



2018

The Mysterious Benedict Society

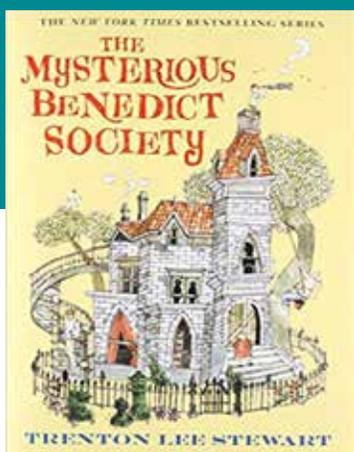
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Book Review

The Mysterious Benedict Society

Author

Trenton Lee Stewart

Illustrator

Carson Ellis

Reviewer

Becky Jamieson

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

485

Year

2007

Publisher

Little, Brown and Com-

ISBN

9780143780113

Adults should always protect kids, but sometimes there are jobs only kids can do, and Mr. Benedict has one of these. He asks four gifted children to become his secret agents to help him save the world from an evil man intent on brainwashing everyone. Constance, Kate, Sticky, and Reynie are orphans and runaways that come together to form the Mysterious Benedict Society. Working together they spy on the “school” the brainwashing signal is coming from and send the information back to Mr. Benedict using Morse code. However, as the evil Mr. Curtain is moving forward with his plan to take over the world, the kids find they must take action to stop him. As a team they manage to stop his brainwashing machine and escape to safety.

The message of this book is that people are stronger when they work together. Each person on a team brings different characteristics that help the group. This is clear in the book: it takes Reynie’s leadership, Sticky’s brain, Kate’s athletics, and Constance’s stubbornness to save the day. The book shows the importance of family and friendships as it follows the kids who long for and develop these relationships. Reynie is the main character and he develops a lot over the course of the book. He goes from being a smart loner to a great friend others can rely on in difficult situations. However, there are times when he doubts himself and then receives the support he needs from others. These problems make him a more believable character and therefore more relatable for readers.

*Contains mild violence.