

Walls Within Walls

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Walls Within Walls is the story of three kids who get thrown into a treasure hunt after their parents move to a new house in New York. After finding a puzzle, quite literally, in the wall of their house, they decide that it must be a puzzle to find a secret treasure. Naturally, being kids, they throw themselves into the idea of their being a mystery, but it turns out that there truly is a treasure out there somewhere.

The book leaves something to be desired, honestly. I decided to read it because the cover art was cool and kind of creepy, and the premise was cool. However, the book only stayed interesting until about halfway through, and then it almost seemed repetitive. It seemed almost like the book was dragging itself out longer than it should have, since almost all of their clues to the mystery ended up being almost the same thing.

Also, the entire premise of the book is set in New York City and its surrounding cities, which almost becomes a problem if you yourself have never been to the city before. The book relies on you knowing popular New York landmarks and even some obscure buildings to tell its story, and that really effected my ability to read and fully comprehend the story. I can't imagine what it would be like to read for someone who has less knowledge of New York City than me.

The age range is set as 8-12, which I'm not sure if I agree with or not. It does seem like a book marketed towards that age range, but it seems like the type of book someone who's 13-16 would understand better. Overall I'm conflicted, because there's no serious subject matter that would require it to have a higher rating, I just think it might be too advanced for someone as young as 8 to understand, especially with all the geographical knowledge required. If you're going to read it I'd recommend borrowing it from the library, because while it definitely wasn't my cup of tea, it might be yours or your child's.

Recommended Titles:

Paper Towns by John Green

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

The Goonies by James Kahn