

THE READING ZONE

STUDENT BOOK REVIEW

Chasing Vermeer

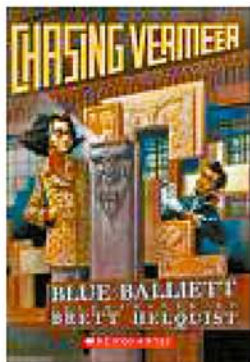
By Blue Balliett

Published by Scholastic Press

The book, *Chasing Vermeer* is a mystery with a little action and suspense thrown in. Petra and Calder, 11 year old classmates, are presented with a challenge to decipher a message sent in a letter to three adults in their community. The message will lead them to the recovery of a famous painting, *A Lady Writing* by Johannes Vermeer, a painter who actually did live in the 17th century.

Along the way, while solving the mystery, the children meet interesting people and visit intriguing places. Calder's pentaminoes (pieces of a puzzle created to make a large rectangle) are used as his thinking aids to solve the mystery.

Although the book was a little challenging, our class enjoyed working with pentaminoes and competing against each other. We also researched and learned about the artist Vermeer, a very colorful character. *We recommend this book if you like mysteries and solving puzzles. There is also a sequel titled: The Wright 3.*



Reviewed by ...

6th Grade Quest Class

St. Joseph School, Amherst

Top row Left to Right: Madeline Syrowski, Jared Sciarrotta, Ben Veneman, Rosie Mulholland.
Bottom row Left to Right: Matt Gross, Cody Schuler, Jonathan Laird, Jacob Sciarrotta.



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Kathy Loos

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