

TO THE TEACHER

The short, high-interest reading passages in this book were written to capture the interest of readers who are not reading at grade level. The engaging “mini mystery” format encourages the reader to become a detective and solve the mystery they are reading along with the main character.

The Flesch-Kincaid Readability Scale was used to determine the approximate reading level for each story. Use your own judgment to determine if the story is at an appropriate reading level for your student. Since the story is high interest, there may be vocabulary that the student is not familiar with. On the **Words to Know** pages, we have featured these words along with their definitions and a sample sentence. In some cases, students may need extra help pronouncing the names of the people, places, or things in the story.

Start with the **Before You Read** page. Take some time to discuss the **Background Information** with the student. This will help to set the scene for each mystery. All of these stories take place in interesting locations in and around New York City. A map skills activity can be added by asking students to find New York City on a map. **What Do You Know** and **Make a Prediction** are extra activities to enhance the learning process.

Add a research element by asking students to use the Internet, an encyclopedia, atlas or other resource to find out more about the topic in the story or where the story takes place.

After You Read engages students in the comprehension process of reading. These research-based activities follow state standards and incorporate some of the **Best Practices in Reading**.

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Introducing Detective Hanlon

Detective Hanlon has worked in the twenty-third precinct of the New York City police department for over 20 years. Whenever there is an intriguing mystery to be solved, his boss, Captain Sweeney, calls on Detective Hanlon.

A famous racehorse is missing; someone has painted graffiti on the Empire State Building; there is a pickpocket at Yankee Stadium. Hanlon's cases take him all over the amazing city of New York.

Join Detective Hanlon as he follows the clues and solves each mystery!



Name: _____

Before You Read

To Start

1. Read about Detective Hanlon.
2. Read the title of the story.
3. Read the **Background Information**.
4. Get familiar with the **Words to Know** list.

Background Information

This story takes place at the **Central Park Zoo** in Manhattan, New York. Central Park was planned in 1853. It became the first landscaped public park in the United States. More than 20,000 workers removed rocks with dynamite and planted 270,000 trees. It opened to the public in the winter of 1859. The zoo was opened in 1871.



What Do You Know?

Write something you already know about Central Park or zoos.

Make a Prediction

Using the information from the title, the Words to Know list, and the Background Information, write what you think might happen in the story. Then, read the story to find out if your prediction is correct.

Name: _____

Words To Know

exhibited

presented or shown

*Example: The new cars were **exhibited** for the first time.*

glanced

looked at quickly

*Example: He **glanced** at his watch as he drove down the highway.*

handkerchief

a square, soft piece of cloth used to wipe the face or nose

*Example: He wiped the sweat off his face with a **handkerchief**.*

approximately

nearly; about

*Example: We had **approximately** three inches of snow.*

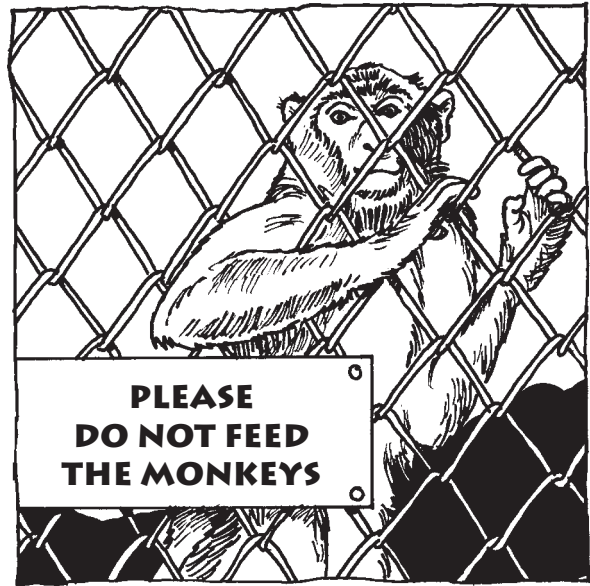
Choose two words from above and use each in a new sentence.

1. _____

2. _____

The Mystery of the Central Park Zoo

Detective Hanlon entered the African Monkey exhibit at the Central Park Zoo. It was very crowded. Visitors were watching the monkeys. As he glanced at the exhibit, he noticed a man with his back to the monkey cage. Behind him, a monkey reached through the bars for the man's red handkerchief. Just as the monkey was about to grab the handkerchief, the man moved out of reach.



Earlier that day, Detective Hanlon received an emergency call. It was from the zoo's manager, Jake Robinson. The master key that opened all of the cages had been stolen.

Detective Hanlon left the African Monkey exhibit and headed to Jake Robinson's office.

"Mr. Robinson? I'm Detective Hanlon. Approximately how long has the master key been missing?" asked Hanlon.

"Since about three o'clock yesterday afternoon. I keep it on a stick with a metal keychain that goes through a hole on the end. I always keep it in my back pocket while I'm walking around the zoo," said Robinson.

"Have there been any threats against the zoo recently?" asked Hanlon.

"No, however, there are people who think wild animals shouldn't be exhibited in zoos. I'm always worried about them trying to free the animals," answered Robinson.

"Where were you yesterday before three o'clock?" asked Hanlon.

"I was feeding the African Monkeys. Why?" he asked.

"I think I know where your key is. I won't need my handcuffs for this thief," said Detective Hanlon.

Think about it...

Hanlon knows who took the keys. Do you?

Name: _____

After You Read

Reading for Details

1. Why did the zoo manager call Detective Hanlon?

2. Where did Jake Robinson always keep the master key?

Drawing Conclusions

3. Why won't Detective Hanlon need his handcuffs for the thief?

Sequence

4. Put these events in the order that they happened in the story.

- _____ Hanlon went to the zoo manager's office.
- _____ Hanlon saw a monkey try to grab a man's handkerchief.
- _____ The zoo manager described the missing key.

Locating the Answer

5. Write the sentence in the story that tells why the monkey couldn't get the handkerchief.

Name: _____

After You Read *(continued)*

Fact or Opinion *(Write F for fact, O for opinion)*

6. _____ Central Park is in New York.
7. _____ Jake Robinson is the manager of the zoo.
8. Using the information in the story, write an opinion.

Inference

9. Why do you think some people are against having wild animals exhibited in zoos?

Summarizing

10. Write two sentences to tell what happens in the story.
