

For Teachers

GRADES 1–4



One story for the whole class. Each Hamburg Superdetectives book comes in three reading editions: grade 1 (ages 6+), grade 2 (ages 7+), and grades 3 and 4 (ages 8–10). All three tell the same mystery, with sentence structure, vocabulary, print size, and line spacing adapted to each reading level. Grade is a guide; reading ability matters most. Each child reads at their own level, and everyone can still discuss the same case.

Resources

- Chapter 1 sample in three reading levels (free PDFs on the website under “For Press, Schools, and Libraries”)
- Worksheet 1: Reading and Understanding
- Worksheet 2: The Detective Code
- Worksheet 3: My Detective Backpack and Discussion Cards
- Answers on Page 5

Differentiation

- ★ matches Reading Level 1 (grade 1)
- ★★ matches Reading Level 2 (grade 2)
- ★★★ matches Reading Level 3 (grades 3/4)
- Each child starts with their star level and may try further activities.
- All questions can be answered using any of the three editions.

Suggested Lesson (About 45 Minutes)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 5 min. | Warm-up: Show a picture of the houseboat. “What is a houseboat? Who might live here?” |
| 15 min. | Reading: Each child reads Chapter 1 at their reading level, alone or with a reading partner. Tip: use the five-finger test as a rough guide to choosing a level. |
| 10 min. | Worksheet 1: Questions about the text, graded by stars. |
| 10 min. | Worksheet 2: Decode secret messages and write your own, ideally with a partner. |
| 5 min. | Discussion Circle: The three questions from the book (discussion cards on Worksheet 3). Worksheet 3 also works as homework. |

Learning Goals: Find information in a text · match characters with their animals · suggest and explain ideas · notice letters carefully (Detective Code) · discuss a shared text.

Feedback, class sets, author readings: contact@thehamburgsuperdetectives.com

Worksheet 1 · Reading and Understanding

NAME _____

GRADE _____

DATE _____

★ Check the answer.

1. Where does the houseboat rock?

☐ on the Elbe ☐ on the Alster ☐ in the harbor

2. What color is the roof?

☐ blue ☐ green ☐ red

3. What does the chimney say?

☐ HAMBURG ☐ DETECTIVES ☐ ALSTER

4. What was stolen from Miniatur Wunderland?

☐ a gold ship ☐ a crown ☐ binoculars

★★ Who goes with whom? Draw lines to match them.

Finn



● Charlie, the red-orange cat

Mia



● Maili, the dog

Greta



● Hamsti-Hams, the hamster

Lia



● Alva, the black cat

Ben



● Lulu and Rocky, the guinea pigs

One more question: how do the children find out about the theft?

★★★ Write your answers.

1. Alva only says, "Something mysterious. Last night. At Wunderland." Why is her clue so important?

2. Who might have taken the gold ship—and why? Make a guess.

Worksheet 2 · The Detective Code

SECRET

NAME _____

GRADE _____

DATE _____

How the Detective Code Works

Move each letter **3 places** forward in the alphabet. A becomes D, B becomes E, and so on. At the end, start over: X becomes A.

Top row: normal letters. Bottom row: secret letters. To decode, read from bottom to top.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C

★ **Decode the word.**

K R X V H E R D W

★★ **Where do the detectives meet?**

P H H W D W W K H D O V W H U

★★★ **A message about a cat.**

D O Y D V H H V H Y H U B W K L Q J

Write a secret message for your partner. Can they crack it?

You can also try the Detective Code with a key of your choice on the website, under “Join In.”

Worksheet 3 · Detective Backpack

CHAPTER 1

NAME _____

GRADE _____

DATE _____

My Detective Backpack

Ben always carries his backpack full of inventions. What would you pack in your detective backpack before setting off on an adventure? Draw your backpack.

My Backpack

☐

because...

☐

because...

☐

because...

CUT-OUT DISCUSSION CARDS

Do You Remember?

Where do the Hamburg Superdetectives meet?

Think It Through

Why is Alva's clue important?

Imagine More

What would you pack in your detective backpack before setting off on an adventure?

Answers

FOR TEACHERS

Worksheet 1

★ 1. on the Alster · 2. red · 3. DETECTIVES · 4. a gold ship

★★ Finn—Maili · Mia—Lulu and Rocky · Greta—Alva · Lia—Charlie · Ben—Hamsti-Hams.

The children learn about the theft because Mia reads the news aloud from her tablet.

★★★ 1. Open-ended answer. Possible ideas: Alva senses that something mysterious has happened before the others know about it; her clue gives the time (last night) and place (Miniatuur Wunderland) and puts the detectives on the trail. 2. Open-ended answer; any guess supported by a reason counts. The book reveals the solution.

Worksheet 2

★ HOUSEBOAT · ★★ MEET AT THE ALSTER · ★★★ ALVA SEES EVERYTHING

Worksheet 3

Open-ended answers. Discussion prompts: which of these would help you on a real adventure? What does Ben carry in the book? (Reading Levels 2 and 3: a mini drone, a clue scanner, a powerful magnifying glass, and a jar of super-sticky glue.)

Good to Know

The Superdetectives are five children and six animals with special abilities. Lia understands the animals' language and translates for her friends. Only Alva's short, riddling words are understood directly by the whole team. There is no violence in the series. The detectives tell guesses from proof and also ask about a character's reasons—understanding does not mean mistakes have no consequences.

More Cases and Resources: Book 1, "The Hamburg Superdetectives and the Shadow in the Speicherstadt," is coming soon in English in paperback and e-book, in three reading editions. With each book, the detectives travel to a new real city; 15 are planned. New classroom resources accompany every book. To receive them first, write to us: contact@thehamburgsuperdetectives.com