Notes for The John Bellairs Walk

John Bellairs was born in Marshall, Michigan on January 17, 1938. He grew up in Marshall and both his parents and grandparents lived in Marshall as well. As a young boy he roamed its streets and knew it well. When he began writing books, he adapted many of its streets, buildings, and surroundings to fit his stories. Bellairs described Marshall, Michigan well when he had Lewis Barnavelt say in the book *The House With a Clock in Its Walls*:

"To begin with, the town was marvelous. It was the sort of place he had always wanted to live in... It was full of tall, elaborately decorated old houses. Even the ordinary white-frame houses had things that made them seem different -- a stained-glass window or a bouquet of iron flowers on top of a cupola. And so many of the houses seemed to be hiding secrets."

The books listed below, written by John Bellairs or completed after his death by Brad Strickland, have frequent mention of Marshall, Michigan sites. You can find these titles in public libraries, school media centers, and book stores.

as "New Zebedee, Michigan" in the Lewis Barnavelt books:

The House With a Clock in Its Walls (1973)

The Figure in the Shadows (1975)

The Letter, the Witch, and the Ring (1976)

The Vengeance of the Witch-finder (1993) - Bellairs/Strickland

The Ghost in the Mirror (1993) - Bellairs/Strickland

The Doom of the Haunted Opera (1995) - Bellairs/Strickland

The Specter of the Magician's Museum (1998) - Brad Strickland

The Beast Under the Wizard's Bridge (2000) - Brad Strickland

The Tower at the End of the World (2001) - Brad Strickland

The Whistle, the Grave, and the Ghost (2003) - Brad Strickland

The House Where Nobody Lived (2006) - Brad Strickland

as "Hoosac, Minnesota" in the Anthony Monday books:

The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn (1978)

The Dark Secret of Weatherend (1984)

The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb (1988)

The Mansion in the Mist (1992)

as "Duston Heights, Massachusetts" in the Johnny Dixon books:

The Curse of the Blue Figurine (1983)

The Mummy, the Will, and the Crypt (1983)

The Spell of the Sorcerer's Skull (1984)

The Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost (1985)

The Eyes of the Killer Robot (1986)

The Chessmen of Doom (1989)

The Trolley to Yesterday (1989)

The Secret of the Underground Room (1990)

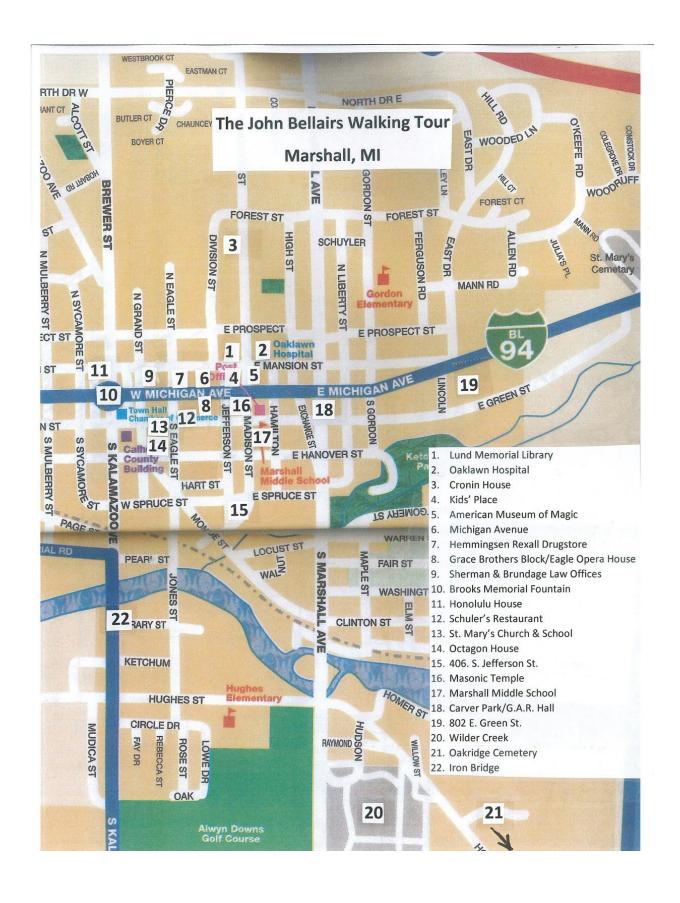
The Drum, the Doll, and the Zombie (1994) - Bellairs/Strickland

The Bell, the Book, and the Spellbinder (1997) - Brad Strickland

The Hand of the Necromancer (1998) - Brad Strickland

The Wrath of the Grinning Ghost (1999) - Brad Strickland

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The John Bellairs Walk

1. LUND MEMORIAL LIBRARY

111 E. Mansion St.

- Former Marshall Public Library
- Currently the American Museum of Magic Research Center, which houses a vast collection of books, photographs, and archival materials related to magic and magicians. www.americamuseumofmagic.org
- Prominent as the public library in "Hoosac, Minnesota," and the location of the "Anthony and Miss Eells" books:
 - The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn
 - o The Dark Secret of Weatherend
 - The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb
 - o The Mansion in the Mist
- Anthony Monday works as a library page; Miss Myra Eells is the Head Librarian.
- The library had a "little flight of inside steps that led to the main floor," a tower room reachable only by stairs in the furnace room.
- The treasure in *The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn* is found by Anthony in the weather-vane on top of the library tower.

2. OAKLAWN HOSPITAL

200 N. Madison Ave.

- Built by Sidney Ketchum in 1837 as a private residence; opened as a hospital with 12 beds in 1925.
- Used as inspiration for Oaklawn Hospital in The Figure in the Shadows:
 "Well, then, I want you to phone up Oaklawn Hospital and tell them to send an ambulance out here as fast as they can."
- "New Zebedee's hospital was in an enormous mansion that had once been owned by a rich old lady." ~ The Figure in the Shadows

3. CRONIN HOUSE

407 N. Madison St.

- Named a Michigan Historical Landmark in 1992. www.michmarkers.com
- The house where Lewis Barnavelt comes to live with his Uncle Jonathan, which figures in three novels:
 - o The House With a Clock in Its Walls
 - o The Figure in the Shadows
 - o The Letter, the Witch, and the Ring
- "100 High Street, New Zebedee, Capharnaum County, Michigan, pop. 6000." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls

- "...a 3-story stone mansion with a tall turret on the front...little oval window set like an eye in the bank of shingles at the top of the turret..." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- "As for the house at 100 High Street, it was every bit as wonderful as the town, besides being strange and more than a little bit scary. There were lots of rooms to explore... Each room had its own fireplace made of marble that looked -- depending on the room -- like blue cheese or fudge ripple ice cream or green hand soap or milk chocolate." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls

4. KIDS' PLACE - now Craft Photography Studio, 101 E. Michigan Ave.

106 N. Jefferson St.

- Former drug store and possible site of "Heemsoth's Rexall Store" used in:
 - The House With a Clock in Its Walls
 - o The Figure in the Shadows
 - o The Letter, the Witch, and the Ring

5. AMERICAN MUSEUM OF MAGIC www.americanmuseumofmagic.org

107 E. Michigan

- Named a Michigan Historic Landmark in 1985. www.michmarkers.com
- "Lewis and Rose Rita looked into a long, narrow room, cluttered with all sorts of weird objects: mummy cases, steamer trunks with swords thrust into them, a huge galvanized steel milk canister with its lid padlocked shut, shelves full of top hats, canes, wands and handcuffs, and on every wall poster after poster advertising magicians and their shows. Lewis saw placards announcing the Great Rapiri; the Hindoo Fakir; Long Chi the Chinese Marvel; the Mystic Marquis and His Thousand Wonders; and many more." ~ The Specter from the Magician's Museum
- Three real boys from Marshall -- Chad Britton, Chris Walsh, and James Gensterblum -- won the right to be included in *The Specter from the Magician's Museum* by knowing the answers to "the Great John Bellairs Trivia Contest" devised by author Brad Strickland.

6. MICHIGAN AVENUE

- Called "Main Street" in the "New Zebedee, Michigan" books. Michigan Avenue in Marshall was called Main Street until the state of Michigan required them to change it in 1923.
- "The town that Rose Rita and Lewis lived in was a small town and the main street was only three blocks long. On it were drug stores and ten cent stores and clothing stores and restaurants and bars." ~ The Figure in the Shadows

7. HEMMINGSEN REXALL DRUG STORE

- Possible site of "Heemsoth's Rexall Drug Store" used in several Bellairs novels.
- "It was five minutes to nine when the bus pulled up in front of Heemsoth's Rexall Drug Store in the town of New Zebedee." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- "...Lewis was sitting at the counter in Heemsoth's Drug Store. He had just had two hot dogs and two large cherry Cokes for lunch." ~ The Figure in the Shadows
- "They went into Heemsoth's Drug Store and took seats at a round table. The chairs were made of fussy twisted steel rods painted white, with puffy red leather seats that whoosed when you sat on the cushions, and the table had a matching red Formica top. Lewis ordered a vanilla ice-cream soda, Rose Rita a chocolate malt, and Hal produced enough dimes from his pocket to buy himself a root beer float." ~ The Sign of the Sinister Sorcerer

8. GRACE BROTHERS BLOCK/EAGLE OPERA HOUSE

SE corner of Michigan Avenue and Eagle Street

- The Grace Brothers Block, now encompassing the Great Escape Stage Company, Marshall Town and Country Antiques, The Plaid Herb and Trading in Grace Antiques, still holds the "remains" of the Eagle Opera House, "star" of The Doom of the Haunted Opera, a Bellairs/Strickland opus. The entrance to the opera house was on the west side of the building and is still discernible.
- "Sometimes Lewis just walked up and down Main Street and stared at the high elaborate false fronts of the stores. One of the stores had an abandoned opera house in its upper stories. Jonathan said that the old scenery was still up there, leaning against cases of Mounds bars and 5-cent writing tablets." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- "Curtained arches opened on either side [of the stage], with knee-high railings. The walls were a faded pink, with intricate designs in yellow and red framing the stage. In an oval to the left was the laughing mask of comedy, and to the right of the stage the grieving mask of tragedy, both done in faded gold. Overhead... a horseshoe-shaped balcony..."
 - ~ The Doom of the Haunted Opera

9. SHERMAN & BRUNDAGE LAW OFFICES

208 W. Michigan Avenue

Site of Elk's Cigar Store, run by John Bellairs's father until 1965.
 Prototype for "Monday's Cigar Store," a saloon on Main Street in "Hoosac, Minnesota" run by Anthony Monday's father in *The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn*, *The Dark Secret of Weatherend*, and *The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb*.

10. BROOKS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

Intersection of Michigan and Kalamazoo Avenues

- In all of the "New Zebedee, Michigan" books.
- "At the other end of Main Street there was a fountain that spumed a
 crystal willow tree from within a circle of marble columns. At night the
 fountain was lit up and turned from red to orange to yellow and from
 yellow to blue and from blue to green and back to red again." ~ The
 House With a Clock in Its Walls
- At Christmas "big tinsel-covered bells were strung across Main Street in several places, and the fountain at the traffic circle was turned into a nativity scene." ~ The Figure in the Shadows

11. HONOLULU HOUSE

107 N. Kalamazoo Ave.

- Named a Michigan Historic Landmark in 1972. www.michmarkers.com
- Built in 1860 as a private residence for Judge Abner Pratt.
- Now a museum and headquarters for the Marshall Historical Society.
- Inspiration for the Hawaii House in New Zebedee, Michigan, which is referred to in several Bellairs novels.
- "New Zebedee was different. It was full of tall, elaborately decorated old houses... And so many of the houses seemed to be hiding secrets."
 The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- "'Or maybe I'll buy the Hawaii House and take the roof off that sleeping porch on the top. That would be a dandy place for a telescope."
 - ~ The Beast Under the Wizard's Bridge
- "New Zebedee was stuffed with interesting old houses... One was even an imitation of a South Seas mansion. It had been built back in the 1800's by a New Zebedee native who had been a representative of the United States to the Sandwich Islands. ~ The Tower at the End of the World
- "The main part of the building stretched out long, with a three-story-tall veranda running around it, the overhanging roof so wide that it cast everything under it in deep shade. Right in the center of the structure rose a sort of squarish tower yet another story tall, with a strange, curving, sharply peaked roof over an open platform at least forty feet off the ground." ~ The House Where Nobody Lived

12. SCHULER'S RESTAURANT

115 S. Eagle St.

- Named a Michigan Historic Landmark in 1977. www.michmarkers.com
- Inspiration for Schuyler's Restaurant: "We met for lunch at Schuyler's Restaurant." ~ The Doom of the Haunted Opera

13. ST. MARY'S CHURCH & SCHOOL

Southwest corner of W. Green and Eagle Streets

- Used as the model for "St. Michael's Church" in *The Curse of the Blue Figurine*. The ghost of Father Baart is the chief villain in *The Curse of the Blue Figurine*. Father Baart was the builder of St. Mary's. John Bellairs attended school at St. Mary's.
- "A tall brick building with a brick steeple on the northeast corner. There
 were three big pointed wooden doors at the front of the church. A flight of
 worn stone steps led up to each one." ~ The Curse of the Blue Figurine

14. OCTAGON HOUSE

218 S. Eagle St.

- Inspiration for "Winterborn Mansion" in *The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn*.
- "The house had eight sides... It had a domed roof and a silly little cupola
 on top that looked like a salt shaker. A lot of wooden doodads that looked
 like giant acorns hung from the eaves... Kids cut back and forth across
 the yard on their way to and from school." ~ The Treasure of Alpheus
 Winterborn

15. 406 S. JEFFERSON STREET

- This was the actual home of John Bellairs's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs.
 John Monk. Although the house itself was never used in his books, John
 Bellairs's grandparents were the models for Johnny Dixon's grandparents
 in:
 - The Curse of the Blue Figurine
 - The Mummy, the Will, and the Crypt
 - The Spell of the Sorcerer's Skull
 - The Eyes of the Killer Robot
 - The Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost
- The Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost is dedicated to John Monk.

16. "MASONIC TEMPLE" - now Dance Dynamics

115 E. Green St.; NW corner of E. Green and S. Madison Streets

- Until 1987, this office building was Marshall's Masonic Temple.
- "Now he was passing the Masonic Temple, a tall four-story brick building
 It rose over him like a black cliff. There as a dark archway in the front of
 the building... A figure stepped forward from it... It raised a shadowy hand
 and motioned for him to come..." ~ The Figure in the Shadows

17. MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

100 E. Green St.

- Named a Michigan Historic Landmark in 1978. www.michmarkers.com
- This was formerly the Marshall High School, from which John Bellairs graduated in 1955. "Hoosac High School," in *The Lamp from the* Warlock's Tomb, was patterned after Marshall High School.
- ... he went down the "wide, slippery staircase... the shadowy main corridor, past the windows of the school office toward the entrance... the high columned porch." ~ The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb
- The chemistry lab on the third floor of the high school is where the "lamp" was hidden away... "in a closet with a heavy oak door [and, as it turns out, a trap door in the ceiling] at the back of the lab." ~ The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb

18. CARVER PARK/G.A.R. HALL

402 E. Michigan Avenue

- Named a Michigan Historic Landmark in 1983. www.michmarkers.com
- The G.A.R. Hall and Glen Carver Memorial Park are mentioned frequently in the Lewis Barnavelt books as a kind of eastern boundary to "New Zebedee's Main Street."
- "East End Park, a tiny park at the eastern end of Main Street [where] there were a few benches and a flower garden surrounded by a little iron fence." ~ The Figure in the Shadows

19. 802 E. GREEN STREET

 This was the Bellairs family home, described as "on Spruce Street, near the waterworks" in "New Zebedee," where Lewis Barnavelt's Uncle Jonathan used to live before moving to 100 High Street, "the house with a clock in its walls."

20. WILDER CREEK

10.5 mile tributary of the Kalamazoo River, located south/southeast of Marshall.

- Likely inspiration for Wilder Creek Bridge, Park & Roard in Capharnaum County that are featured in several Bellair novels.
- "Lewis recognized the place where they were fighting. It was Wilder Creek Park, which was just outside the city limits." ~ The Figure in the Shadows
- "When he had reached the CITY LIMITS sign, he poked around by the side of the road until he found a little wooden staircase that ran down the gravel bank to Wilder Creek Park. The creek was fairly shallow at this point..." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- "'That's Twelve Mile Road, and it runs into Wilder Creek Road."
 - ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls

- "At last they came to the top of a high hill and, there below them, glimmering peacefully in the starlight - the moon had gone down some time ago - was Wilder Creek." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- "By now it had been washed out into Wilder Creek and maybe even into Lake Michigan." ~ The Figure in the Shadows
- "Finally, in 1892, seven years after his uncle's death, he offered to replace the old wooden bridge over Wilder Creek with an iron one." ~ The Beast Under the Wizard's Bridge

21. OAKRIDGE CEMETERY

614 Dibble Rd (near Homer Rd)

- "New Zebedee's beautiful old cemetery was on a high hill just out of town. It was full of elaborate gravestones that showed weeping women leaning on urns and Cupids extinguishing torches. There were pillars made to look as if they had been broken and pillars with hands on top, pointing up. Lewis and Tarby picked out a mausoleum stuck into the side of the hill the graveyard was built on." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls
- "The cemetery stood atop a high, flat-topped ridge that rose just on the
 other side of Wilder Creek [note: Rice Creek]. You had to walk half a mile
 beyond the city limits and cross the creek to get to the road that ran up
 the ridge." ~ The House With a Clock in Its Walls

22. "IRON BRIDGE"

- S. Kalamazoo at Kalamazoo River
 - According to The House With a Clock in Its Walls, the builder of the iron bridge on this site put magic in the iron to keep evil from crossing the water. The Beast Under the Wizard's Bridge is about the consequences of taking the old bridge down.
 - The iron bridge no longer exists; it is now a concrete bridge.

Websites for more information:

http://www.bellairsia.com/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John Bellairs

http://www.oddthingsiveseen.com/2014/09/a-book-and-burial-site-grave-of-john.html

John Bellairs Books Available at the Marshall District Library

(All books are shelved under the call number **j Fic Bel**; some are in storage. See staff for assistance.)

Anthony Monday series:



The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn by John Bellairs (1978; AR: 5.2)

After stumbling upon a clue in the public library, Anthony searches for the treasure long rumored to have been hidden by a wealthy, eccentric citizen of their small town.

The Dark Secret of Weatherend by John Bellairs (1984; AR: n/a)

Fourteen-year-old Anthony Monday of Hoosac, Minnesota, and his friend Miss Eells, the Hoosac librarian, try to stop an evil wizard from turning the world into an icy wasteland.

The Lamp from the Warlock's Tomb by John Bellairs (1988; AR: 5.9)

Anthony Monday and Miss Eells recover a magic lamp that was stolen from a warlock's tomb and is spreading evil to further the wicked ends of the thief.



The Mansion in the Mist by John Bellairs (1992; AR: 6.0)

While spending the summer in an old house on a desolate Canadian island, Anthony Monday and Miss Eells discover a chest that can transport them to another world and a maniacal group who are plotting the destruction of people on Earth.

Johnny Dixon series:



The Curse of the Blue Figurine by John Bellairs (1983; AR: 5.1)

Johnny Dixon is plunged into a terrifying mystery-adventure when he removes a blue figurine from church.

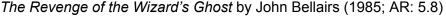
The Mummy, the Will, and the Crypt by John Bellairs (1983; AR: 5.3)

Twelve-year old Johnny Dixon and his friend Professor Childermass look for the hidden will left by an eccentric cereal tycoon who wished to make life difficult for his heirs after his own death by suicide

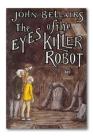


The Spell of the Sorcerer's Skull by John Bellairs (1984; AR: 5.6)

When Johnny Dixon takes a tiny skull from a haunted dollhouse, demonic forces are released, capturing Professor Childermass and leading Johnny on a harrowing chase to a deserted island off the coast of Maine.



While thirteen-year-old Johnny Dixon lies dying, possessed by an evil spirit, his friends, an elderly professor and a schoolmate, try to find some way to free him.



The Eyes of the Killer Robot by John Bellairs (1986; AR: 5.9)

Thirteen-year-old Johnny Dixon is put in jeopardy when he and Professor Childermass try to find a robot made many years ago by an evil wizard.

The Trolley to Yesterday by John Bellairs (1989; AR: 5.9)

Johnny Dixon and Professor Childermass discover a trolley which transports them back to Constantinople in 1453 as the Turks are invading the Byzantine Empire.

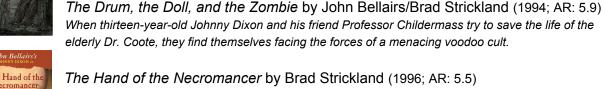
The Chessmen of Doom by John Bellairs (1989; AR: 6.1)

Johnny Dixon, Fergie and Professor Childermass comply with a strange will left by the Professor's brother, which requires them to spend the summer at a desolate estate where they encounter a madman bent on destroying the world.



The Secret of the Underground Room by John Bellairs (1990; AR: 5.8)

When Father Higgins disappears, Johnny Dixon and Professor Childermass discover disturbing clues which lead them to England and an encounter with a long-dead knight.





The Harid of the Necromancer by Brad Strickland (1996; AR: 5.5)

Thirteen-year-old Johnny Dixon and his friend Professor Childermass battle an evil wizard for possession of a bewitched hand which can be used to rule the world.

The Bell, the Book, and the Spellbinder by Brad Strickland (1997; AR: 5.4) When Fergie falls under the spell of an evil sorcerer, Johnny Dixon and Professor Childermass risk their own lives to save him.



The Wrath of the Grinning Ghost by Brad Strickland (1999; AR: 5.2)

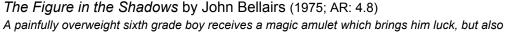
When a malevolent creature tries to claim his father as its latest victim, thirteen-year-old Johnny Dixon and Professor Childermass risk their own lives trying to save him.

Lewis Barnavelt series:



The House With a Clock in Its Walls by John Bellairs (1973; AR: 5.0)

A boy goes to live with his magician uncle in a mansion that has a clock hidden in the walls which is ticking off the minutes until doomsday.



A painfully overweight sixth grade boy receives a magic amulet which brings him luck, but also terrifying side effects.



The Letter, the Witch, and the Ring by John Bellairs (1976; AR: 4.7)

A young girl takes a trip with a friend of the family only to get involved with a mysterious letter, a magic ring, and a powerful witch.

The Ghost in the Mirror by John Bellairs/Brad Strickland (1993; AR: 5.3)

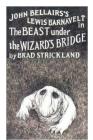
Rose Rita Pottinger and Mrs. Zimmermann are transported back to 1828 to save the Weiss family from being destroyed by a wicked wizard.

The Vengeance of the Witch-finder by John Bellairs/Brad Strickland (1993; AR: 5.5)

Lewis Barnavelt and his uncle are in England, visiting a cousin at Barnavelt Manor. Lewis accidentally unleashes a maniacal ghost.

The Doom of the Haunted Opera by John Bellairs/Brad Strickland (1995; AR: n/a)

Lewis Barnavelt and Rose Rita Pottinger are faced with a dilemma when their discovery of an unpublished opera score unleashes a wicked sorcerer who plans to rule the world by bringing back the dead.



The Specter from the Magician's Museum by Brad Strickland (1998; AR: 5.2) When the evil sorceress Belle Frisson ensures Rose Rita Pottinger in a magic web in order to steal her life force, Lewis Barnavelt must risk his own life to save his friend.

The Beast Under the Wizard's Bridge by Brad Strickland (2000; AR: 5.4) Lewis Barnavelt tries to avert disaster when the destruction of an old bridge threatens to release a diabolical force, the legacy of a long-dead evil magician.



The Tower at the End of the World by Brad Strickland (2001; AR: 5.2) Lewis and Rose Rita battle Ishmael Izard, the son of the evil magician who tried to destroy the world with the Doomsday Clock.

The Whistle, the Grave, and the Ghost by Brad Strickland (2003; AR: 5.1) In the woods near his home in Michigan, thirteen-year-old Lewis Barnavelt stumbles upon an ancient grave and silver whistle that draw him, his best friend Rose Rita Pottinger, his uncle Jonathan, and their friend Mrs. Zimmermann into a battle with an ancient evil.



The House Where Nobody Lived by Brad Strickland (2006; AR: 6.0)

Twelve-year-old Lewis and his best friend Rose Rita investigate a strange old house in their home town and discover that they may be dealing with powerful ancient Hawaiian spirits.

The Sign of the Sinister Sorcerer by Brad Strickland (2008; AR: 6.0) In Michigan in the mid-1950s, Lewis Barnavelt is convinced that the series of accidents he and his uncle are experiencing are the result of a curse by a mysterious, hooded figure that may be part of his uncle's past.



Stand alone novel:

The Face in the Frost by John Bellairs (1969; AR: n/a)

The Face in the Frost is a fantasy classic, defying categorization with its richly imaginative story of two separate kingdoms of wizards, stymied by a power that is beyond their control.



Short story:

"The Gargoyle in the Dump" (2015) - eBook available on the Kindle Fire in the Technology Petting Zoo in the library.

A recently discovered, never-before-published short story about three brothers who rescue a talking gargoyle from their neighborhood junkyard.