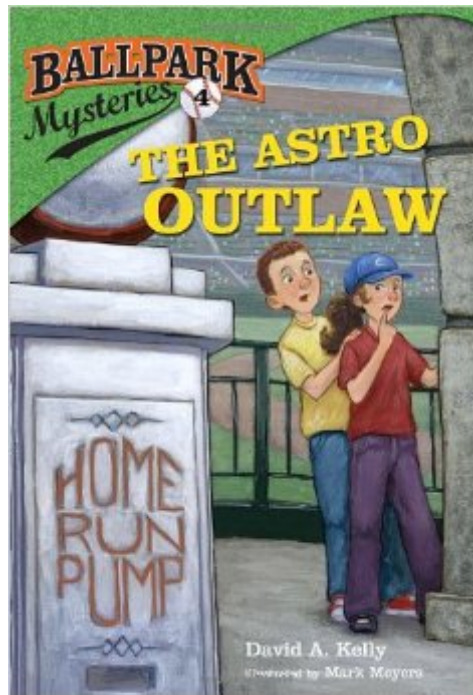


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# Ballpark Mysteries #4: The Astro Outlaw (A Stepping Stone Book(TM))



## Synopsis

Now batting clean-up! Book #4 in a new early chapter book mystery series where each book is set in a different American ballpark! Houston, we have a problem! Before a game at the Astros' ballpark, Mike and Kate get to meet astronaut commander Nick Rice at the nearby Houston Space Center. He's planning to display a very rare moonrock at an autographing event later. But just before the event, a nefarious outlaw knocks out the commander and steals the moonrock! Can Mike and Kate figure out who did it . . . when their only clue is a broken green feather? The Astro Outlaw includes a fun act page about the Houston Astros' stadium with trivia about the train on the outfield wall and the homerun gas pump. Cross Ron Roy's A to Z Mystery series with Matt Christopher's sports books and you get the Ballpark Mysteries: fun, puzzling whodunnits aimed at the younger brothers and sisters of John Feinstein's fans.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540L (What's this?)

Series: A Stepping Stone Book(TM) (Book 4)

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; A Stepping Stone Book edition (February 28, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375868836

ISBN-13: 978-0375868832

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,874 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#) #246 in [Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives](#) #301 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Mike Walsh and his cousin Kate Hopkins are back in book 4 of THE BALLPARK MYSTERIES, THE ASTRO OUTLAW. I'm a huge fan of this series because it incorporates sports, crime-solving, and facts young readers will eat up. In THE ASTRO OUTLAW, it's spring break and Mike and Kate are in

Houston, Texas. Not only do they get a VIP tour of NASA's Johnson Space Center, but they're also headed for an Astros' game. Commander Rice, an astronaut who gives them a tour of the Space Center will also be at the game with a real moon rock on display. However, when it comes time for him to step on the field, he's missing. That's when Mike and Kate step in to figure out what happened. Just like the other books in this series, young crime-solvers will eat up this mystery and enjoy solving the crime. Not only that, but they'll learn some history--for example, did you know Union Station was Houston's biggest train station and now it's the main entrance to the Astro's ballpark? Dugout Notes in the back also provide some fun facts and again, the illustrations by Mark Meyers bring the story to life. Seems as though Kelly has hit it out of the park yet again!

My 7 year old son is devouring this series! He has finished all the books and is eagerly awaiting the next one. He has to do 20 mins of reading a day for school and has a book report due each week. these books are the perfect length and he has never had trouble with the vocabulary or summarizing the plot. Highly recommended!

My son absolutely devoured these books. He's six and a huge baseball fan. These books are challenging enough that they take a while to read (we often alternate and read a few pages to him, then let him read to us) - which is a good thing b/c we've gotten through the series very fast! These books are fun, fact-filled and exciting for young readers. I highly recommend these books and I'm so glad that I stumbled across this series in an search. My son can't wait for book #6 to be released in February.

I've been buying the Kelley mystery books for my son and he absolutely eats them up. It's refreshing to see him take such an interest in reading when usually all he wants to do is play. He loves baseball and this series allows him to learn about it even when there's snow on the ground outside and the sport is out of season. As he embarks upon each new Kelley mystery, my wife and I look forward to learning fun facts ourselves about the different ballparks he's exploring through them over the course of our next several dinners or car rides. He's learning new things about the game, improving his reading skills, and having fun all at once. He's already looking forward to the Kansas City book this summer!

Using a baseball platform to give kids of all ages another who-done-it mystery book, author David A. Kelly did it again. This is a good mix about baseball and a crime story mystery. It is an easy fun to

read story filled with the action of excitement and who knows, you might be the lucky one to solve who stole the moonrock. I like all of David A. Kelly's baseball mysteries. I could sit for many hours all day trying to figure out who-done-it answering all the 5W questions â "who, what, where, when, what, and how. I strongly recommend that every body who likes baseball or not, read this book, I give it 5 stars, and I'm Marvin P. Ferguson, author of Boys On The Gold Coast.

We started reading this series to our almost 5 year old baseball fanatic. It is the first chapter book series we've ever read to him. He LOVES these books and begs us to read to him whenever he has a free moment. Best of all, he's starting to learn to read himself!!

I really enjoyed this kids book and even more importantly my kids loved it! This is an exciting kids "who done it" mystery story and while there is a baseball theme it's not so strong as to turn off the non-baseball fans. The story flows nicely and the characters are fun. The illustrations are good as well. I recommend this book to any young reader. I must now go out and buy book #2 "The Pinstripe Ghost" GO YANKEES!

This is a great book for nudging young nonfiction nuts in the direction of fiction. There are lots of little factoids throughout the story, and a terrific "Dugout Notes" section in the back of the book to satisfy your child's penchant for trivia. The mystery aspect of the story helps keep reluctant readers engaged and looking for clues until the end.

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