

Mysterious Benedict Society, The (Book #1)

Trenton Lee Stewart

Reviewed by: Paufa Phanachet, 14

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

The Mysterious Benedict Society is a book about a group of gifted children sent into an undercover mission to infiltrate the prestigious Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened (LIVE). Our protagonist, Reynie Muldoon, responds to an ad in the newspaper that reads, "ARE YOU A GIFTED CHILD LOOKING FOR SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES?" He goes through a series of strange tests and in the end, he and 3 other peculiar children are the only ones that pass. Sticky Washington remembers everything he reads, Kate Wetherall carries a bucket around filled with everything she might need in tricky situations and Constance Contraire is very small, very rude and very stubborn. These 4 children must journey to the LIVE to foil the plans of Mr. Curtain, an evil mastermind attempting to take over the world.

I would say I enjoyed this book. There were some interesting puzzles and plot twists. The characters were endearing and the ending was fabulous. On the other hand, the book can get a little long and drawn-out and it is a time commitment. The plot seems to present itself in two chunks. They are both awesome but slightly disconnected. If you like the first half, however, you are bound to like the second bit.

I would recommend this book to children over 8 years old. This is not a YA novel by any means so teenagers should be open to a book aimed towards children. I would recommend borrowing this book from the library. It isn't a book with flowery quotes to go back to and it is quite long to reread.

Recommended Titles:

- Wildwood by Colin Meloy (Book #1 of the Wildwood Chronicles)
- The Name of this Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch (Book #1 of the Secret Series)
- A Series of Unfortunate Event series by Daniel Handler