

## Story Summary

The LaRue Detective Agency has gained a reputation at The Biltmore as *the* investigators to call, so it's no surprise when they are asked to solve the catnapping case. What is a surprise: being asked to keep this investigation top secret! Will the LaRue detective agency have what it takes to solve this challenging case?

A murder mystery movie is being filmed in the courtyard of the Biltmore, starring a celebrity building resident, Bijou, the fluffy white cat famous for inheriting the entire fortune of a popular designer—including his Biltmore apartment. But when filming is paused for the day, Tiya, the daughter of Bijou's nanny, reports that the famous feline was catnapped! The LaRue detective agency is hired...but there is just one catch, the investigation must remain top secret. How can Elodie question suspects when she can't admit Bijou is missing? This investigation will require new tactics, a keen eye, and help from her friends!

Colored illustrations by award-winning artist, Peggy Collins, are scattered throughout the story, bringing additional humor to the cast of quirky characters.

From the award-winning author of *The Umbrella House*, Colleen Nelson brings another New York apartment building to life in *Mystery at the Biltmore*. Written with charm and wit, *Mystery at The Biltmore* is *Only Murders in the Building* meets *Harriet the Spy*.

Juvenile Fiction Ages 8–12 | ISBN: 978-1-77278-336-0 | Pages: 136

### **Reading Level**

Fountas & Pinnell: T

Lexile: 740L

### **BISAC Codes**

JUV028000 JUVENILE FICTION / Mysteries & Detective Stories

JUV014000 JUVENILE FICTION / Girls & Women

JUV039060 JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Friendship

JUV021000 JUVENILE FICTION / Law & Crime

JUV023000 JUVENILE FICTION / Lifestyles / City & Town Life

JUV030060 JUVENILE FICTION / Places / United States

## Before Reading: making your own Investigation Diary

A black-line master has been included for educators to use. Cut along all dashed-lines and staple it all the together. (You may also choose to make a larger version by folding three papers in half and stapling them together.)

Mystery novels share a few key elements:

- crime
- suspects
- clues
- motives
- solution

As you read, add details about these key elements to your Investigation Diary to help solve the crime.

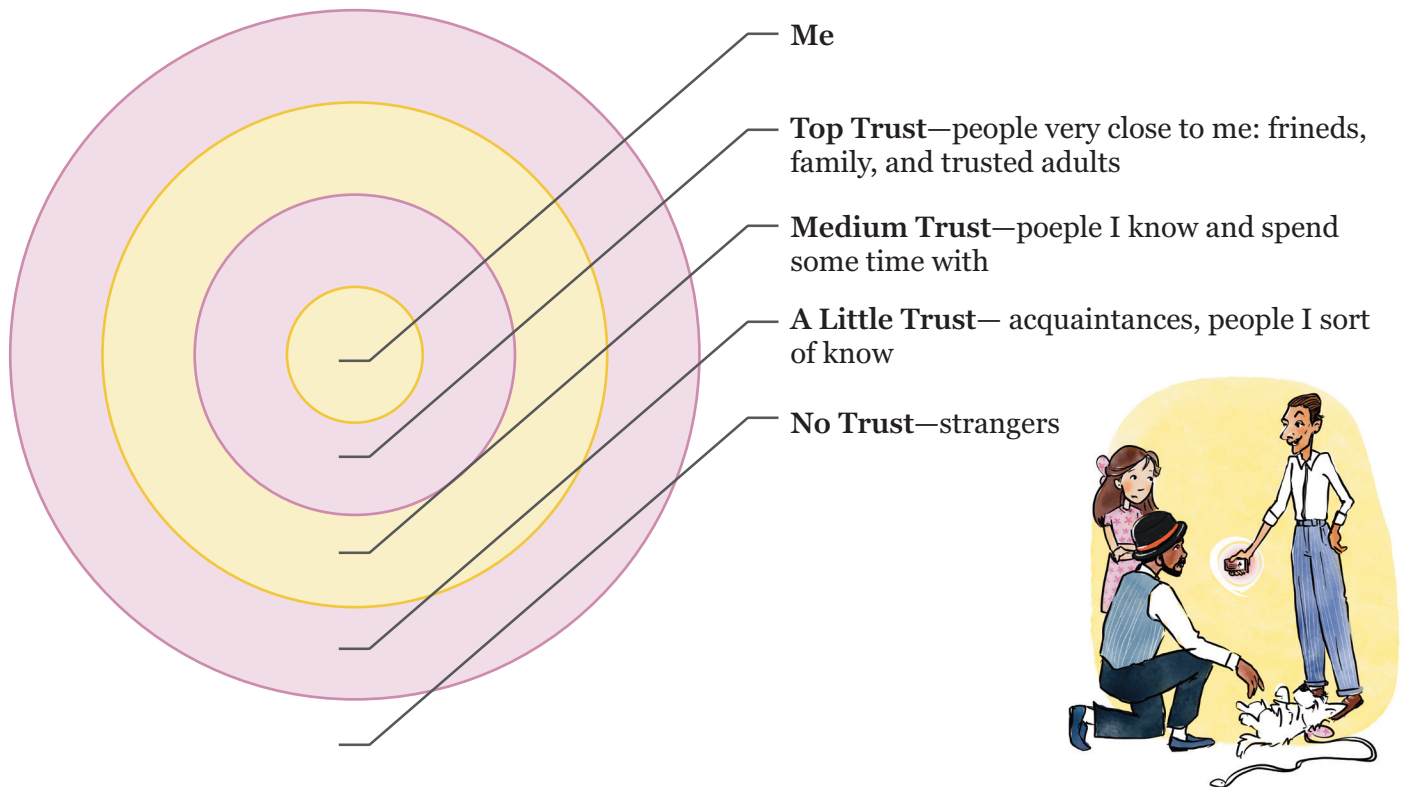


## During Reading:

1. Tiya wants to keep the case ‘classified,’ or secret. Is this a good idea? Have you ever kept something classified?
2. Oscar has added a new talent to his repertoire. What is one special skill you have? Or, what’s a special skill you wished you had?
3. Elodie has many qualities that make her a good detective. What are three? What qualities do *you* have that would make you a good detective?
4. In Chapter 6, Elodie proves that she is a good friend to Oscar. What happens? When is a time someone has been a good friend to you? Or, when have you been a good friend?
5. Create Bijou’s birthday invitation. What important information needs to be included? Draw a photo of Bijou on the front.
6. In Chapter 10, Oscar helps Elodie a few times. Make a list and rank them in order of what was most helpful.
7. Plan your ultimate birthday party. Where will it be? Who will be the entertainment? How will you decorate? What will you eat?
8. Bijou means jewel in French. Why is this a good name for her? If you had a pet, what would you name them? Why? If you have a pet, how did they get their name?

## After Reading:

1. Elodie is reminded to cherish the people she cares about at the end of the book. Based on who you've met in *The Classified Catnapping* (and *The Vanderhoff Heist*, if you read it), make a Circle of Trust. (See example diagram below). Make your own Circle of Trust using the blank template at the end.



2. The West Side Spy-der wrote an article to spread rumors about Bijou's disappearance. Write an article that tells the truth, either about the catnapping, or her reappearance. You'll need to include a catchy headline, the 5 W's, and at least one quote from someone involved in the case. Use your investigation diary to help you.
3. Rewrite a scene in the book from Bijou's point of view. How would she feel about what is happening? What would she notice?

*This Teacher's Guide was written by award-winning author and middle-school teacher, Colleen Nelson. Colleen Nelson is the author of Mystery at the Biltmore!*

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Crime

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Investigation Diary

Suspects

Clues

Motives

Solution

## Circle of Trust

