



The Case of Hermie the Missing Hamster

James Preller , R.W. Alley (Illustrator)

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Early chapter book readers have a new classroom hero in clever, dependable, puzzle-crazy Jigsaw Jones. With the help of his Top Secret Detective Journal and his ace partner, Mila, Jigsaw is hot on the trail of Hermie the missing hamster.

The Case of Hermie the Missing Hamster Details

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Author : James Preller , R.W. Alley (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Case of Hermie the Missing Hamster for online ebook

Max Stapleton says

This book had hamsters in it.

Laila (BigReadingLife) says

My son liked this one and I did too. I think it's a perfect choice for kids new to chapter books. I especially liked that the kids weren't unnecessarily sarcastic.

Brenda says

I picked this book because it looked like an easy read and what I found was a great story and great writer. There is several PBS shows that this books reminds me of, because it's about a kid who is 6, whose name is Theodore, but he calls himself Jigsaw Jones, he works on cases in his neighborhood for a \$1 a day and he goes about these cases in a very believable way, he investigates and he reads and studies to find the answer. In this book his neighbor has lost his hamster, one of two and can't find him. With the help of his friend Mila, they go to libraries, pet shops and teachers for help. They get a list of possible suspects, they put this case together like a jigsaw puzzle, hence the name.

I found this very enjoyable and there are nearly 30 books to the series, you do not have to read them in order and I am looking forward to reading as many as I can find at my local library and online.

Julia Orr says

The funniest part of the book was when Jigsaw puked on Jake's shoes.

Cynthia says

My 6 year old and 4 year old both love me to read this series aloud to them. We usually divide the books over two nights reading the first half one night and the second half the next. The mysteries are simple, but interesting to budding young detectives. Sometimes I laugh at things that are go over my boys' heads, but that's what makes them so much fun to read aloud. I think I'll have them re-read this series when they get a little older and are learning to read independantly.

Abbie says

Jigsaw Jones solves mysteries for the kids in the neighborhood for a dollar a day. At the start of the novel, he is sitting in his tree house office working on a jigsaw puzzle when he is interrupted by his neighbor, Wingnut (so called because his ears stick out). Wingnut has lost his pet hamster, Hermie, and is desperate for Jigsaw's help. With the help of his partner, Mila, Jigsaw begins an investigation by exploring the scene of the crime, conducting research, and interviewing experts and suspects.

This book made me laugh with its clear allusions to hard-boiled detective novels of the 40's. It begins thus, "It was Sunday afternoon, 4:36 P.M. I was in my office on the dirty side of town. Okay, actually I was in my treehouse in the backyard." Jigsaw even has a girl Friday in the form of Mila who is his perfect partner with complimentary skills.

The book is also peppered with subtle education bonuses like Mila's song about short vowels and the teacher's guidance in Jigsaw's research. (Grades 2-5)

Jack Norton says

I really just wanted to get my pages. It wasn't great.

Joanna Price says

ages 6-9. In the very first Jigsaw Jones mystery, Theodore "Jigsaw" Jones solves the case of his friend's missing hamster. The first suspect is his friend's brother's snake, and the second is a vacuum cleaner, but in the end, there's a twist about Hermie that hamster that will make children squeal and adults chuckle-- for separate reasons of course. Preller ingeniously creates a story that is both amusing for children and for adults, and he accurately captures the feelings of a young boy in an affectionate and humorous. These transitional chapter books are outstanding in their class for delivering funny, compelling narrative with solid storylines. These books are essential additions to public and school library youth collections.

Chak says

We've been through Young Cam Jansen, Cam Jansen, Nate the Great, etc. and were looking for a new kid-detective series and came across Jigsaw Jones. The kid seems entertained, but I LOVE these books. They're written in this noir fashion that cracks me up. There's a lot of improv material here.

This first Jigsaw Jones mystery opens with "It was Sunday afternoon, 4:36 p.m. I was in my office on the dirty side of town." C'mon! Hysterical for a kid's book. The neighbor Timothy is called "Wingnut" because his ears are so big. The ubiquitous "For a dollar a day, I make problems go away," is going to be my new catchphrase.

A hard-boiled detective thriller for kids 5-8 - genius!

Charlotte Skibicki says

Great story to start the series off with.

Lydia says

I'm not going to rate this whole series, even though I read all of them years ago. I loved this series!

Cassandra S. Kiel says

Perfect reading for 2nd grade boys!

CJ says

Jigsaw Jones was the first series I ever read. Every one of these books is amazing and I remember loving every single one. I loved them so much I almost wrote a letter to James Preller telling him how awesome they are! These should be read by every kid as the first things they read.

H says

I like this series more than the more forced A to Z children's mysteries because it feels more natural and smoother and reactions aren't as forced. That said, the logic in this one is a bit weaker...but I prefer how the protagonist is more proactive in this about obtaining clues and following leads on his own.

I also think it's lighter in tone and more fun and more relatable. Some things are very juvenile like him finding "love" yucky but some things are also extremely sweet and heartwarming like when he gives his \$5 (a lot of money to him) to a Christmas money pot for needy kids in the missing coin snowman book (book 2 I think)

Overall still weak as a mystery but light and enjoyable for young boys. Some archaic/outdated ideas though.

Shannon Leal says

Mystery

4 Stars

A unique feature about this book is that when reading it, you feel as though you are solving the case as well. You really connect with the main character and you are brought right into his head, that you feel as though his thoughts are your thoughts and it makes it very intriguing.

Grades: 2-5

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