed me yours yesterday," John shot back. "You even tried to get me to hold it. Why, my fingerprints might be on that handle!" "It's not the same knife," said Frank. "So quit worrying." "I lost my knife last month," Buster said. "Everyone knows I did. Where is your knife, Corky?"

HOW DID HE KNOW WHOSE KNIFE IT WAS?

"I lost mine, too," said Corky. "This one couldn't be my knife, anyway. Mine has a blade a half inch longer." None of the Lions remembered what the others' knives really looked like. They began to argue loudly. Each boy tried to put himself in the clear. "Too bad," muttered Mr. Patch. "They are scared and fighting among themselves. But none of them has touched the knife to try to get rid of the fingerprints. Your plan didn't work." "Yes, it did," said Encyclopedia. "I know whose knife it is." As Mr. Patch said, none of the Lions touched the knife. So the blade was buried in the watermelon all the time the Lions were looking at it. In other words, none of the Lions could see how long the blade of the knife was. But Corky said his knife had a blade that was "a half inch longer" than the one in the watermelon. That was his mistake. He could not have known how long the blade was unless he had seen it before.

The knife belonged to Corky!



The Real-life Adventuress

turned Nancy Drew into a Modern Heroine

by Jennifer Fisher





As any of the generations of fans of the fictional girl detective Nancy Drew—heroine of hundreds of serial novels published from 1930 to this day—can tell you, Nancy does not stay locked in the closet for long. She tries to pick the lock with a hairpin, then uses a clothing rod to pry off the hinges, while giving one of her trademark side lectures—this time, on Archimedes and the wedge.

This teenage detective became the archetype of a kind of tough American woman: smart and fierce in the face of violence, but also well-respected by police and her doting father. Fashionable, too. Even though she was just a fictional character, she was inspirational, and none other than Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Sonia Sotomayor have said she was a huge influence in their lives.

Over the course of more than 600 books, Nancy Drew's adventures were often repetitive, and though her cars and clothes were frequently updated, she always remained the same age. Accompanied by her best friends Bess and George, she unearthed lost wills and heirlooms and found missing people. She explored hidden staircases and spooky haunted houses. Tenacious and plucky, Nancy had a boyfriend, the handsome Ned. She always fought to right

wrongs, using her smarts to wriggle out of perilous situations. Nancy Drew got kidnapped. She was knocked unconscious. Foes threatened her to stay off cases (or else!). What she offered American girls was a sense of resourcefulness. She taught us to signal SOS with a tube of lipstick, to break out of a window using spike heels, and to always keep an overnight bag in our car—a girl never knew when she'd encounter a sudden overnight sleuthing adventure. Real-life kidnapping victims have said that Nancy Drew stories inspired them to use their wits to escape; successful women in law enforcement say Nancy Drew led them to their careers.

The real mystery of Nancy Drew is how such a fictional character could inspire real women. Clues can be found in the woman who fleshed out the young detective's personality, who was named Mildred Wirt Benson. Over the years many different writers worked on Nancy Drew's stories, which were always published under the pen name of Carolyn Keene. But the very first books in the series, the ones that established her particular steely bravery, were written by Benson, who was just as tenacious and bold and independent as her heroine. Benson sought adventure and bucked conventions throughout her life. Once she was even locked in a room.

Mildred Augustine was born in 1905 in Ladora, Iowa, a rural farming community near Iowa City. An avid reader of children's classics like Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, children's magazines, and serial fiction, she preferred the books written for boys over those for girls, she said, because they focused on adventure and action.

The young Benson liked to write. When she was 13, her short story "The Courtesy" appeared in *St. Nicholas*, a monthly children's magazine that also published notable authors like Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. The story won a second place silver badge in a monthly contest. "When I grow up I'm going to be a GREAT writer," Benson later recalled saying.

In rural Ladora, there were few career opportunities for women outside of domestic pursuits. Most girls planned on raising families and helping run the farms. Benson was a country doctor's daughter who often rode with her father on patient calls, and that life was never in the cards. Benson's parents encouraged her to get a college education, and to pursue adventure and her writing career. She graduated early from high school and enrolled in the University of Iowa, excelling in her classes and as a championship diver. She graduated with a degree in English in 1925—just five years after



women earned the right to vote—and soon after, in 1927, she would become the first student, man or woman, to earn a master's degree in journalism at Iowa. She traveled to New York City, where she began pursuing her long-sought career in writing.

During her first trip to New York she met a businessman named Edward Stratemeyer whose company, the Stratemeyer Syndicate, hired ghostwriters to write popular books. For a flat fee, these writers produced manuscripts based on outlines provided by the syndicate, signing away their authorship rights. Stratemeyer then attributed the books to pseudonymous authors and farmed them out to publishers. It was a very successful business model that churned out popular series such as "The Bobbsey Twins," "Ruth Fielding," "Tom Swift," and "The Hardy Boys," the boys' detective serial that had started in 1927. "As oil has its Rockefeller, literature has its Stratemeyer," Fortune magazine wrote of the publishing magnate, in 1934.

Stratemeyer didn't have work for Benson right away, but he soon hired her to work on the "Ruth Fielding" series, which she had read as a child, and then asked her to help him

launch a new series, about a teenage girl detective named Nancy Drew. The three-page outline Stratemeyer wrote for the first Nancy Drew book, *The Secret of the Old Clock*, set a tone for his new protagonist, whom he described as "An up-to-date American girl at her best, bright, clever, resourceful, and full of energy."

He mailed the document to Benson, who set out to breathe life into the sleuthing heroine, giving her a healthy dose of her own independence, bravery, and feistiness.

Benson's original Nancy Drew, depicted in books such as *The Hidden Staircase*, *The Secret at Shadow Ranch*, and *The Clue in the Crumbling Wall*, was a brash and daring sleuth. The 1930s and 1940s, when this first Nancy Drew debuted, were a time when girls who liked to read were ready for something more than the norm—those books Benson described as "namby pamby" girls' series of the time. Life was hard for kids during the Great Depression and World War II, and parents didn't sugarcoat the evil in the world. Reading about an adventurous girl who faced down the dangers around her provided young readers a safe escape from the troubles of the day, while also offering a nod to difficult times. Benson's Nancy Drew paved the way for all of the others that followed, though the character was softened in later years.

Underwood typewriter used by Mildred Wirt Benson, also known as Carolyn Keene, to write several of the "Nancy Drew" mysteries. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of American History.

Nancy Drew was independent and was not tied down by work, domestic pursuits, or a fretting mother (hers had died.) She was treated as an equal by her father and by many in law enforcement, and she never gave up when the going got hard. Her spirit struck a chord.

Nancy Drew personified "the dream image which exists within most teen-agers," Benson wrote in an autobiographical essay in 1973. This teen of 1930s remained culturally relevant for more than 80 years, even as young women's

.....
[Nancy Drew] was treated as an equal by her father and by many in law enforcement, and she never gave up when the going got hard. Her spirit struck a chord.
.....

Nancy Drew struggled this way and that. She twisted and squirmed. She kicked and clawed. But she was powerless in the grip of the man. 'Little wildcat! You won't do any more scratching when I get through with you!' 'Let me go!' Nancy cried, struggling harder. The man half-carried, half-dragged her across the room. Opening the closet door, he flung her roughly inside. Nancy heard a key turn in the lock. The sliding of a bolt into place followed. 'Now you can starve for all I care!' the man laughed harshly. Then the steady tramp of his heavy boots across the floor told Nancy Drew that he had left the house...

—The Secret of the Old Clock (1930 edition)

roles changed dramatically. Mothers and grandmothers passed the books down to their daughters. "Women still tell me how they identified with Nancy Drew and that Nancy Drew gave them confidence to be whatever they wanted to be," she told an interviewer in 1999.

Benson eventually did marry, twice, and had a daughter. But her career always drove her. Between 1926 and 1959, she wrote 135 books, including 23 of the first 30 Nancy Drew books. Benson published some novels under her own name, including her favorite Penny Parker Mystery Stories and books in Stratemeyer Syndicate series like "The Dana Girls" and "Honey Bunch."

Benson also worked as a journalist for more than 50 years, mainly in Toledo, Ohio at The Toledo Times and the Toledo Blade. She worked the courthouse beat, tenaciously shaking out the facts about local crimes and city corruption. Later she wrote features, aviation columns, and a popular column for active seniors.

After all those years of writing series books adventures, Benson embarked on real-life adventures. During the 1960s, she trained to become a pilot and traveled to Central America to view ancient Maya sites before they were opened to widespread tourism. She traveled alone, braving crocodile-infested rivers and jungles she had to hack through with a machete. She was even once locked inside a room, in

Guatemala in the early 1960s, by some locals who thought she knew too much about criminal activity in their town. (In that moment, Benson later said, she ruefully thought, "What would Nancy do?") Eventually Benson, in true Nancy Drew style, overpowered one of her captors and escaped. Like any good sleuth, she later returned to Guatemala to learn more about what had happened to her.

It would be decades before most Nancy Drew fans learned that Benson was the original Carolyn Keene—the Stratemeyers always kept authors' identities under wraps, preferring to tell fans that the family wrote all the books. The truth slowly leaked out, starting in the 1970s, thanks to researchers who discovered Benson had been Carolyn Keene. In the early 1990s, Benson donated a series of papers and her Underwood typewriter to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. And in 1993 the University of Iowa held a widely-publicized Nancy Drew Conference, after which Benson finally got the public credit and adulation she deserved. She was even named the "Person of the Week" by ABC's World News Tonight with Peter Jennings.

Benson told Jennings that she'd probably still be writing when the undertaker walked through the door. She was right—she was working in semi-retirement on a column for the Toledo Blade on May 28, 2002, the day she died, at age 96.

THE MISSING PICNIC

FOOD



.....

Once upon a time there was a forest fire in a big, big forest. All the little animals that lived there ran as fast as they could to get away from the hot flames. Squirrels, raccoons, foxes, snakes, turtles, rabbits, mice and many other animals had to find new homes. Some of them went to other forests, some of them went to parks, and some of them actually had to make their little homes in the yards of human beings, or, people.

Far, far away from the fire was a house where three little children lived. Their names were Thomas, Kathy, and Carrie. They all went to school but on this September day it was Saturday. They had been playing all morning. Now it was lunchtime. They were hungry. They asked their mom if they could have lunch, and she said, "Why don't you have a picnic in the yard?"

That sounded like a great idea, but WHERE in the yard? So Mom told them to lay a picnic cloth in the green grassy grass near the scruffy old juniper bushes. While they were doing that, she would make some celery sticks, carrot sticks, and some yummy peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

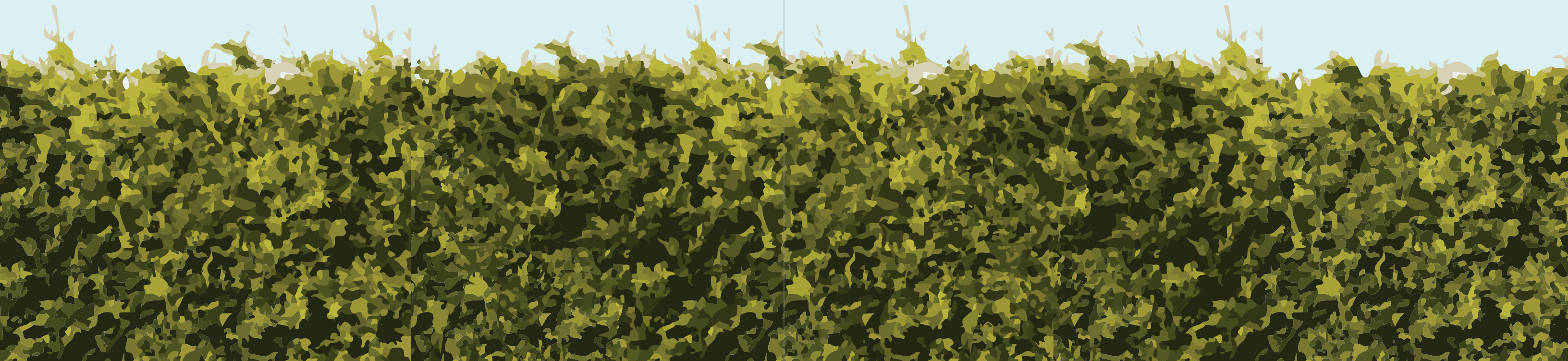
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When the kids had spread out the picnic blanket, they ran into the kitchen and asked if lunch was ready. Mom told them to take the carrot sticks and plates out to the blanket, and to take their drinks also. So Thomas, Kathy and Carrie took these things out to the blanket and arranged them carefully. Then they ran as fast as they could, huffing and puffing, back to the kitchen and said to Mom, "What else have you made so far"? So she said, "I've got your celery sticks cut up for you now – run these out to your picnic blanket." So out ran the three kids as fast as they could go to add these to the carrots on their plates.

But when they got to the blanket, something was wrong. Where were the carrot sticks? They were all gone! "This must be a trick," said Kathy. "Let's leave the celery sticks here and see what happens!"

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Then they ran as fast as they could back to Mom, who by now was making the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. They told her that someone had stolen the carrot sticks. She said, "You're kidding!" and they said "Come on – we'll show you!"

Mom hurried out with them to the picnic blanket. But now, not only were the carrot sticks missing, but the celery sticks were gone, too! Mom said, "Maybe one of your neighbor friends is hiding them just to be silly."

So everyone spread out and looked behind trees, bushes, and just about everywhere. Unfortunately, they couldn't find the carrots, the celery, or anyone hiding.





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Finally Mom said, "Well, your drinks are still out here. Let's get your sandwiches. You guys go ahead and eat them out here and maybe something will turn up."

So Thomas, Kathy and Carrie sat down to their picnic and they ate their sandwiches. Of course, while they sat there, they couldn't help but look around for the sneaky celery and carrot thief.

They were just about finished eating when Carrie looked over at the juniper bushes and saw something move. She softly said, "Shshsh!" to Thomas and Kathy. "There's something wiggling over there! See the bushes moving?" So everyone sat very still, and a little brown animal came to the edge of the bushes and looked at them. It was a rabbit. Quietly it went back into the bushes.

"I have an idea", said Thomas. "Let's get more celery and carrots, and see if that rabbit is our thief. We'll put them at the edge of the bushes, and watch from the window."

They quietly went back into the house and got Mom to cut up more celery and carrots. They carefully put them down near the bushes and walked back to the house. As they watched, the little rabbit came out and grabbed the vegetables in his mouth and carried them back into the juniper bushes. Mom had watched, too, and she said that she had never seen a rabbit in the yard before. She thought that maybe because of the forest fire, he had needed to look for a new home.

"Maybe we can keep feeding this rabbit, and he will stay here for a long time," said Mom.

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That is just what they did. They fed the little rabbit every day. A few weeks went by. The weather turned cooler and finally winter came and they didn't see the rabbit. Sometimes they would take food out to the edge of the bushes, and sometimes the food would disappear, and other times it just stayed there. All winter they worried about the rabbit – was he cold, was he scared, did he move somewhere else?

Finally, spring came. They watched for the rabbit day after day. In early April, the day before Easter, when the trees had just a few leaves, Thomas, Kathy, and Carrie took the food out to the bushes, and as they watched, the little rabbit came out and grabbed it! Whatever he had done during the winter, he was OK now!

The kids continued to feed him, and one day, the little rabbit came out to get his food, and he had four little rabbits with him! Their rabbit was a Mommy rabbit!

So from that time on, the kids fed the rabbits, and year after year, there was always a little rabbit family that lived in their scruffy old juniper bushes.

Paula Moore



Matthew Lillard Interview



Matthew Lillard as Shaggy from the 2017 animated tv series "Be Cool, Scooby-Doo."



Matthew Lillard as Shaggy from the 2002 and 2004 Scooby-Doo Movie's



Matthew Lillard first entered the world of Scooby Doo in 2002 - and 13 years on, he's become the go-to Norville 'Shaggy' Rogers. The actor voices Shaggy in new animated series Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! - having inherited the mantle from Casey Kasem, who passed away last year. Lillard told Digital Spy that he is determined to "protect the legacy that was created" by Kasem, recalling how he would listen to tapes of the actor to prepare for his role in 2002's Scooby Doo film.



Matthew Lillard

By Morgan Jeffery

"I would listen to a recording - I had five episodes of Casey on loop and I would just mimic him the entire time," he revealed. "That's what really solidified the voice and the character, and carried me all the way through." Lillard played Shaggy in two live-action outings - the first film, and a 2004 sequel - and admitted that his feelings about the divisive movies have changed over the years. "When they first came out, I thought that they were incredible," he said. "I was super-proud of my performance and I was happy to be at the forefront of a huge franchise for Warner Bros. "But then, for a while, I lost my street credibility - it's like, 'Oh you're in kids' movies about a talking dog?' - it's kind of a joke. So there was a moment where I had a lot of shame about being that guy. "Now I'm on the other side - I'm 45 years old, 13 years older. The movies are what they were, and I don't judge them. I certainly am proud I did Scooby-Doo and I don't know what I'd be doing if I didn't have that character in my life." Scooby and Shaggy are now heading back to the big-screen - with a new animated movie in the works - and Lillard said he thinks the franchise will always appeal to kids. "It's a kids' first introduction to the wonders of mystery," he suggested. "You can't jump right into the world of Sherlock Holmes. You need something to baby-step into that. "There's something visceral about watching a Scooby-Doo episode when you're a kid. You'll be able to tell that story time and time again, and kids will fall in love with it time and time again."

"I was ashamed of the Scooby-Doo movies - now I'm proud - I don't know what I'd be doing if I didn't have that character in my life."

WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

Put your creative writing skills to good use and write your own mystery story! Use the lined pages (front and back) to write your story. Then send it in to The Mystery Chronicles to have it featured in the magazine. Here are this months short mystery story submissions.

Mail them into
The Mystery Chronicles
Write Your Own Stories
211 S Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Tropical Adventure in the Magic Shed

One bright sunny day Molly went to Sophie's house for a Sunday play date. "What are we going to play today?" Molly asked. "How about football? It is the World Cup these days!" And with that they happily skipped to the back yard. They were having a lovely time until the ball hit the magic shed. At that moment Sophie felt a tingle of excitement. "We haven't been in the shed for a long time!" Dearest readers, Molly and Sophie have had many adventures in the magical shed but, you see, they had checked several times and hadn't found any magical signs during the past few weeks.

Molly ran to the loose plank but slipped on a thick green leaf. Molly and Sophie went into the tunnel when suddenly Sophie said "The tunnel is getting more humid and tropical leaves are coming on my face. We are probably going to a tropical rainforest!" She had guessed correctly as they passed a wooden sign marked 'The Amazon rainforest' and entered the tropical land. "Molly!" screamed Sophie, "you're a tiger!" Just then Molly spotted a lake nearby and looked at her reflection and saw a big furry body with black stripes and two cat ears perched on her head!

A few seconds later they heard footsteps drawing nearer and nearer. Molly and Sophie hid in a big bush close to a patch of trees. The footsteps belonged to loggers. Bit by bit they watched the men cut down the beautiful trees. After the men left, Sophie asked Molly "Do you think we're here to stop deforestation?" Molly nodded worriedly. "So first we need to warn the

animals...and you should do it" finished Sophie and with that Molly made a loud "ROOOAR!" "I will follow the men and find out what they're doing and who they are." Sophie told Molly and ran into the trees.

After a few moments, right in front of Molly were fierce tigers, colorful toucans, golden toads and rare pink dolphins in a stream near by. "Are you OK?" Asked a pink dolphin. "Yes but I saw some men come and cut a beautiful part of the forest. Do you know who they are?" asked Molly. "They are loggers, people whose job is to cut down trees!" Exclaimed a gold toad. "And if they keep this up we'll have no where to live!" Added a tiger.

Sophie was quietly following the men until they stopped in front of a huge tent. Next to the tent there was a large chair with a mean, skinny man on it and he said "Dubai ordered 200kg of wood and you brought 100kg bring 100kg by sunset or else..." Sophie rushed into the forest and said to the men "You have to stop cutting down trees, it's hurting the animals that live here!" "Move over girl! We only take orders from our boss." After that they moved to the next group of trees. Sophie ran to Molly and told her that the loggers weren't listening. Molly told Sophie about a plan that the animals were going to surround the loggers then Sophie could talk to them and that's exactly what they did. When the loggers looked to their left there was a patch of trees with angry toucans ready to peck. When they looked to their right, there were growling tigers! And

when they thought of jumping into the river behind them there were pink dolphins soaking them from head to toe and finally Sophie in front of them. Suddenly Sophie said "Amazon rainforest is protected. What you're doing is illegal and if you don't stop I'll report you to the police, but I won't call them if you help us call the Dubai company and tell them what's going on," finished Sophie. Some loggers were convinced and immediately took out their phones and told the company that the trees they are getting are from the Amazon Rainforest. Sophie had a great idea and took the phone from one of the loggers and gave the company the idea of making the biggest greenhouse in the whole world since Dubai already has the world's tallest building and biggest mall. The company immediately agreed because they loved greenery in the desert and the loggers' boss went to jail.

The animals were grateful and and threw a party with tropical fruit like mangoes, dragon fruit, durian, pineapples and bananas and lots of orchid flowers. A tiger gave Sophie and Molly a golden seed to plant at their home as a present. "When it's a tree, it will have gold leaves" he said. Sophie and Molly happily said thank you and good bye. They went through the tunnel and sat down on their bed for a well earned rest. The next day, they carefully planted their seeds and thought of their Rainforest Adventure.

by Sofia Omer

8

FAMILY COSTUME IDEAS



Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire

The costumes were painstakingly assembled and constructed by Exile #2 over the last several weeks with only a few decent pictures to work with. She recently completed reading the series of books to them as their bedtime stories - a total of 13 books, each with 13 chapters and full of extremely funny tragedy - perfect as a Halloween theme!



Hellorigby as Harriet the Spy

When I was thinking about Halloween costumes that would be easy to create with clothing pieces that I and the average woman already owned, this came to mind. And I couldn't help wanting to poke a little fun at myself since I still get the comments that I look just like Harriet the Spy, so here is my modern interpretation of Harriet's style.



Trevor as Sherlock Holmes

So this Halloween, Trevor, my minion from last year, said he wanted to be the world's greatest detective. I suggested Sherlock Holmes and after we looked at a few images on Google, he enthusiastically agreed. I think it was the magnifying glass and the pipe that really clinched it.



Archie and the Gang

We asked our friend Edith of Miya Cosplay to play Veronica and we got the opportunity to shoot with Cosplayers Canada to get some fun shots. That morning we did an interview on Rogers Daytime and the host Derick Fage was dressed as Archie. The whole gang together again. It was so much fun being these characters and completely worth it when we stopped by Dan Parent's table (Archie comics artist) and he loved it.



C.I. as Nancy Drew

I am a writer and member of a local writers' association. For our meeting this month we are supposed to dress as a literary character. I chose Nancy Drew because these mysteries (Ghost written by several authors - how appropriate is that for Halloween?) are the first books that I absolutely plunged into as a child. For my eight year old self, heaven was an unstructured summer day and a new Nancy Drew book.



Patrick, and the The Goonies Family

We (all the adults) grew up with The Goonies. Recently we have introduced the 'Never Say Die' crew to our kids and they love it! This was such a fun family experience. Most of the costume elements were gathered over the course of a few months from Etsy and eBay.



The Carey Family

We are the Carey family, and group Halloween costumes have become a tradition for us over the past 3 years. This year we decided to tackle Scooby-Doo. It's a bit overdone, but we thought we could bring a freshness to it. As always, most of our costumes are made up of pieces purchased at thrift stores. However we usually have to purchase the wigs and a few hard to find items online.



Nathan Bennion and Shaleena Slaugh

Ms. Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. Peacock, Mr. Green, Ms. White, and Colonel Mustard.

We convinced two other couples in our ward to dress up with us. We came to the ward party late, so it was funny to watch people watch our big ridiculous group shuffle in... chuck our weapons on the table, and go get some food.

