

NYPL After School Activity Guide


4th–6th Grade

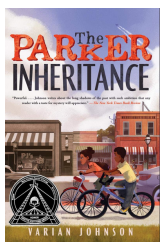


INVESTIGATE

In this packet you'll find tips, books we love, and activities all about investigating. Investigating means looking closely at something in order to learn something new, solve a problem, or answer a question. If you create something you love, submit a picture of your work to our virtual gallery at nypl.org/afterschool.

BOOKS WE LOVE

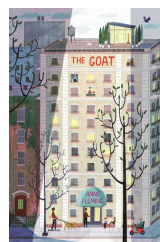
These books are some of our favorites about investigations and investigating. To check them out, place a hold online at nypl.org or call Ask NYPL (917-275-6975). If you are at a branch, ask a librarian how to place a hold. Books marked with a  are available as e-books.



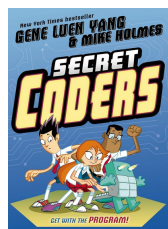
The Parker Inheritance
Varian Johnson



Goldie Vance: The Hotel Whodunit
Lilliam Rivera



The Goat
Anne Fleming



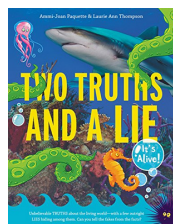
Secret Coders
Gene Luen Yang & Mike Holmes



Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers
Celia C. Pérez



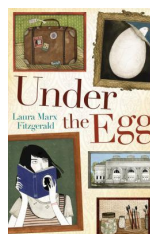
Clean Getaway
Nic Stone



Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive!
Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Anne Thompson



From the Desk of Zoe Washington
Janae Marks



Under the Egg
Laura Marx Fitzgerald



QUICK TIPS

- Keep an investigation journal. Notice what is happening in your neighborhood, watch current events, or dig deeper into a topic you've always been curious about.
- Write a story about a character who solves a mystery. What happened to the missing library books? Who is that strange new person in town? Come up with your own ideas!

INVESTIGATE BY WRITING A STORY FOR A NEWSPAPER

Newspapers contain stories about current events. The journalists who write these stories have to investigate in order to find out the facts. They then take those facts and write them into stories so we can understand what is happening in our communities and in our world.

Not sure what to write about? Think about something that is important to you, that has happened recently, or that you have a question about.



My Topic (*example: Family history*)

Now think about the central question you want to answer with your story. Define that central question by using Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How to help you start your question!



My Central Question (*example: Who was my grandmother at my age?*)



My Follow-Up Questions (*example: Where did you grow up? What was your favorite book? Where did you go to school? What is a happy memory you have from when you were my age?*)



Now it's time to find the answers to your questions! To do so, you can interview someone or do research by finding information on books or websites. Start writing what you learn below but you'll likely need to get another sheet of paper.

After you have answered your questions, pull out a blank sheet of paper and write a draft of your investigative story. Don't forget to give it a title and to use proper spelling and punctuation. Once you have your story just the way you like it, copy it into the blank newspaper page on the next page!

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

INVESTIGATE USING SHADOW PUPPETS

Shadow puppetry is a form of storytelling that goes back thousands of years and is practiced all over the world! Try your hand at building a movable puppet and experimenting with different light effects to tell your own story.

Materials

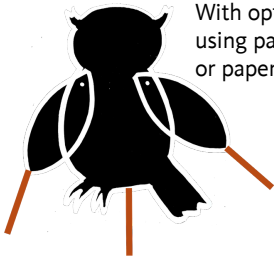
- Straws, sticks, or pencils
- Tape
- Flashlight (tip: use a phone!)
- Paper fasteners or paper clips (optional)

Steps

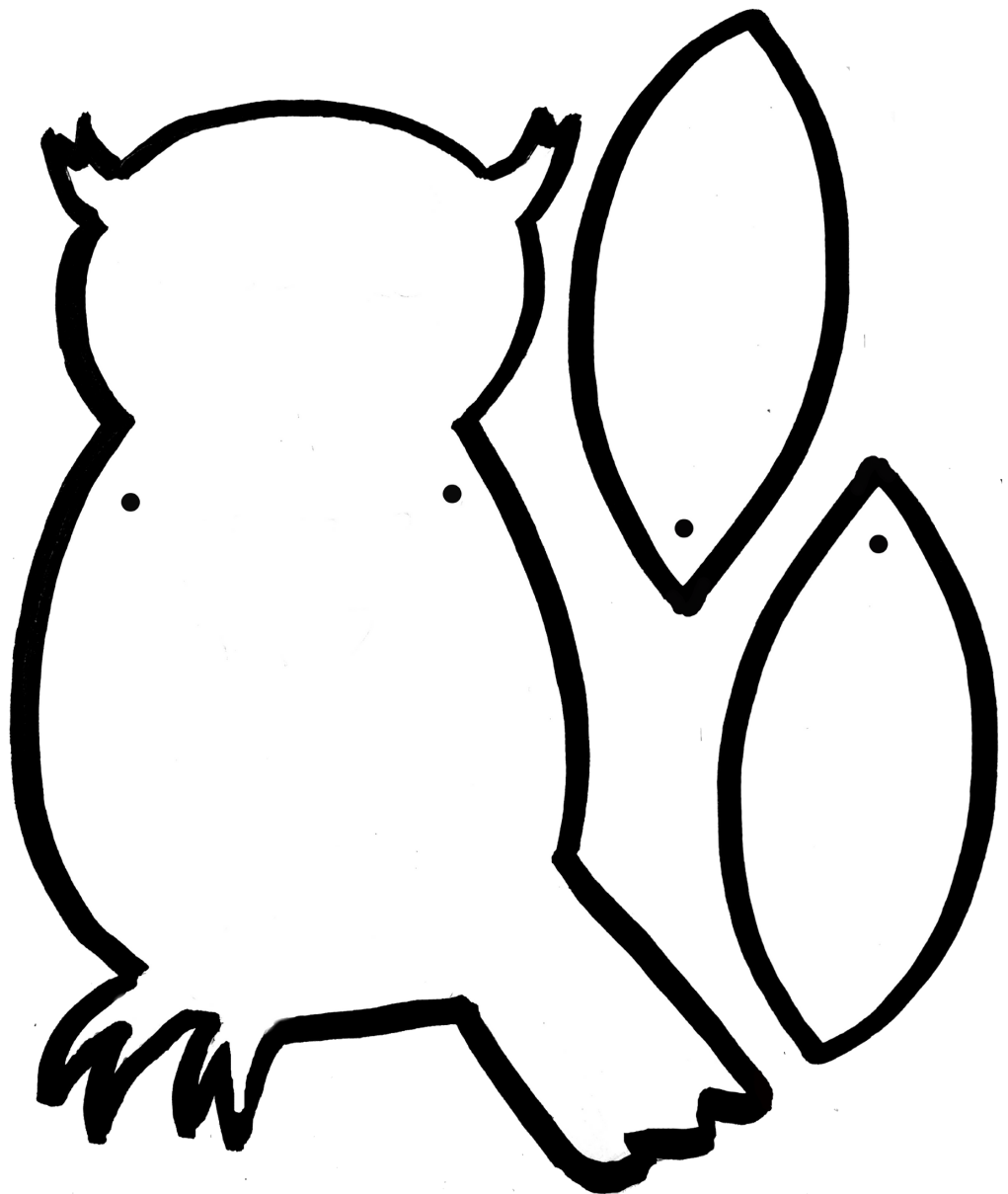
1. Cut out the template.
2. Tape a stick to the back.
3. Optional: Add wings by lining up the dots and using paper fasteners to attach. Tape sticks to each wing.
4. Hold your puppet up to a wall and shine a bright light behind it in a darkened room.



Without optional wings



With optional wings
using paper fasteners
or paper clips



Investigate!

- What happens when you move your puppet closer to the light source? Further away?
- Try using other types of paper. Which is best?
- How can you make your puppet move?
- How could you build your own template?