

**Virginia Beach Library Foundation
Jan Stauber Grant Program – final report**

A Description of the completed project:

We successfully presented a murder mystery party for 36 teenagers at the MEO Central Library. The event, inspired by the renowned literary detective Sherlock Holmes, the mystery game, a *Murder on Baker Street*, provided participants with an immersive and interactive experience from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Teen attendees selected parts (including Holmes, Watson, Lord Blackwood and Ada Adler), and those who came without costumes were able to enter a raffle for some costume pieces. All were given hardbound pocket notebooks and pens upon arrival, setting the stage for their participation in the Holmes mystery narrative. A book tasting of teen mystery novels was available in the common area for browsing. Participants were divided into two concurrent dinner groups, each tasked with solving the crime while in character and socializing. A pasta supper and dessert were served by costumed staff members, reinforcing the thematic ambiance of the event. A mocktails bar featuring Sherlock Holmes-inspired punch drinks was available throughout the event, providing refreshments while participants immersed themselves in the mystery. Additionally, a photo booth was accessible for participants to capture memories of their experience. Attendees left with a copy of a Sherlock Holmes Triple Feature volume that contained the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stories *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Sign of Four*, and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as well as measuring bookmarks to use to increase their powers of observation, like Holmes.

The goals that were achieved

The project successfully increased the participants' interest in reading, introduced them to Sherlock Holmes and helped them discover more about the mystery genre by providing them with an immersive experience centered around the beloved literary character, Sherlock Holmes. Attendees were given Sherlock Holmes books and encouraged to participate actively in solving a mystery that described and had them portray some of Doyle's characters, thereby fostering a deeper appreciation for the literature. The mystery plot itself was based around a common theme in the mystery genre: the house party. The mystery genre book tasting expanded interest beyond the Doyle texts to adjacent stories and young adult modern stories.

The event fostered a sense of community and belonging among our teen participants through the interactive storytelling and mystery-solving activities. By dividing participants into two concurrent groups, the project encouraged collaboration and communication among a manageable sized group of peers, enhancing social skills and fostering a sense of camaraderie in each dinner group.

The project's impact on the grantee, organization, and participants:

- The project enhanced the organization's reputation as a hub for community engagement and innovative programming, attracting a diverse audience of teenagers to the library.
- The success of the event garnered positive attention from teen and adult stakeholders, contributing to increased visibility and recognition for the grantee organization and for Sherlock Holmes and the novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle within our community.

Copies of materials and photos: Please see attached

Attendance: 36 teens

**GRADES
6-12**



Teen **MURDER MYSTERY** *Dinner Party*



Support for this program is provided by the Jan Stauber Grant Program of the Beacon Society and Friends of the Virginia Beach Public Library.

Step into the thrilling world of detective mysteries at our Murder Mystery Dinner. Join forces with your fellow sleuths to solve the crime. Dress in your finest Sherlock Holmes attire, dine on a delectable dinner and put your deductive skills to the test while vying for fantastic prizes. The game is afoot! The library awaits your arrival.



Teen Readers Society (TRS) members, expect VIP surprises!
Not a TRS member? Join now at vbpl.beanstack.org!

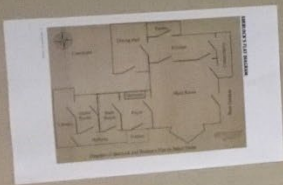
Friday, March 22, 6 - 9 p.m. **at Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd.**

Registration is required at www.VirginiaBeach.gov/library-events

Customers may request a reasonable accommodation for programs. Requests must be made directly to the branch manager at the time of program registration, but no later than 48 hours before a scheduled event.



CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH
**Public
Library**



GUEST LIST
[Text describing a list of guests, including names and details.]

STREET DIRECTORY
[Text describing a directory of streets, including names and addresses.]

STREET DIRECTORY
[Text describing a directory of streets, including names and addresses.]

[Text document with multiple columns of text, possibly a list or index.]





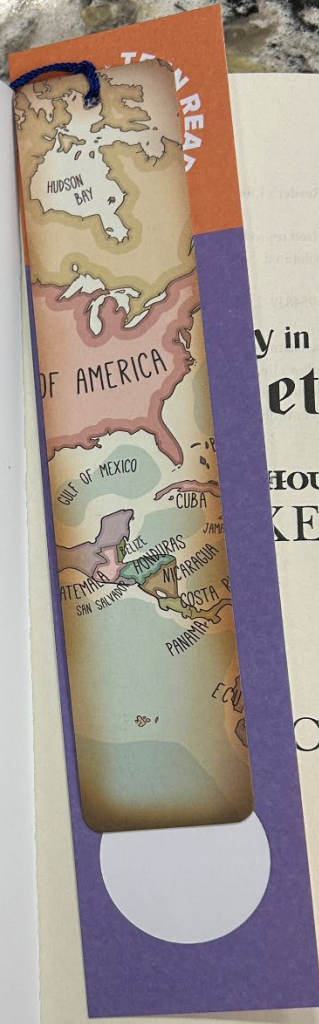




Funding for this book was provided through the **Jan Stauber Grant Fund** of the Beacon Society, a scion of the Baker Street Irregulars.



For more information on introducing young people to Sherlock Holmes, visit BeaconSociety.com



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FOUND OF THE
KERVILLES

Conan Doyle



Historical
Mystery

THE BOOK OF JEROME
THE SILENT SISTER
THE PLACE ON PAPER
THE LAST STILL

Dark
Academia

THE BAD PEOPLE
STARS
ACE OF SPADES

where echoes die
WE DON'T SWIM HERE

THE MIST
THE MIST



Book Tasting Menu

Dystopian Mystery

The Getaway – Lamar Giles
The Darkness Outside Us – Eliot Schrefer

Horror Mystery

Where Echoes Die – Courtney Gould
We Don't Swim Here – Vincent Tirado

Magical Elements

The Honeys – Ryan La Sala
The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester – Maya MacGregor
Elatsoe – Darcie Little Badger

Dark Academia

The Lies We Tell – Katie Zhao
S.T.A.G.S. – M. A. Bennett
Very Bad People – Kit Frick
Ace of Spades – Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé

Historical Mystery

The Vanishing Stairs – Maureen Johnson
Pride and Premeditation – Tirzah Price
Stalking Jack the Ripper – Kerri Maniscalco
The Shadow Sister – Lily Meade
Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche – Nancy Springer

Mystery/Thriller

Hollow Fires – Samira Ahmed
The Box in the Woods – Maureen Johnson
Bianca Torre is Afraid of Everything – Justina Pucella Winans
Lying in the Deep – Diana Urquhart
Going Dark – Melissa de la Cruz
A Long Stretch of Bad Days – McGinnis
We Deserve Monuments – Jas Hammond
You Were Never Here – Kathleen Peacock

