Terrific Mystery Books for Children and Young Adults

An Amazon List by Geraldine A. (Jerri) Garretson (Jerri is a children's librarian and author of children's and young adult books who lives in Sun City Center, Florida)

“If you love a good mystery like I do, and you have a hard time finding single titles (as opposed to series books), here are some you will surely enjoy! I’ve included picture book mysteries (which are quite sophisticated!), children’s fiction, and young adult mysteries, and even an occasional series title to give you a clue which series I like. Damned, I have to limit this list to just 40 titles, which means I have to leave out some excellent books. I hope you’ll find them on your own. One way I limited it was to eliminate sequels. Happy clue hunting!”

1. Where’s the Big Bad Wolf? by Eileen Christelow

2. The Mystery of King Karfu (Casebook of Seymour Sleuth) by Doug Cushman

3. The Top Secret Files of Mother Goose! by Gabby Gosling
   Jerri says: “This is truly clever, original, and mysterious.”

4. Eleventh Hour by Graeme Base
   Jerri says: “Sophisticated, puzzling fun.”

5. The Ghost and Mrs. Hobbs by Cynthia Defelice

6. The Malted Falcon: A Chet Gecko Mystery by Bruce Hale
   Jerri says: “Chet Gecko mysteries are great fun!”

7. Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception (Sammy Keyes) by Wendelin Van Draanen
   Jerri says: “One of the excellent Sammy Keyes series. Enjoy them all.”

8. Ghost Soldier by Elaine Marie Alphin

9. The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

10. Following Fake Man by Barbara Ware Holmes

11. How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found by Sara Nickerson

12. Search for the Shadowman by Joan Lowery Nixon

13. The Kidnappers by Willo Davis Roberts

14. The Skeleton in the Smithsonian (A Stepping Stone Book™) by Ron Roy
   Jerri says: “Part of the A to Z Mystery series. If you like this one, you have another list to start on. :)”

15. The Case of the Goblin Pearls (Chinatown Mystery No. 1) by Laurence Yep

16. The House With a Clock In Its Walls (Lewis Barnavelt) by John Bellairs

17. The Dead Man in Indian Creek by Mary Downing Hahn

18. Alien Secrets by Annette Curtis Klause
19. The Dollhouse Murders by Betty Ren Wright

20. Counterfeit Son by Elaine Marie Alphin

21. The Presence: A Ghost Story by Eve Bunting
   Jerri says: "One of the eeriest, scariest, and most up-to-date ghost stories I've ever read. Ghost stories are often mysteries, too, and this one is."

22. Artemis Fowl (Artemis Fowl, Book 1) by Eoin Colfer
   Jerri says: "If you enjoy this one, be sure to read the sequels!"

23. Point Blank (Alex Rider Adventure) by Anthony Horowitz

24. The Wreckers (The High Seas Trilogy) by Iain Lawrence
   Jerri says: "If you like it, read the Smugglers, the sequel."

25. The Killer's Cousin by Nancy Werlin

26. The Secret of Whispering Springs by Jerri Garretson
   Jerri says: "Eerie, gripping ghost story and mystery. Yes, I wrote it, and I'm sure you'll enjoy reading it."

27. Dead Girls Don't Write Letters by Gail Giles

28. Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

29. The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn (The Samurai Mysteries) by Dorothy Hoobler

30. The Demon in the Teahouse (The Samurai Mysteries) by Dorothy Hoobler

31. Acceleration (Readers Circle) by Graham Mcnamee

32. The Body of Christopher Creed by Carol Plum-Ucci

33. Twisted Summer by Willo Davis Roberts

34. Never Trust a Dead Man by Vivian Vande Velde

36. The Boy in the Burning House by Tim Wynne-Jones

37. The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore by Joan Lowery Nixon

38. Whispers from the Dead by Joan Lowery Nixon

39. The Grounding of Group 6 by Julian F. Thompson

40. Time Stops for No Mouse: A Hemux Tantamoq Adventure (Hemux Tantamoq Adventure) by Michael Hoeye
   Jerri says: "Be sure to read the sequel, The Sands of Time."