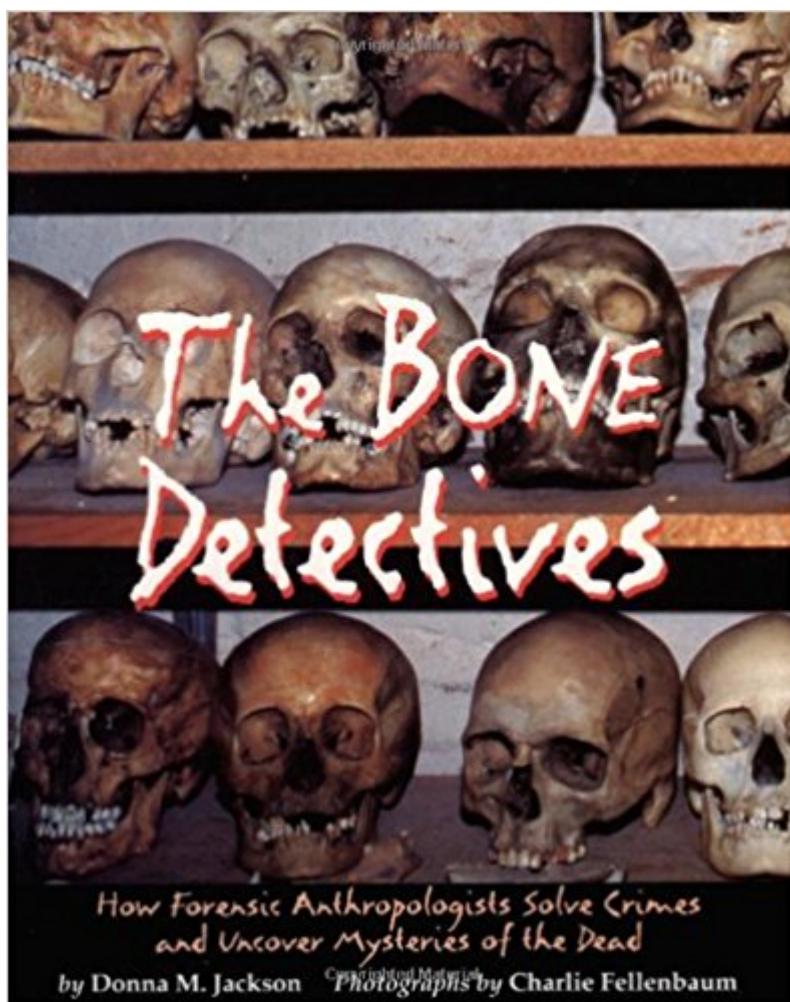


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# The Bone Detectives: How Forensic Anthropologists Solve Crimes And Uncover Mysteries Of The Dead



## **Synopsis**

- An American Library Association (ALA) Best Book- School Library Journal's "Best Books" - An International Reading Association (IRA) Teacher's ChoiceIt's said that "dead men tell no tales" -- yet their bones have some interesting stories to reveal. That's what police depend on when the only clues to a crime are the bones of the victim. Then it's time to call in the "bone detectives".Following forensic anthropologist Dr. Michael Charney step-by-step through an investigation, this book shows how a person's sex, race, age, height, and weight can be determined from studying his or her bones and teeth; how markings on bones can be "read" to establish cause of death; how a sculptor uses clay to reconstruct a face from a skull so it can be publicized in the media and possibly recognized; and how all of this information can be used to help crack a case.Curious young readers will revel in every eerie detail of award-winning journalist Donna Jackson's lively text and Charlie Fellenbaum's full-color photographs as they discover how these fascinating detectives help the stories behind the bones come to life.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1100L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316829358

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #193,350 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Archaeology #28 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Law & Crime #121 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > General

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

In 1987, a skeleton was turned up near a Boy Scout camp in Missouri. A forensic anthropologist was brought and, using clues from the skeleton and some decaying clothes found nearby,

determined that the victim was a young Asian woman. From there, police were able to determine the identity first of the victim and then of her killer. Using the Missouri case as a jumping-off point, The Bone Detectives provides an introduction for young readers to the science of forensics. Written for curious readers who are approaching adolescence, this book is sure to appeal to the nearly universal interest that age group exhibits for the macabre and the horrible.

"More than two hundred bones hold our bodies together, and each one tells a story"-right from the opening words, readers will find themselves glued to this fact-filled foray into the fine art of forensics. A real-life murder case solved through the painstaking work of "bone detectives" serves as a springboard for examining the techniques employed by forensic anthropologists in fighting crime and unraveling archeological puzzles. How a person's height, weight, sex, ethnic heritage and so on can be estimated from just a handful of bones makes for absorbing reading, and the plentiful accompanying photographs are equally intriguing. In addition to the murder case, first-time author Jackson highlights several historically significant finds-including the "Lucy" fossil, a bone fragment found at Little Bighorn, and perhaps this decade's most spectacular discovery, the 5300-year-old mummified "Iceman" found in the Alps (an artistic facial reconstruction is eerily lifelike). The handsome design and Jackson's equitable presentation help tone down the grislier aspects of the subject matter. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This was a gift for granddaughter. She likes it!Shipped timely.

Book for school. Was good

Bought it for my granddaughter, she loved it.

I received the book in great condition and was very pleased. I would use this company again. The book was like new.

Filled with photographs and old cold cases, this book shows how forensic pathologists and archaeologists do their work. Lots of science jobs explained in this book, as well as how science and law enforcement interact.Great skeleton diagram at the end of the book. Really good photographs throughout.Some vocabulary includes: lone, preserved, shriveled, corpse, ritual, accessories, soft tissue, preservation, survival equipment, sculpting, prominent, features, hauntingly

I had the chance to work under Dr. Michael Charney for 5 years before his death. Dr. Charney focused heavily on education and teaching people. That is what this book does. When this book came out he gave me a hard time for buying a copy because it was a "kid's book". All of that aside, the book gives a basic introduction to forensic anthropology on a level that explains it to the reader. It covers the case from start to finish as well as touching on the other aspects of forensic investigation such as forensic entomology and facial reconstruction. So if you have a child that is wanting to learn more about the field or you are looking for a good place to start learning, this is the book to get.

I read this book for a sixth grade nonfiction reading assignment. It explains how forensic anthropologists help police solve crimes by studying the bones of victims. It also describes how Dr. Michael Charney of the Forensic Science Laboratory at Colorado State University helped identify bones found at a Boy Scout camp in Missouri in 1988. I thought the book was very interesting. If you like shows like Law & Order and CSI or if you like to read mysteries, then you might like The Bone Detectives. Caelan (age 11)

The Bone Detectives is a compelling book for young readers. While the subject matter may seem out-of-the-ordinary and even macabre to many adults, pre-teens and teenagers seem fascinated with the science and technology involved in solving murder cases. The book can also serve as a way to open a dialogue about the harsh realities bombarding our children from television, film, and the evening news. If you know a bright child with an interest in science or police work, or if you just want to foster an interest, this book is a good start.

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