Free mystery and adventure stories for kids

Peabody · checked 2026-10-19

Peabody has 29 free mystery and adventure stories for kids, with clues to follow and journeys to take. They run from levels 6 to 15 and each opens at once with no sign-up. The table shows every story's level and length, so a grown-up can pick one that fits the reader. Free through the end of 2026.

- Story: The Blinking Lamp · Level: Level 6 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 218
- Story: The Hamster Who Went Out · Level: Level 6 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 212
- Story: The Scarecrow Moves · Level: Level 6 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 187
- Story: The Book That Came Back · Level: Level 7 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 275
- Story: The Floor With No Number · Level: Level 7 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 255
- Story: The Boxcar Children · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,395
- Story: The Squeaky Gate · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,188
- Story: The Steadfast Tin Soldier · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,175
- Story: Tam and the Wind-Up Tractor · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,148
- Story: The Case of the Missing Mangoes · Level: Level 10 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,210
- Story: Pandora's Box · Level: Level 10 · Kind: Classic · Words: 967
- Story: The Haunting of Bench Seven · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,355
- Story: The Lost and Found Desk · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,289
- Story: Pinocchio · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,803
- Story: Four Flights Up · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,642
- Story: Big Night at Spade Pond · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 2,240
- Story: Alice in Wonderland · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,860
- Story: Nobody Calls It Luck · Level: Level 12 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 2,426
- Story: The Debt of Ambrose Tilley · Level: Level 12 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,713
- Story: Sinbad and the Roc · Level: Level 13 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,637
- Story: The Thirteenth Stop · Level: Level 13 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,630
- Story: The Empty Birdcage · Level: Level 13 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 2,079
- Story: The Clock That Struck Thirteen · Level: Level 13 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 2,937
- Story: Tom Sawyer and the Fence · Level: Level 13 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,625
- Story: Around the World in Eighty Days · Level: Level 14 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,543
- Story: The Man with the Twisted Lip · Level: Level 15 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,523

- Story: The Blue Carbuncle · Level: Level 15 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,549
- Story: The Red-Headed League · Level: Level 15 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,499
- Story: The Clerk of Hollowmere · Level: Level 15 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,780

Picking one for your child

Every story here is sorted by Peabody's reading level, which is worked out from the text and never from the child. A lower level means shorter sentences and easier words, so start where your child can read about half of a story alone and read the rest together. If it is too hard, go down a level. If they race through it, go up.

For growing readers

9 are at levels 6 to 9: The Blinking Lamp, The Hamster Who Went Out, The Scarecrow Moves, The Book That Came Back, The Floor With No Number, The Boxcar Children and more. Longer stories, with more going on in each one.

For confident readers

20 are at levels 10 to 15: The Case of the Missing Mangoes, Pandora's Box, The Haunting of Bench Seven, The Lost and Found Desk, Pinocchio, Four Flights Up and more. These are for children who read chapters and longer passages on their own.

Reading them together

A grown-up can read any of these aloud from a phone or tablet, one page at a time, and a child who reads can take over. Where a device can speak, the story page has a Read to me button that reads each page aloud in the device's own voice. Every story page has a Print link too, if you would rather read on paper.

More free stories

- The whole library: free stories by reading level, no account needed.
- Classic stories retold short: fables, fairy tales, myths and legends.
- Free Greek myths for kids
- Free folk tales, tall tales and legends for kids
- Free classic fairy tales for kids
- Free nonfiction books for kids, one topic at three levels
- By level: Level 6 · Level 7 · Level 9 · Level 10 · Level 11 · Level 12 · Level 13 · Level 14 · Level 15

Questions parents ask

What reading level are these mystery and adventure stories?

They run across levels 6 to 15. Peabody works each level out from the story's text: how long the sentences are, how many words fit on a screen and how common the words are. The table shows the level of every story, so you can pick a lower or a higher one.

Are any of these stories scary?

None carries a mark above gentle, and none is on the scary stories shelf. The short description on each story's page says what it covers, so read it first if your child is sensitive.

Do the stories cost anything?

No. Every story on this page is free to read through the end of 2026, with no account and no card.

Free at peabody.kids/mystery-and-adventure-stories-for-kids