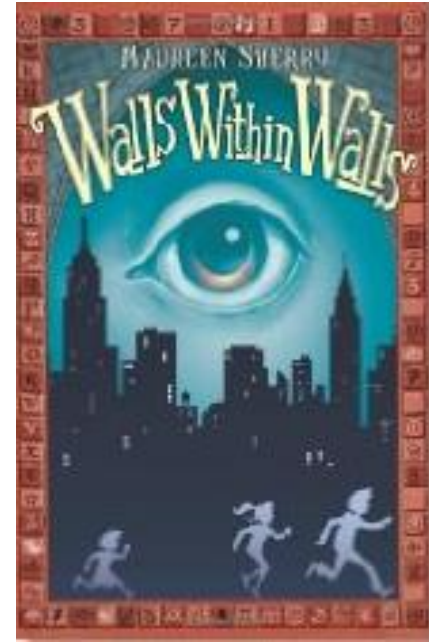


*Walls within Walls* by Maureen Sherry (Harper, 2010)

*When the Smithfork children move to Manhattan, they discover their new apartment is like a giant puzzle filled with codes, clues and carvings that seem to point toward a secret fortune. Will they have the skill and stamina to unravel the mystery?*



1. **Discussion Questions**

- How did life change for the Smithfork children when their father sold his business and they suddenly became rich?
- How many different kinds of secret places are there in their new apartment? (Space between the walls, dumbwaiter, silver room, back stairway, servant's quarters)
- CJ, Bird and even Patrick all contribute to solving the mystery – what special talents did each of them bring to solving the puzzles?
- What did Patrick retrieve after Brid and CJ lowered him into the space below the Giant Eye? What did the kids do with this item?
- Why did Julian disguise himself as Mr. Torrio for all those years? Why does Eloise Post go by "Eloise Munn?"

Why did Mr. Post hide his treasures?

Why do you think Mr. Post was so impressed by Rafael Guastavino's work?

- P.158 When Bird and CJ are in the turret tower behind the Metropolitan Museum of Art Eloise recites a Charles Kingsley poem and CJ says "I hate poetry....They stick to my brain and they bug me." What do you think he means by this?
- What about the poems in the book? Did they help you figure out the clues? Are there any that "stick to your brain?"
- How did the invention of Bruce Smithfork's, The Digi Spy, come in handy in the treasure search? How was the map of Manhattan the lynchpin to the solution of the puzzle?
- The story has the Smithfork kids running around Manhattan mostly by themselves, and being deceitful to their parents, Nanny and teachers. What do you think of the danger the children put themselves in to solve this puzzle?
- P.323 Anne Smithfork says..."Sometimes we parents do things we think are best for our children, but we can never be sure. No choice you have to make for another human being is ever easy. You think that more money will make a better life for your family." And later when the treasure is discovered Eloise muses: "To the outside world our family really had everything anyone could dream of, but we didn't really have that much fun." What do these quotes tell you about people with lots of money?

Are there any New York landmarks in the book you have already visited, or

others you would like to visit after reading the book?

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