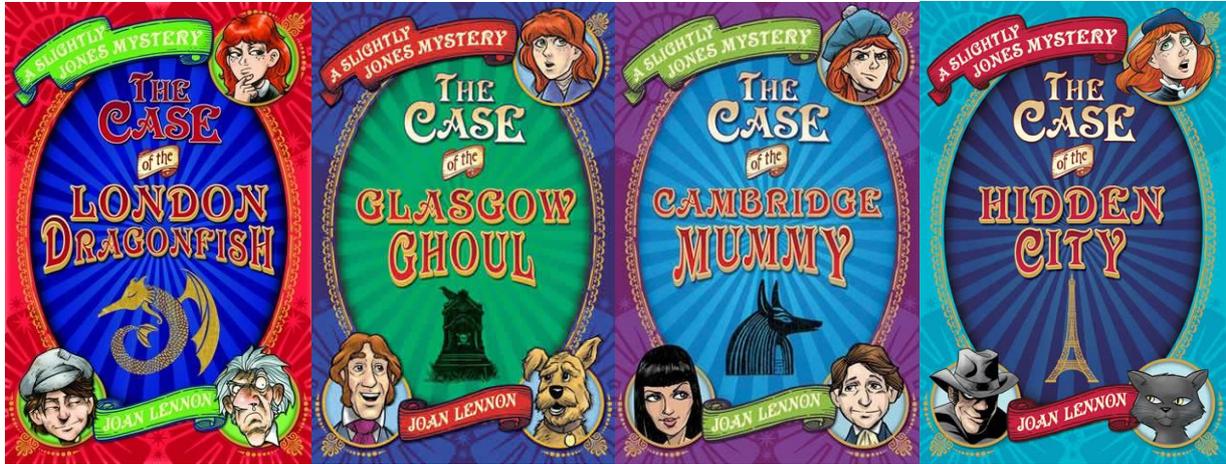


The Slightly Jones Mysteries by Joan Lennon



Published by Catnip books

The Slightly Jones series is set in the Victorian Age, in the 1890s. Our heroine is a spindly, quick-tempered, red-haired girl with a burning ambition – to become as good a detective as the great Sherlock Holmes himself! She lives in London, in the mysteriously-named Limpopo House, with Granny Tonic and a collection of eccentric lodgers.

At the end of each book there is a section of weird and wonderful facts about the Victorians, such as how best to get a job in the Fire Brigade, or how to behave on an omnibus. There is also a quiz relating to the city and the museum each book is centred around.

'... fun and fast-paced mystery novel, with a strong sense of time and place ...'

Books from Scotland Children's Choice

'The story romps along ...'

Books for Keeps

'Overtones of Sherlock Holmes and an authentic ... background make this an excellent read with plenty of tension as well as highly enjoyable text and entertaining dialogue ...'

Parents in Touch

'Oh hello there lovely book, where have you been all my life ... We're about to become Slightly obsessed! For ages 8-11, the Slightly Jones mystery books are wonderful, packed with historical detail without feeling too dry and laborious. In fact they're about as rip-roaring as it gets.'

Read It, Daddy!

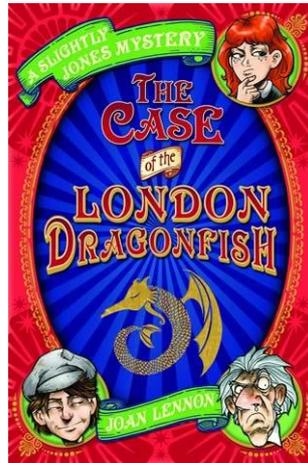
'[Slightly's] bright enquiring mind and her keen eye for detail allow her to make connections and discover the truths criminals would prefer to leave hidden, and even in moments of dark and deadly peril she never gives up trying. She is a heroine readers could easily imagine having as a friend.'

Linda Lawlor *The Bookbag*

The Case of the London Dragonfish: Shortlisted for the Scottish Children's Book Awards;
A Lovereading4kids Recommended Summer Read

The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul: Books from Scotland Children's Choice;
Shortlisted for the Lancashire Fantastic Book Award

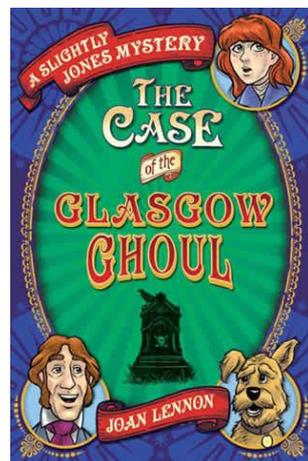
The Slightly Jones Mysteries



The Case of the London Dragonfish

ISBN: 9781846470981

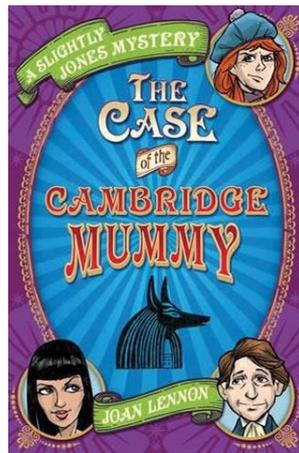
A priceless fossil has been stolen - an innocent man has been accused - cryptic clues have emerged - and the hunt is on! Can Slightly Jones solve the mystery? Or is her dream of becoming as good a detective as Sherlock Holmes going to be dashed at the first hurdle?



The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul

ISBN: 9781846471148

In her second adventure, Slightly travels the length of the land with Granny Tonic and the Gentler brothers to solve a puzzling enigma – who is stealing all those apparently random artefacts from the Hunterian Museum? And how are they managing it? Is it really a one-legged man with a trained ape? Or is the answer something even stranger?

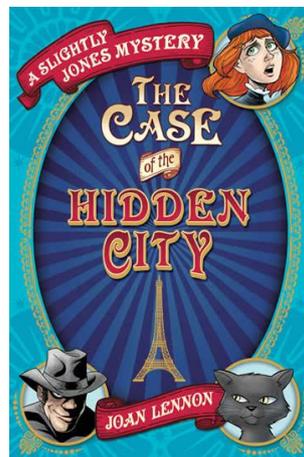


The Case of the Cambridge Mummy

ISBN: 9781846471407

A cursed necklace – a ghastly glowing mummy – the mysterious destruction of beautiful fragile artefacts – things are looking grim in wintry Cambridge.

Slightly finds herself teamed up with cocky Matthew Bone again in this adventure of Victorian danger and detecting, but who will end up saving whom? And what on earth do bicycles and bloomers have to do with it?



The Case of the Hidden City

ISBN: 9781846471704

‘Maria kidnapped. Dare tell no one. Ransom demand signed Hidden City. Afraid.’ Slightly Jones arrives in the City of Art and Artists in response to a bewildering telegram. But will her first case out of her own country prove too much for our detective-in-training? Will she discover the truth, or will she be lost forever beneath the streets of Paris?

The Slightly Jones Mysteries by Joan Lennon

Teachers' Notes

Topics for Discussion or Class Projects:

1. Each Slightly Jones Mystery is built around one of the great Victorian museums. Have any of your pupils visited such a museum? What did it look like? Why did the Victorians build so many?
2. Each Slightly Jones story is dedicated to a lesser-known Victorian hero or heroine. Your class could choose their own favourite Victorian and find out about their lives.
3. Each of Slightly's cases is set in a different city. Your class could choose a city and find out what has changed since Slightly's time - and what has stayed the same! Buildings, sewers, underground trains, libraries, hospitals - the Victorians are still with us today.
4. The Victorians were great inventors. They were also enthusiastic developers of ideas and technologies. We have them to thank for many of the things that seem completely ordinary to us now, like electricity, telephones, cameras, toilets. But some of the things they invented were very weird indeed. What about the electric corset? Or the moustache spoon? Or the monowheel? What are the strangest Victorian inventions your class can find?
5. The Victorians would advertise anything! Your class could google "Victorian Ads" and go to the Images site. After looking at some of the ads they might want to draw their own Victorian style advert for some outrageous inventions of their own.
6. I've included "A DIY Detective Story Kit" in these notes for your class to use in writing their own mysteries.

A DIY Detective Story Writing Kit

Here's what you'll need ...

1. Somewhere – for the crime to happen. It can be anywhere, from the Queen's bathroom in Buckingham Palace to the far side of the Moon! As long as you can picture it in your mind, you can use it for your story.
2. Something – that's been stolen. What's in the place you've imagined that a thief might want to snatch?
3. Someone – well, several someones. You need a detective – my detective is Slightly Jones. Who's yours? And you'll need some suspects. Who might have stolen the thing you've decided on? Then you need to think about how they got into the place you've imagined. And – this is important - why would they *want* to take the thing, whatever it is?
4. Some clues – Your detective can't just shut her eyes and point – she needs something to work on. The most unlikely things can provide the clues your detective desperately needs. There are always the old standards like footprints and fingerprints, but what about the ace of

spades from a deck of cards, a dropped fingerless glove or maybe a half-eaten apple?
Mysterious!

But then, if you don't want to write a really *boring* detective story, you definitely need one more thing. You need the magic ingredient. You need ...

5. **Misdirection** – You may have heard people talk about “red herrings” and wondered what they were on about. What used to happen was this. If you preserve a herring fish by smoking it, two things happen: 1.) it turns a sort of orangey-red colour and 2.) it gets a really strong smell. What the people who objected to fox hunting in the 19th century sometimes did was tie this smelly red(ish) herring to a string and drag it around where the fox hunt was going to be. When the hounds tried to find the fox they were led astray by the smell of the fish. Misdirection. And that's what a good detective story needs. Before your detective can get it right, she needs to get it wrong! This makes for hard-working detectives and satisfied readers when, at last, the penny drops, the light bulb goes on, and the real answer is found.

So, there you have it – your very own DIY Detective Story Writing Kit.

Well?

What are you waiting for?

Answers to the quiz questions at the back of each Slightly Jones Mystery

The Case of the London Dragonfish

Why would Morbley, Granny and Slightly have trouble getting into the crypt of All Souls Church in the 1890s? What's under there now?

All Souls Church didn't have a crypt in the 1890s. Today there is a Hall under the church, dug out in the 1970s.

Magturpisres longissnomen is Latin (sort of) for "great big ugly something with a long name".

Matthew Bone's Victorian thieves slang. Here's what the words mean in modern English:

wipe = handkerchief

rozzers = policemen

geezer = man

slavey = female servant

rum fogle = fine handkerchief

moniker = name

nab = steal

scarper = run away

nick = steal

needful = money

The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul

The Roman numeral MDCCCLXXXVI is the date 1886.

If you got on the Glasgow Subway the day after it opened in 1896, how long would it take you to go right round the system?

It would have taken you a little over a month. That's because even though the Subway opened first thing on 14 December 1896, it closed the same day, because of a derailment on the inner circle, and a collision on the outer circle. It didn't open again until 21 January 1897 – five weeks later.

The Case of the Cambridge Mummy

True or False?

a) Miss Sprottle was right when she said that women would become fully part of Cambridge University very soon – certainly before the beginning of the new 20th century.

FALSE. It was not until 1947 that women were finally made full members of the university.

b) The effigy of the lady on a bicycle was hung out in the town centre in 1897, in protest against the idea of women being given degrees.

TRUE. The male students were so appalled at the thought of females earning degrees that they hung an effigy of a bicycling lady, wearing bloomers, out of a second storey window, and wore "NO WOMEN" signs in their hats.

c) In Victorian times, some people thought that too much studying would make a female's brain overheat.

TRUE. Unfortunately this is unlikely to work as an excuse to your teacher nowadays. "Sorry, Miss, I couldn't do my homework because my brain overheated ..."

Do you know who Pegasus was?

Pegasus was a mythological winged horse.

What does the Egyptian name Kepi mean?

It means tempest or storm.

The Case of the Hidden City

The answer to *How many people are thought to be interred in the Catacombs under Paris?* is

c) 6,000,000

True or False?

a) *The popular 19th century travel guide, Murray's Handbook to Paris, tells us that "in the Boulevard Neuf a building near the Barriere d'Enfer suddenly sunk down into a hole 80 ft. deep, which created great alarm, and called public attention to the subject." He goes on to say that there's no need to worry, though, because "the whole subterranean region" has been mapped since the cave-in.*

It's TRUE that buildings sometimes collapsed into the tunnels and caverns under the city. But it's FALSE that the miles and miles of passageways and caves under Paris have all been mapped. To this day, only part of the "subterranean region" is known and recorded.

b) *Today many people travel to Paris from Britain by train, going through the Channel Tunnel. The first proposal for a Channel Tunnel was put forward early in the 20th century.*

FALSE. Out by 100 years! As early as 1802, French engineer Albert Mathieu had come up with the idea of a tunnel under the English Channel, lit by oil lamps, with horse-drawn coaches and an artificial island halfway across for changing horses.

c) *Because photography is so good now, the tradition of artists copying the masterpieces in the Louvre has mostly died out.*

FALSE. Copying the original paintings of the greatest artists is still seen as an excellent way to learn. Artists from all over the world who come to the Louvre to copy the paintings get permission – and the use of an easel – just as they have since 1793.

d) *The Mona Lisa has never been stolen.*

FALSE. The Mona Lisa went missing from the Louvre for more than two years! A man called Vincenzo Peruggia took the picture off the wall on the 21st August 1911 - a Monday – cleaning day at the museum – and walked out of the building with it. The next day, when the artist Louis Beroud came to work on a copy of the Mona Lisa he was making, nobody knew where the da Vinci painting had gone. It was hours before the officials realised it had, in fact, been stolen.

e) *Paris used to be completely under water.*

TRUE. Though the last time it was completely submerged was several million years ago, so a bit before the actual city ...

f) *In one of Sherlock Holmes' cases, he speaks of "the curious incident of the cat in the night-time."*

FALSE. It was a dog. Sherlock Holmes' author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, used the phrase in a short story called "Silver Blaze".

Do you know what these French words and phrases mean?

Le mal de mer = sea sickness

La cité cachée = the hidden city

Bonjour = Hello

Au revoir = Goodbye

La fissure = the crack

Reconnaissez-vous cette dame? = Do you recognize this lady?

The Slightly Jones Mysteries Quiz

Have you had the chance to read all of Slightly's adventures? See how well you know the four books of the series!

Granny Tonic's Sayings

In which book did Granny say the following:

- a) "It is wisest to strike while the toast is hot." *The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul*
- b) "I'm not having you fall on your head on the train tracks. It's bad manners!" *The Case of the Cambridge Mummy*
- c) "Granny is watching you." *The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul*
- d) "They should both just stew in their own juices till they're ready to come down off their high horse." *The Case of the Hidden City*
- e) "I'm always at home to interesting people." *The Case of the London Dragonfish*
- f) "I hate ginger!" *The Case of the Hidden City*

Objects

Each of these objects plays an important role in one of Slightly's cases. Do you know which book each is from?

- a) Anubis the jackal-headed Egyptian god - *The Case of the Cambridge Mummy*
- b) a gravestone - *The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul*
- c) the Eiffel Tower - *The Case of the Hidden City*
- d) a dragonfish fossil - *The Case of the London Dragonfish*

The lodgers at Limpopo House are an interesting lot! When they're not helping Slightly solve mysteries, which of them does which job?

Miss Sally Forth, Mr Reginald Westerly, Mr Malcolm Gentler, Mr Earnest Thurgood

- a) musician
- b) novelist
- c) translator
- d) artist
- e) night watchman

Answer: Miss Sally Forth is a translator, Mr Reginald Westerly is an artist, Mr Malcolm is a musician, and Mr Earnest Thurgood is both a novelist *and* a night watchman.

Characters in the Slightly Jones series

In which books do these characters appear:

- a) Mrs Mull – *The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul*
- b) Mellifluous Sprottle – *The Case of the Cambridge Mummy*
- c) North Canalbank, otherwise known as Jane – *The Case of the Glasgow Ghoul*
- d) Araminta du Perche – *The Case of the Hidden City*
- e) Frederick Twist – *The Case of the Cambridge Mummy*
- f) Octavian Snit – *The Case of the London Dragonfish*
- g) Morbley – *The Case of the London Dragonfish*