

Chapter 1 : The Mysterious Benedict Society : Trenton Lee Stewart :

*The Mysterious Benedict Society: Mr. Benedict's Book of Perplexing Puzzles, Elusive Enigmas, and Curious Conundrums [Trenton Lee Stewart, Diana Sudyka] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Well, there are professional reviews, online reviews, and good old-fashioned word of mouth. And when it came to "The Mysterious Benedict Society", I picked up this page tome, turned it about, and then needed a quickie confirmation from somebody as to whether or not I should shell out a significant portion of time to read this puppy. I gave away my copy and decided to forget all about it. Oh, I should really read it! Eventually, the pressure got to be too much. So I borrowed a library copy, took it home, and fell in love. This book is precisely that. Smart and thoroughly a good good read. He thinks of himself as weird and out of place. Odd, increasingly peculiar tests that go beyond the classroom, or even the realm of the normal. By the end of the puzzles Reynie has passed, as have three other rather remarkable children. Sticky Washington is a bit of a bookworm, but the kind of kid who never forgets a single fact that he reads. Kate Wetherall is an athletic type who carries a handy bucket with her wherever it is that she goes. And Constance Contraire is very small, very rude, and very stubborn. Together, these kids have been recruited by a Mr. So it is that our four heroes become spies and set out to save the world using their very individual abilities. If you like the first portion then you are bound to like the second. I was fond of the writing too. Never twee or coy, it comes right to the point of things without sacrificing emotion or character. It can get away with sentences like, "She announced her age right away, for children consider their ages every bit as important as their names. Stewart can get stuff across without a bunch of overwrought flowery language. Stewart wraps up his loose ends nicely. The important thing to remember is that clever kids like clever tales.

Chapter 2 : The Mysterious Benedict Society v. The Real World

The official site for the award-winning and New York Times bestselling Mysterious Benedict Society series by Trenton Lee Stewart.

Plot summary[edit] Reynard "Reynie" Muldoon is an orphaned boy with a love for puzzles and books, living in an orphanage in the metropolis of Stonetown with his tutor Miss Perumal. Upon noticing an advertisement in the newspaper directed to "gifted children looking for special opportunities", Miss Perumal convinces Reynie to take the test, which consists of many strange rounds of vigorous and bizarre selection, such as analyzing chess matches, identifying obscure geography, and stating whether or not one enjoys viewing television programming. Despite the huge numbers of children that arrive to take the test, only Reynie, and one other boy successfully pass. His newfound counterpart is George "Sticky" Washington, a bald, circumspect, and timid boy with a photographic memory. After the two become acquainted, they discover one additional child that also progressed to the final rounds of processing, though she had done so not by her mental artifices. Her name is Kate Wetherall, a resourceful girl with tremendous physical prowess, possessing spatial visualization abilities, and distinguished by carrying around a variety of tools in a belted fire-engine red bucket. The group of children are ushered into a room in which they must cross from one side to the other without stepping on any blue or black squares on the tiled floor. Sticky crawls across the room on his hands and knees, keeping his feet above the ground. Kate tightrope walks, however does not pass. On her second try, she rolls on her bucket like a ball across the room. Again, she does not pass. Finally, she handstand-walks across the room. Reynie, realizing the task is a mere trick as the floor is only a set of rectangles, simply walks across the floor without effort. The children are then brought into a pitch black maze they must traverse, after which the three are brought to Mr. Nicholas Benedict and Constance Contraire, a diminutive girl with a very defiant personality and gift for witticisms. Benedict reveals himself to be the main organizer of the various tests, along with his subordinates Number Two, Rhonda Kazembe, and Milligan, the secret agent turned security guard for Benedict. Benedict then welcomes all of them to be part of a team to stop the Sender of those messages, that come from the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened of the coast of Stonetown, on Nomansan Island. Although initially hesitant, Reynie agrees to join, along with everyone else, and the children decide to name themselves "the Mysterious Benedict Society". They also find that like the Emergency, the Institute relies on illusions like its pretentious lack of rules and nonsensical curriculum that can only be mastered by memorization. A hierarchy also exists among the student body: Deducing that Messengers are the ones broadcasting the secret messages, Reynie and Sticky, with their intuition and prodigious memory, respectively, ace their lessons and assignments to become Messengers themselves. Through espionage, they discover that Mr. Curtain exerts much of his power through a device known as the Whisperer that interfaces directly with the brain, which includes harboring the ability to erase memories. Curtain, after placing the preparations of the Emergency throughout the world, plans to use his Whisperer to soothe those fears and gain control of people and the world. Reynie and Sticky plan to interfere as much as possible with Mr. Things suddenly plummet downhill when Milligan, who has been helping them behind-the-scenes, is kidnapped, and Mr. Curtain starts boosting the power of his messages. He also informs the boys of them being chosen to be the last Messengers before the signals will no longer need to be transmitted only through the radio and television signals, which signals how close he is to world domination. The Mysterious Benedict Society concoct a daring plan where the boys buy time by resisting the allures of the Whisperer while Kate hauls Constance up to the room with the boys to stop Mr. Curtain together, battling the Executives that chase after them. A sudden realization hits Mr. Curtain, who attempts to wipe their memories, but Constance lessens the impact through her stubbornness, force of will, and intense feelings of anger to double her own resistance. Benedict to enter the Institute to destroy the Whisperer just as Milligan breaks out of his prison through the underground sewers. Returning to Stonetown, the four children who had previously no parents or had been estranged from them, at last, and either attain ones of their own or are reunited with loved ones. Miss Perumal decides to adopt Reynie, Kate discovers Milligan is actually her father who was brainwashed, Sticky reunites

with his parents, and Mr. Benedict agrees to adopt Constance, who is actually a three-year-old toddler. The story ends as the children have a snowball fight amongst one another, with Mr. Benedict laughing himself to sleep repeatedly. Main characters[edit] Reynard "Reynie" Muldoon is an eleven-year-old boy living at Stonetown Orphanage. Reynie looks between the lines, observing and questioning, and solves most problems by looking for a "puzzle" within the situation. He is described as an especially average-looking boy with average brown hair, average pale complexion, and average clothes. George "Sticky" Washington, an eleven-year-old tea-skinned boy with no hair caused by him making his own very powerful hair remover. He has a great memory everything "sticks" in his head, hence his nickname and a talent for reading quickly. He is, however, timid and nervous and resorts to polishing his glasses in stressful situations. He ran away from his parents because they forced him into academic competitions and because he thought they no longer wanted him around. Kate "Katie Cat" or "The Great Kate Weather Machine" Wetherall is a twelve-year-old girl who is sporty, possessing speed, dexterity, strength, and stamina. After being orphaned, she ran away to the circus. She has blonde hair, blue eyes, and fair skin. She carries a red bucket containing various items which she thinks are useful, including an army knife, a black flashlight, a pen, a rope, a bag of marbles, a slingshot, a spool of clear fishing twine, a horseshoe magnet and a spyglass disguised as a kaleidoscope. She is very cheerful and optimistic. Constance "Connie Girl" Contraire is a small, extremely intelligent, stubborn, and often annoying girl. She has the ability to write clever and brutal poems, and her ultra-sensitive mind is transmitted by the Whisperer. Benedict placed only 3 candles on her birthday cake. Milligan is a former government agent and current guard for the children, Rhonda, Number Two, and Mr. He is a sad and somber man, even described as a "scarecrow" due to his shabby and depressing demeanor. His sadness is attributed to his kidnapping by secret agents after which he was brainwashed and lost his memory. He woke up one day and was told that he had received a blow to the head, damaging his memory. Although unsure of his actual name, "Milligan" recurs as a familiar word to him, and he adopts it as his name. Milligan also has flax blond hair and ocean blue eyes. Nicholas Benedict is a little older than a middle-aged man who recruits the children that later call themselves the Mysterious Benedict Society. He is the one who discovered the maniacal plans of his identical twin brother, Ledroptha Curtain, whom he was separated from just after birth because their parents had died. Benedict suffers from narcolepsy , which causes him to fall asleep when experiencing strong emotions usually laughter. Ledroptha Curtain is the antagonist of the story and the head of L. He is also revealed to be Mr. He uses a modified wheelchair to get around and wears mirrored sunglasses in order to conceal his narcolepsy, a condition he shares with his brother. Critical reception[edit] The Mysterious Benedict Society has received generally positive reviews. Many of the critics praised the enigmatic plot and puzzles included in the storyline; Michele Norris, writing for the Guardian , said, "Almost everything inside this book is an enigma. Kirkus Review said that the book was "rich in moral and ethical issues.

'Mysterious Benedict': Solve A Puzzle, Save The World Puzzle-solving genius kids form a pint-size crime-fighting Mod Squad in this month's Backseat Book Club pick.

Edit After seeing a newspaper article addressed to children with special gifts, eleven-year old Reynie Muldoon goes to a center where he and many other children take a written test with many strange questions relating to logic, bravery, etc. Do you like television? Then there was, Do you like the radio? To this, he replied YES. It showed one black pawn moving two steps ahead. He is the only one in the room to pass this exam, and, after all the other children leave, he is invited to yet another center for more tests. He goes there the next day, and meets Rhonda Kazembe , a distressed girl who lost her only pencil for the test, down the drain. She appears to have green hair and a poofy dress. Reynie offers to help her and Rhonda makes him enter it. After what seemed like forever, Rhonda finally lets him out. Reynie breaks his pencil in half to give Rhonda to use. Reynie refuses this, and walks into the testing area. There, he and many other children sit in separated desks, each getting a test. All of the test questions are impossibly hard Reynie notices, some of the other children even start to cry. Reynie realizes it is all just a big puzzle. Nicholas Benedict , who presents them all with a task to do. He tells them that by using subliminal messaging hidden in television a man named as the "Sender" can make people believe such things. Benedict tells them that the one sending these messages is a Mr. Curtain , the principal of L. Inside the Institute the children see strange people. The lessons are otherwise repetitive. Benedict via Morse Code, the children uncover the hideous plan of Mr. Curtain, to control the people of the world and imprison his enemies. The children manage to stall Mr. Benedict to shut down the Whisperer , Mr. Curtain is still at large, the children share a party together with Constance, who is celebrating her birthday. He is extraordinarily good at problem solving, logical deduction, and reading people, and his brains have resulted in the assignment of a special tutor, Miss Perumal, to him. Reynie looks between the lines, observing and questioning, and gets past most obstacles by finding the "puzzle" within the situation. He is described as an especially average-looking boy with average brown hair, average pale complexion, and average clothes. George "Sticky" Washington is a dark-skinned boy with a bald head. He is also eleven. He has a prodigious photographic memory and a talent for speed-reading. He is, however, timid and nervous and resorts to polishing his glasses in stressful situations. He ran away from his parents because they forced him into academic competitions and because he later had reason to think that they no longer wanted him around at all. Kate "The Great Kate Weather Machine" Wetherall is a twelve-year-old girl who is resourceful and athletic, possessing extreme agility skills and dexterity bordering on the superhuman. She has fair hair and skin, with watery blue eyes. She carries a bucket containing various items, including a Swiss Army knife, a flashlight, a pen light, a bottle of extra-strength glue, rope, a bag of marbles, a slingshot, a spool of clear fishing twine, one pencil and eraser, a horseshoe magnet and a spyglass disguised as a kaleidoscope. She is very cheerful and optimistic. Later on, she joined a circus. However, towards the end of the story, it is revealed that Milligan, whose memory had been destroyed by the evil Mr. Constance "Connie Girl" Contraire is a small, extremely intelligent and precocious, but also extremely stubborn and often unpleasant girl. She has the ability to write clever and whimsical poems, and her ultra-sensitive mind is also the most severely affected by the hidden messages transmitted by the Whisperer. She is shown at the end of the book to be 2, but she still argues, insisting that "I am almost three. Partway through the story, he is revealed to be Mr. He uses a modified wheelchair to get around, due to his narcolepsy , a condition he shares with his brother. However, unlike his brother, his narcolepsy is triggered by anger, whereas Mr. Benedict is the person who started the whole thing. He has narcolepsy like his twin which is triggered by him feeling strong emotion. He is very reluctant to let the children go on a dangerous mission, but when reminded there is no other way, he allows them to go. He leaves a note to the reader at the end of the book saying that to find his first name, it would be easy if you are acquainted with the code and then the answer lies within your grasp. The key word in the note to the Reader is "code" and the phrase "answer lies within your grasp. In paperback versions, there is a Morse Code sequence on the back cover of the book, underneath the plot description. His real name is Nicholas Benedict. Supporting

characters Edit S. Pedalian An Executive working for Mr. He is known to be a klutz, but even though he is clumsy, he happens to be the only Executive who is kind to the Mysterious Benedict Society. However, he is somewhat oblivious to the dangerous effects L. The author is prone to word play throughout the novel including using locations like Nomansan Island which could be read as: Jillson A Head Executive with an "I am better than you" attitude. Martina Crowe is a teenager with long black hair. She is a Messenger at the Institute first, but later on is promoted to the position of Executive by Mr. Curtain even though he does not trust her much. She despises the members of the Mysterious Benedict Society because Sticky and Reynie got better grades than she did, threatening her position as Messenger since there is a limited number. She also dislikes Kate because Kate stands up to her and is not afraid of her. Milligan is the guard for the children when they enter L. E and for Rhonda, Number Two, and Mr. He is a sad and somber man, even described as a "scarecrow" owing to his shabby and depressing demeanor. His sadness is attributed to his kidnapping by secret agents working for Mr. Curtain, after which he lost all of his past memories, due to the Whisperer. At the end of Book 1, the author reveals that he is the long-lost father of Kate Wetherall. Number Two Is one of Mr. She is always referred to by her code name, despite Mr. Benedict telling her that her real name is fine. Readers do not discover her real name in this book. In the third book you discover her name at the end. She almost never sleeps which results in her eating more than normal people. Rhonda Kazembe Is also a former student, but was adopted by Mr. Benedict just like Number Two. She poses as a student during Mr. If they agreed to cheat however, they would not pass the quiz. She was the only person who was kind to Reynie at the orphanage, and adopts Reynie at the end of the story. She also spoke Tamil, which she was teaching Reynie during their lessons. Rutger is the Stonetown Orphanage director.

Chapter 4 : The Mysterious Benedict Society Book Review

This book wasn't really a story-- it was just a collection of puzzles and riddles, along with a few bits of additional information about the characters in The Mysterious Benedict Society books. I enjoyed the puzzles and word games throughout the book, but I would have enjoyed another narrative volume of the series better.

The Mysterious Benedict Society: Curtain has caught up with you at last. In fact, his wheelchair is now only sixty feet away from where you are securely tied up. Much to his chagrin, however, Mr. Curtain tries to move forward sixty feet, his wheelchair goes only half that far. Of course, this means he is now only thirty feet away. He zooms forward, but again only half as far as he would like. In this manner, Mr. Curtain keeps lurching forward, each time getting closer. But with every lurch, he covers only half the distance that remains between you. At what time will Mr. Curtain reach you? If you keep dividing a number in half, will you ever reach zero? Being able to break a task down into an infinite number of steps is not the same as proving that that task requires an infinite amount of time to complete. Moving any object from one point to another suffers from the same "difficulty", but ordinary motion does seem to be possible in the real world. In this particular case, the problem statement is sufficiently ambiguous that almost any result is possible. We have no idea, for example, how the speed of the chair depends on time. How does the chair accelerate when it starts to move? If it stops, how does it decelerate to a stop? Presumably, "his wheelchair goes only half that far" means that it stops after it has gone "half that far", but for how long does it remain stopped? Does Mr. Curtain restart it instantaneously, or must it stay at rest for some non-zero time interval? The time he spends stopped at each attempt to move does not even need to be zero. If the stopped time is only shrinking as fast as the time he spends moving, then "NEVER" is the wrong answer. The mathematics of infinite sequences and series like these might not be familiar, even to exceptional children, so it might have been better to omit this kind of problem, tempting as it may have been, rather than to include such a sloppy example with such a misleading "Hint". Also, while far from the biggest blemish in this problem, a starting distance of sixty-four feet rather than sixty feet would have allowed more even divisions by two. Thirty-two meters might have been an even better choice. Apparently, the baker himself gets none. If you required only two pieces of pie, you could simply make a single cut down the middle. But if everyone who wants a piece is to enjoy one, what is the smallest number of cuts you must make? What, exactly, does "cut" mean here? Edge to edge, or anywhere to anywhere? One gracefully curving cut alone can yield any reasonable number of pieces. While four straight, edge-to-edge cuts can yield nine pieces, how many other piece counts can be obtained using four straight, edge-to-edge cuts? Consider simpler problems first. How many pieces can be obtained using zero straight, edge-to-edge cuts? Follow this link to see some related pictures. The Ten Men page 76 [The laser in a typical laser pointer is not a particularly powerful laser, but the difference is entirely quantitative, not in any way qualitative. Again, literature on this topic abounds. A small, weak laser and a large, powerful laser are both lasers. A laser is a laser. Whisperer pages 78, 79 For quantity and quality of defects, this one wins the prize. The original diagram is reproduced at the right. Near a high reflective wall, you succeed in taking control of Mr. Curtain. This transmitter emits a spherical energy field capable of disabling any electrical device. Your mission is to disable the Whisperer, which is positioned nearby. Where should you aim the transmitter on the reflective wall in order to disable the Whisperer? As the Pointless Man once said, "A point in every direction is the same as no point at all. In the original diagram, there is no obvious barrier between the Salamander and the Whisperer, so why would any rational person waste the time and effort needed to calculate a bank shot off a reflective wall, when a direct shot seems eminently practical? Indeed, with a "spherical energy field", quite unavoidable. The ray-gun-like transmitter on the Salamander seems obvious enough, but where, exactly, is "the Whisperer"? That is, at what, exactly, are we supposed to aim? In the original diagram, the Whisperer is so large that nothing like a precise aim seems possible. The Hint page suggests an understanding of how a mirror works which is confused, at best: Draw a ninety-degree angle that emanates from the wall. One of its rays must meet the end of the transmitter, while the other ray meets the Whisperer. Mirrors do not always reflect at ninety-degree angles. Assuming that a ninety-degree angle would appear anywhere in a problem like this is asking for an express

ticket to the wrong answer. The negative numbers in the number line along the reflective wall were an interesting touch especially quirky with Up being more negative , but seem more likely to cause confusion than to be helpful in any way. Click on the diagram to get a clean image, suitable for printing. Here, S denotes the transmitter on the Salamander. W denotes the target on the Whisperer. B denotes a Barrier between the Salamander and the Whisperer. R denotes the Reflective wall. In this layout unlike in the original diagram , every object has a well-defined position, and a Barrier B blocks any direct shot. For convenience, the coordinate system was chosen to place the reflective surface of the Reflective wall at horizontal coordinate 0. The vertical coordinates are entirely arbitrary, with 0 at no special location. Solving the problem still requires knowing how a mirror works in the real world. Follow this link to see a solution. One might wonder what the expected not really the "right" answer was. Other transfer protocols abound, although not all of them have acronyms which include "TP". A transfer protocol describes a system of formats and procedures used to exchange messages between computers or even between parts of a single computer. It is definitely not "a universal standard for addressing websites on the Internet. A name like "www. In a URI like " http: In fact, strictly speaking, because it lacks a scheme, the example provided, "www. Nowadays, almost any Web browser will add "http: Now look at what the Web browser has in its address window. That most likely is a URI. It would be nice if every complex topic had a nice, simple explanation. Sadly, too much simplifying tends to produce an explanation which may be nice and simple, but as untrue as it is simple. Trying to cram an accurate explanation of the World-Wide Web, the Internet, Internet transfer protocols, the HyperText Transfer Protocol, the Domain Name System, and everything else back there into one short sentence is probably doomed to fail.

Chapter 5 : The Mysterious Benedict Society - Wikipedia

A gorgeous paperback gift set of the New York Times bestselling Mysterious Benedict Society books as well as the prequel novel and the companion puzzle book, all featuring fresh, updated covers!

Chapter 6 : NPR Choice page

This exclusive companion book to the bestselling Mysterious Benedict Society series is a mind-bending collection that will put YOU to the test! With full-color artwork throughout, this companion features ingenious new puzzles, riddles, and brainteasers compiled by Mr. Benedict himself, with the help of Reynie, Kate, Sticky, Constance, and other Society associates.

Chapter 7 : The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

A puzzle book featuring puzzles, character profiles, and other information from Mr. Benedict, Reynie, Sticky, Kate, and Constance. Contents[show] The Message in the Advertisements This puzzle is page 4.

Chapter 8 : Kids' Wings Activities for The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

The Mysterious Benedict Society: Mr. Benedict's Book of Perplexing Puzzles, Elusive Enigmas, and Curious Conundrums by Trenton Lee Stewart (Preview).

Chapter 9 : Puzzles and Logic - The Mysterious Benedict Society

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