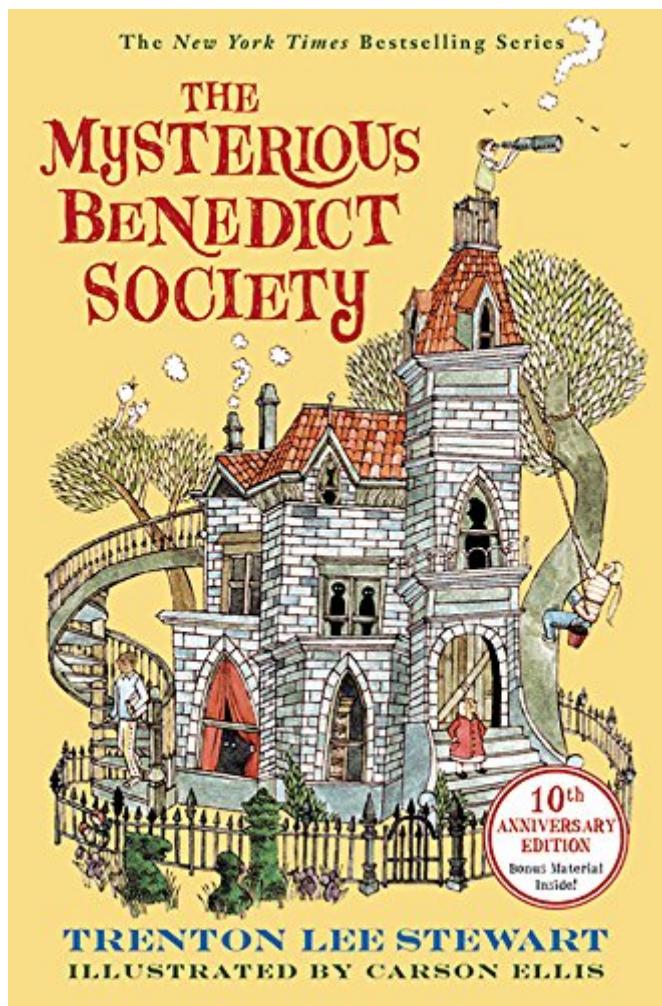


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# The Mysterious Benedict Society



## **Synopsis**

Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children-two boys and two girls-succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. So, if you're gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse Code, they could probably use your help.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

When I first started reading this book, I got a little bored because it's one of those books that I didn't want to get but I had to anyways. But then the plot started thickening, forming little strands that weave into a web (or at least that's how I think of it). The way the words are used is unique, it using words that convey a meaning that may not be directly implied. All in all, I think this book is amazing.

This was the best book I've EVER read by a lot and I am about to read the sequel. The beginning of the book had a bunch of cool and creepy tests and the end was more anxious. It actually made me want to read longer. I know this might be kind of strange, but I drove to North Carolina to see my cousins and the car was really loud, so I listened to the song *Humanity In Motion* by Nathan Lanier. It is not on iTunes. It honestly made me read a lot faster. This book was so amazing and I have a feeling that the sequels are just as good!

The novel was recommended to me by a friend as one that is extremely clever and an excellent read, and I must say that I agree on most accounts. On one end I find a bit of the storyline difficult to believe, such as the fact that a mysterious man luring children would actually turn out to be a brilliant agent working to save the world, among other things. On the other, more positive hand, I enjoyed solving the puzzles (although some were a bit rudimentary) and I deeply enjoyed the plot line. Over all I would strongly recommend the novel as a good read for 3rd through 5th (maybe 6th) graders.

After reading through the Harry Potter Books One through Seven this summer with my children, a magical experience, I wondered how we would follow up on such a great family experience. To my great surprise, *The Mysterious Benedict Society* seems to be an adequate, if not equal, follow-up. Similar to our reading of Harry Potter, the girls can't wait until the end of the day when I get home so we can get back to the book. They wonder aloud at the breakfast table what's going to happen next, and they always want to read more when we turn off the iPad at bedtime. It's nice to have another series that seems to capture their imaginations and to which they look forward to each evening.

I was told to read the *Mysterious Benedict Society* book number one for a gifted project. I loved it. When I found the second, I was deeply regard with Trenton Lee Stewart's ability to write tough and hard-to-read book for the middle school group. I reason that because a few of my friends would never understand the book. It's not that they're dumb, just that they don't read and write as well as others. I suggest whomever from the age 9 - 15 will love this book. Read!

I stumbled upon this novel while I was wondering through the children's section of my local bookstore looking for a gift for my nephew. Since he's only two, I couldn't justified buying it for him (yet), but it seemed intriguing enough to add to my pile. I'm really glad I made that decision because *The Mysterious Benedict Society* has the makings of another Potter-esque series for young adult

readers and grown-ups alike. Reynie Muldoon is a genius. At 11-years-old he's completed all of the required courses through the high school level and he's constantly on the lookout for new challenges. It's because of this that he answers a classified ad in the newspaper advertising special opportunities for gifted children. From there, he goes on to meet three other extraordinary young people and a back-up cast of talented adults, all dedicated to tracking down and stopping the source of "The Emergency". This is a really thought-provoking story that doesn't take the intelligence of children for granted. In fact, it allows that intelligence to blossom through the insertion of subtle riddles and tests for the reader as you go along. For adults, there are times when the answers to these riddles may seem obvious - When that happens, be sure to remind yourself that you are reading a children's book! It's easy to forget sometimes because the writing style pulls no punches and never "dumbs down" to accommodate a younger audience. Personally, I think this is great because I'm a complete advocate for challenging young minds. The set-up of this story does take some time (the first 150 pages or so) and sometimes seems a little tedious when reading. It's because of this that I only awarded 4 stars, as opposed to 5. However, push through and you won't be sorry. I did and now I'm really looking forward to seeing what adventures lie in store for Reynie and the rest of the Mysterious Benedict Society.

My 10 year old Grand-daughter loved this series and read them all. I only read the first one and thought it was terrific.

Romance novels, heart touching true stories, well that is NOTHING like The Mysterious Benedict Society. I think The Mysterious Benedict Society is a book that will keep you guessing about the mysterious characters. Constance, one of the main characters, will keep you thinking, "Why is she here?" She is a grumpy little person. When you meet Mr. Benedict's helper, Rhonda, for the second time it keeps you wondering, "Was this all a trick?" When you first meet her she looks like a kid! When you meet her next she looks so different and like a grown up. Mr. Curtain is an odd guy and you think he looks familiar. He is kind of a mysterious genius. So if you like mysterious geniuses, an odd assistant, and a grumpy little kid then you should read The Mysterious Benedict Society!Mia - age 11

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