

Reader's Guide
For
I So Don't Do Mysteries
by
Barrie Summy
A Debut Middle Grade Novel

About the Book

Sherry (short for Sherlock) Baldwin is really psyched for Spring Break. One that includes hanging with Josh Morton, the coolest, cutest guy at school; clothes shopping with her best friend, Junie; and getting romance advice from Junie's mega popular, older cousin, Amber.

Enter Sherry's supercop mother. She's a ghost. A ghost who can only make contact with one person. Sherry. Mom's flunking out of the Academy of Spirits and will be banished to an afterlife for ghost failures if Sherry doesn't help her crack a case.

Their assignment: to stop a rhino heist from a wildlife park in Southern California

The problem: "Eeks! Ike! Ack!" Sherry squeals. "I so don't do mysteries."

About the Author

Barrie Summy grew up in Canada on a steady diet of books and tobogganing. She tries to read a book a week and always breaks for tea and cookies at three o'clock.

Barrie lives in California with her husband, four children, two veiled chameleons, a dwarf hamster and Dorothy the Dog. She's currently hard at work on the next *I So Don't Do* book.

Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the book, Sherry doesn't have a lot of self-confidence and doesn't believe she'll be able to solve the mystery. Have you ever tried something new you thought you wouldn't be good at? And then discovered you really were good at it after all?
2. Sherry and her best friend, Junie, are total opposites. Sherry is into fun, fashion and boys. And she has a great sense of humor. Junie is more serious about school and her future. Yet, somehow they've managed to remain friends since beginner swimming class. Are you similar or different from your best friend? In what ways?
3. Sherry's friends leave her out of many activities. She decides to be independent and detect on her own. Have you ever been left out? How did you handle it? Have you ever stuck up for someone who was being left out? What happened?

4. Sherry traveled from Phoenix to San Diego for Spring Break. Look on a map. How far did she travel? How many states was she in? Where have you traveled? Was it outside your own country? How long did it take to reach your destination? How many states have you visited?

5. *I So Don't Do Mysteries* is a mystery. A mystery has suspects, clues and red herrings. A suspect is someone you think is guilty of a crime. List the suspects in this book. A clue is anything that helps you solve the mystery. Name some clues in this book. A red herring is a misleading clue. Name a red herring.

Activity

1. Play a board game that is related to solving a mystery, such as Clue Junior, Clue, Guess Who, Mastermind for Kids, Mastermind, or The Secret Door.
2. Create your own board game based on the book.
3. Write a mystery play or a mystery as a group.