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The Tower Treasure

Franklin W. Dixon · *1927* · *original English text*

Frank and Joe Hardy, teenage sons of the detective Fenton Hardy in the town of Bayport, are drawn into a crime when a stolen car, a mansion robbery, and an arrest all seem to point at the wrong man. They set out to clear him and find the missing treasure, with help from their friend Chet Morton. It is the first of the Hardy Boys books.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

Can two young people find the truth when the grown-up world has settled on the wrong answer?

The Hardys use observation, persistence, and their father's help to unpick the case. The book is an adventure and a puzzle, and its moral is that justice depends on careful attention to the facts. The tone is brisk, the boys are plucky, and the solution is revealed with a nice sense of timing.

KEY CHARACTERS

Frank Hardy
The older Hardy brother, steady and observant.

Joe Hardy
The younger brother, quick and bold.

Fenton Hardy
Their father, a famous detective.

Chet Morton
A friend with a car and a good heart.

Hurd Applegate
The stamp collector who owns Tower Mansion.

Perry Robinson
A schoolmate whose father is accused.

Grades 5–8
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01
The Speed Demon
CHAPTERS I–III

Frank and Joe nearly collide with a reckless driver. Their friend Chet Morton's roadster has been stolen, and the boys, with Chet, set out to chase the red-headed thief.

- The motorcycle ride shows the boys' character.
- Chet's roadster is a well-known car around Bayport.
- The first clues are the red hair and the way the car was driven.

02
The Hold-up and the Mansion
CHAPTERS IV–VIII

The boys visit Chief Collig, Bayport's police chief. A robbery of a mansion on the hill and an arrest follow. Mr. Hardy takes an interest.

- Collig is more fond of badges than detection.
- The grand house on the hill is Tower Mansion.
- The arrest is of Mr. Robinson, the father of Perry Robinson.

03
A Friend's Father
CHAPTERS IX–XIII

The Hardys believe Perry Robinson's father is innocent. They find clues, including a hat and a coat, and take them to their father, who takes on the case.

- Public sympathy goes to the family but not to the accused.
- The poster in the post office stirs the boys.
- Fenton Hardy leaves for New York, and the days stretch into a week.

04
Jackley's Confession
CHAPTERS XIV–XVII

Mr. Hardy returns, and the boys learn about the convict Red Jackley. The police chief tries to get to Jackley first, and the Hardys search the old tower and find nothing.

- Collig's tricks are comic.
- Hurd Applegate, the stamp collector, owns Tower Mansion.
- The failed search leaves everyone confused.

05
The Chase to the Rails
CHAPTERS XVIII–XXI

Mr. Robinson still will not say where he got nine hundred dollars. The boys follow a new idea and race down a path beside the railway.

- The unexplained money weighs against Mr. Robinson.
- Fenton Hardy is downcast.
- Joe wonders whether they are wrong, and Frank pushes on.

06
The Last of the Tower Case
CHAPTERS XXII–XXIV

The loot is recovered, and the Hardys and their father arrange a surprise for the chief. Mr. Robinson's name is cleared, and Hurd Applegate invites the boys back.

- The town changes its tune about Mr. Robinson.
- The surprise for Chief Collig is a small comedy.
- The book ends with an invitation to more adventures.

Detection | Justice | Friendship | Clues

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 5–8

1. Look at each clue the boys find, and see whether you can use it before they do.
2. The boys are teenagers, and the book is for young readers. Notice how adults treat them.
3. The book dates from 1927. Look for details of its time.
4. Watch how the town's opinion of Mr. Robinson changes from the start to the end.

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