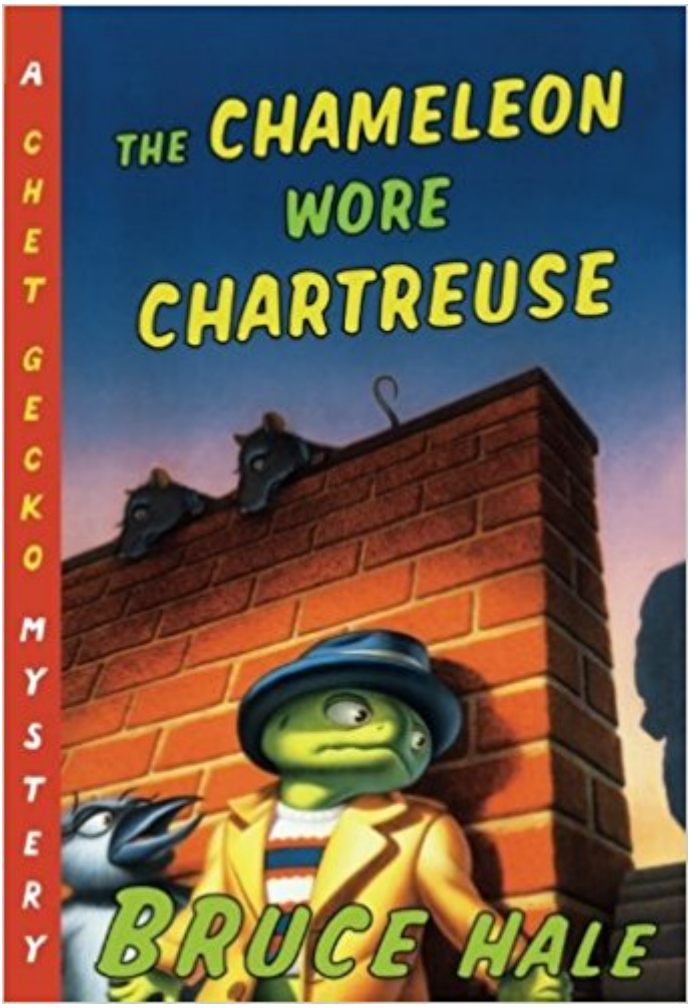
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The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse: A Chet Gecko Mystery



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Synopsis

Chet Gecko loves a good mystery. Almost more than he loves his fee--stinkbug pie. So when fellow fourth grader Shirley Chameleon asks him to find her missing brother, Billy, Chet expects the case to be as easy a pie. But Billy’s disappearance is part of a larger plot, one that involves the Rat Sisters, a riddling junkyard dog, and a vicious Gila monster named Herman. If Chet doesn’t solve the case fast, the entire school could be humiliated. Worst of all, Chet might not get his fee. And Chet’s hungry. . . .

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 410L (What’s this?)

Series: Chet Gecko (Book 1)

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (February 16, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152024859

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #160,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians #1300 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Mysteries & Detectives #1485 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Hale (How the Gecko Lost His Tail) launches a mild new mystery series starring fourth-grade gumshoe Chet Gecko, who searches for a missing chameleon named Billy. "Some cases start rough, some cases start easy. This one started with a dame. (That’s what we private eyes call a girl.)" Shirley Chameleon, wearing a chartreuse scarf, hires Chet (for the price of a piece of stinkbug pie) to locate her brother, last seen with an angry Gila monster named Herman. As he follows clues through the school and encounters an eclectic menagerie of students and teachers, Chet’s comical asides form a tongue-in-cheek satire of hard-nosed Sam Spade types, while other jokes opt for

broader humor (e.g., one chapter heading reads, "To Grill a Mockingbird"). The position of lead detective fluctuates between the private eye and his good friend Natalie Attired, the "smartest mockingbird around." This light, humorous fare offers a fairly transparent mystery that may not wow whodunit fans, but beginning readers especially will appreciate the offbeat, likable cast and quirky comedy and may well look forward to Gecko's second case, The Mystery of Mr. Nice, scheduled for release in August. Ages 8-12. (Apr.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2-4-Chet Gecko, top private eye in the fourth grade, has the Sam Spade lingo down pat ("She was the kind of girl I could have fallen for. If I liked girls") but when it comes to detection, he literally doesn't have a clue. Retained by classmate Shirley Chameleon to locate her missing brother, he misinterprets obvious evidence and follows numerous red herrings. Eventually, Chet uncovers an evil plot against the school's football team, masterminded by Herman Gila Monster and his gang. Can Chet overcome gang members, sadistic teachers, and the detention dungeon to save the game and the day? The clever dialogue is filled with the kind of sarcastic similes that would have made Mickey Spillane proud. ("Brick snorted and giggled, a sound like two owls in a blender.") Even for satire, however, the book is often over the top. Adult characters are uniformly unattractive-gleefully cruel teachers, a sloppy coach, and a feline principal who sharpens his claws on the curtains. The gang's revenge, which leaves the detective suspended over a swimming pool to be chlorinated to death, is the sort of thing that might be expected of James Bond villains, but it's hardly the stuff of juvenile crime. This is far from an essential purchase, but it may resonate with young fans who want to go beyond Marjorie Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series (Delacorte).Elaine E. Knight, Lincoln Elementary Schools, IL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It was so fun to read. The author used funny onomatopoeic words and funny rhymes which made me laugh a lot and some lame jokes which was soooo funny he is kinda like the next Roald Dalh

This is perfect for kids--not too gross to appeal to girls, not too tame to be liked by the boys. And above all, such an amazing imagination! This is great fun, great entertainment, and great reading even for reluctant kids---a great way to get them hooked, when they're overwhelmed by Harry Potter, but love that kind of stuff.

I love how the chameleon helped Shirley With the mystery. The stinkbug pie sounded bad so I'll go with the regular pie please!!!

The book is really nice. I liked it.

This book was written in the style of an old Mickey Spillane novel... I found it extremely enjoyable to read to my class! Some parts were a little difficult to understand because of numerous similes... but it was a fun opportunity to work on the subtleties of language. My class wants to read all of the Chet Gecko mysteries now. I highly recommend it for your 9 or 10 year old!

Great

Thanks

After reading all the glowing reviews, I bought the entire series. I was very disappointed and returned the whole set. What kind of insensitive children's author would have his main character/hero refer to classmates as wearing "coke-bottle glasses", having "buckteeth", or "not being bright enough to power a night-light"? Students who study are "nerds" or "nimrods", and teachers are mocked and answered with sarcasm. The titles are very witty and clever, but the contents are neither. I can't imagine anyone suggesting these offensive books are appropriate for children.

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