

THE CODE BUSTERS CLUB

TOP SECRET

HANDBOOK



By Penny Warner



1

Welcome to the Code Busters Club Top Secret Handbook!
Do NOT let this handbook fall into the wrong hands!
It's only for members and fans of the Code Busters Club
and their BFFs (Best Friends Forever.)

Download, print, and fold the papers to make your handbook,
which includes codes, maps, secret messages,
and lots of valuable information
to help you form your own
Code Busters Club.

When you're not reading the handbook,
hide it in a secret spot so no one will find it.

Now it's time to reveal the secrets behind
The Code Busters Club!



2.

1.

SECRET FILE #1: DOSSIERS FOR THE CODE BUSTERS MEMBERS

Dossier for Cody (Dakota) Jones



Code Name: “CodeRed”

Description:

Hair: Red, curly, usually worn in a ponytail

Eyes: Green

Other: Freckles

Special Skills: Languages, reading faces and body language, surveillance, solving mysteries

Secret Message Hiding Place: Tree knothole in the front yard

Career Plan: Interpreter for UN or deaf people

Code Specialties: Sign language, Pig Latin, Braille, Police codes, Texting, Hieroglyphs

A note from Cody Jones

Hi, I’m Cody Jones. My real name is Dakota, but no one calls me that unless I’m in trouble. I look like my dad—he’s tall and thin and has the same red hair, green eyes, and freckles as me. My little sister Tana—short for Montana—looks more like my mom. She’s blonde, blue-eyed, and sturdy. Tana is deaf, so I learned sign language, which I taught it to the Code Busters.

My mom is a police officer in Berkeley and my dad is a lawyer. We moved here when my parents divorced. I missed my friends, but I’ve made new friends here, thanks to the Code Busters Club. I sort of have a cat—his name is Punkin—but I adopted him because I can’t really have a cat since Tana is allergic. He really belongs to Skeleton Man across the street, but he spends most of his time in my yard. I made him a cool collar with his name in code on it. He’s orange.

Here’s a secret message to solve, using my favorite code, American Sign Language.



Cody Jones

Secret Message from Cody in American Sign Language:



Dossier for Quinn Kee



Lock & Key

Secret message from Quinn in Pigpen Code:

Code Name: “Lock&Key”

Description:

Hair: Black, spiky

Eyes: Brown

Other: Sunglasses, graphic t-shirts with cool logos

Special Skills: Video games, Computers, military history

Secret Message Hiding Place: Doghouse

Career Plan: CIA cryptographer or video game designer

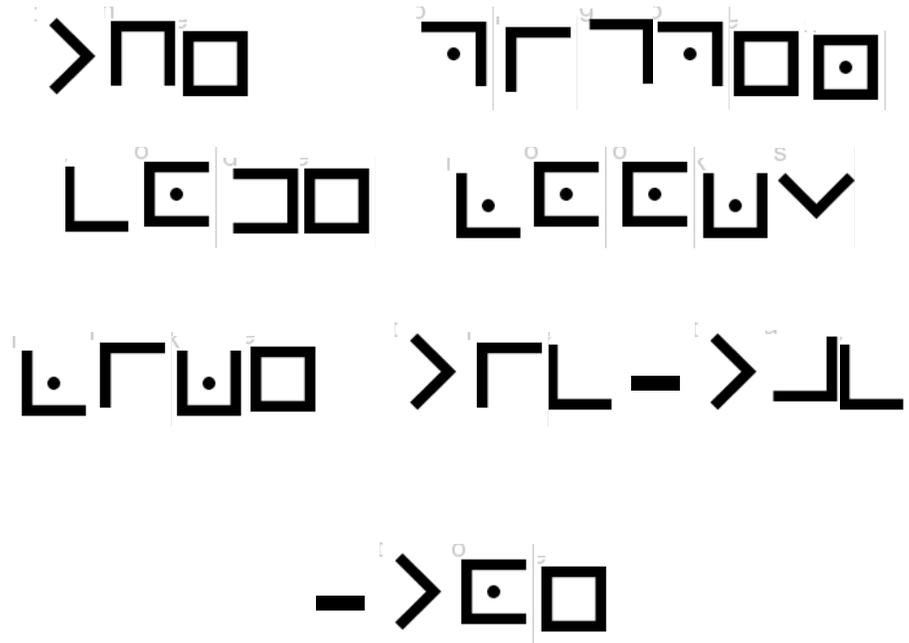
Code Specialties: Military codes, Morse Code, Computer codes, Washington Code, Pigpen Code

A note from Lock&Key

Hey, I’m Quinn, AKA Lock&Key. I started the Code Busters Club ‘cause I like doing puzzles and codes and stuff. I’m good at math, probably because my parents are math professors at the University of California, Berkeley. Skeleton Man is my next-door neighbor. We used to be creeped out about him but now we know him better.

I like creating video games for the other club members to play, especially ones that have zombies and dragons and aliens and spies. And lately I’ve been doing origami and folding the paper into secret compartments. My bedroom is full of comic books, sci-fi stuff, and glow-in-the-dark stars on my ceiling that only shine at night.

My code name is Lock&Key. Get it? My last name is Kee, and the word “lock” is sort of like a mystery, and Lock&Key go together, so that’s how I came up with it. That’s about it for me. Gotta bounce. But here’s a code to check out.



Dossier for M.E. (Maria Elena) Esperanto



Code Name: “Em-me”

Description:

Hair: Long, brown, usually straight but sometimes curled

Eyes: Chocolate Brown

Other: Fab clothes, sparkly accessories, awesome shoes

Special Skills: Handwriting analysis, art, fashionista, love animals

Secret Message Hiding Place: Flower box in the front yard

Career Plan: FBI handwriting analyst or Veterinarian or Fashion Designer

Code Specialties: Spanish, hidden messages (steganography), Semaphore and flag codes

A note from M.E

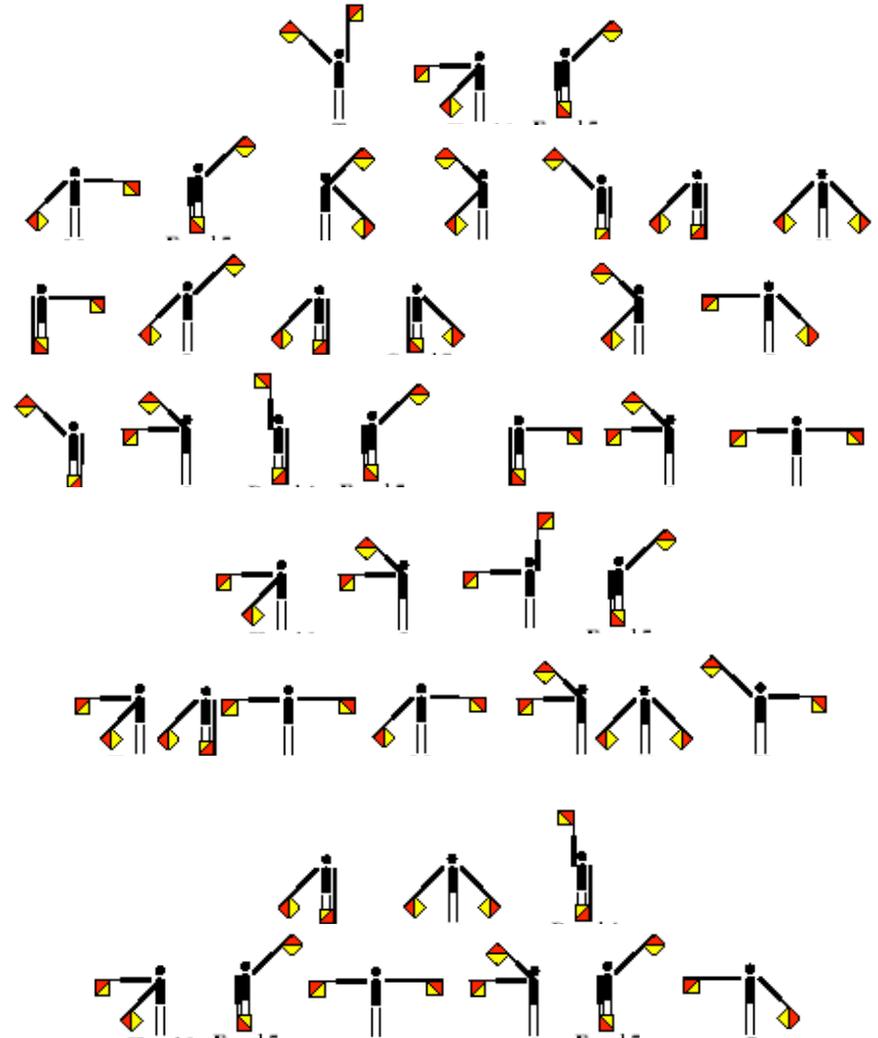
I’m M.E., which is pronounced “Em-me.” It stands for my full name, Maria Elena. I come from a BIG family with three older brothers who tease me a lot, and a bunch of aunts and uncles and cousins. My mom is Mexican and my dad is part American Indian. I have brown hair and brown eyes. I speak Spanish at home with my parents, and English at school and with my friends, but I’m teaching the other Code Busters some Spanish.

My room is decorated with tons and tons of stuffed animals, because I love, love, love animals and hope to be a vet one day. I also LOVE clothes! Especially things with glitter and sparkles and sequins and stuff like that. I like to wear funny socks and cool shoes and colorful scarves and create my own outfits. If I don’t end up being a vet, then I want to design clothes or be a handwriting analyst. AWESOME!

I’m kind of a chicken when it comes to doing scary stuff—like sneaking into a burned out haunted house or meeting up with a mountain lion. But who wouldn’t be scared about that, right? Adios, I gotta go do my homework. See if you can crack my semaphore message below!



Secret Message from M.E. in Semaphore Code



Dossier for Luke LaVeau



Code Name: “Kuel-Dude”

Description:

Hair: Black, curly, short

Eyes: Dark brown

Other: Saints cap, hoodie, Chuck Taylor Converse shoes

Special Skill: Extreme sports, skateboarding, motocross, biking, parkour

Message Center: Under Grandmere’s porch step

Career Plan: Pro skater, Stunt man, Race car driver, professional athlete

Code Specialties: Crosswords, anagrams, wacky words, skater slang, pirate code, Cajun patois (a mixture of English and French)

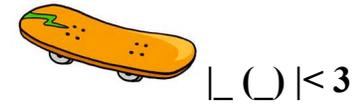
A note from Kuel-Dude

Dude, I’m Luke LaVeau. I made up the nickname, “Kuel-Dude” because “Kuel” is an anagram of “Luke.” And Kuel is Cool, right? I’m an only child—no brothers or sisters. I used to live in New Orleans with my parents, but now I live in Berkeley with my Grandmere. She’s Cajun and says she’s related to the pirate, Jean LaFitte. That means I’m part pirate! Awesome!

I’m pretty athletic and I love sports. I like to skateboard, bike, play basketball, football, do parkour, which is climbing up buildings and going around obstacles. People say nothing much scares me, and I guess that’s true, except I don’t like clowns. Dude, they’re just weird.

My Grandmere loves puzzles, especially crossword puzzles. She makes puzzles for me using stuff from my homework, which makes it more fun, ‘cause I don’t like homework. She says if I don’t do my homework, she’ll mix up one of her potions and put a spell on me, but I know she’s just teasing. She says she was a voodoo queen back in the day, but she doesn’t scare me—except when she gives me the evil eye...

Anyway, see if you can figure out the anagrams below. Later, Dude.



Secret Message from Luke in Anagrams

Witer a gamesse

yb giximn

pu het streetl fo

ache drow.

sIt’ nuf dan yesa!

DOCE TRUSSEB LURE!



SECRET FILE #3: CLUB RULES!

Motto: To solve puzzles, codes, and mysteries, and keep the Code Busters Club secret!

Secret Sign: Interlocking index fingers (Sign Language for “friend.”)

Secret Password: Day of the week, said backward.

Secret Meeting Place: Clubhouse in the eucalyptus forest.

How to set up your own Code Busters Club

1. First, gather up your members and have a meeting to decide on the details of the club.
2. Create a clubhouse. You can use a tree fort, a space in the garage, in the attic or basement, or anywhere that’s safe.
3. Name the Club. Suggestions: Code Crackers Club, Code Kids Club, Top Secret Club, Eye Spy Club, Crypto Club.
4. Create rules for the Club: Such as, keep the club secret, attend all meetings, learn new codes to share with the group.
5. Determine the motto of the Club: Such as: to solve puzzles, codes, and mysteries, and keep the Code Busters Club secret!
6. Choose your code names: Such as, a word related to your real name, your name said backwards, your name as an anagram.
7. Devise a secret sign and password: Such as, special handshake, or initials taped in Morse Code.

Create a Secret Packet for Your Secret Messages

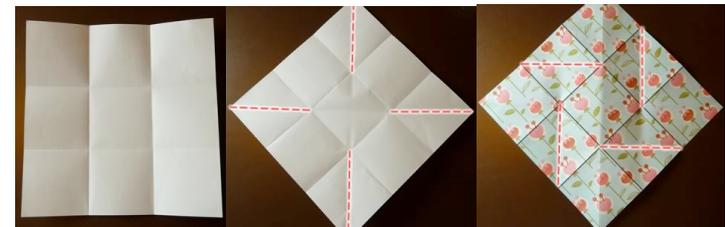
The Code Busters like to disguise their coded messages in secret packets called Menkos using Origami. Follow one of the links below to find instructions for making the special secret compartments, then keep away from spies.

<http://www.origamispirit.com/2013/06/how-to-make-a-traditional-origami-envelope/>

<http://www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/origami-envelope-2.html>



1. Get a 12-inch by 12-inch sheet of scrapbook paper.
2. Print side down, fold into thirds, at 4 inches and 8 inches.
3. Turn 90 degrees and fold again into thirds, at 4 and 8 inches.
4. Fold each corner in half, inward.
5. Turn paper over and fold squares from left to right.
6. Turn paper back over and hold tips of opposite corners, push in gently to form square in the center.
7. Fold down one triangle, fold down the next one on the left, fold down the next one on the left, then fold the fourth triangle and tuck the tip into the fold of the first triangle.



SECRET FILE #4: SECRET CODES



These coded messages are *top secret*, used by the Code Busters. Use your Code Buster Decoder Cards to write secret messages and decode these secret messages.

1. ALPHA-NUMERIC CODE

25-15-21 3-1-14 1-12-19-15

23-18-9-20-5 20-8-5 14-21-13-2-5-18-19

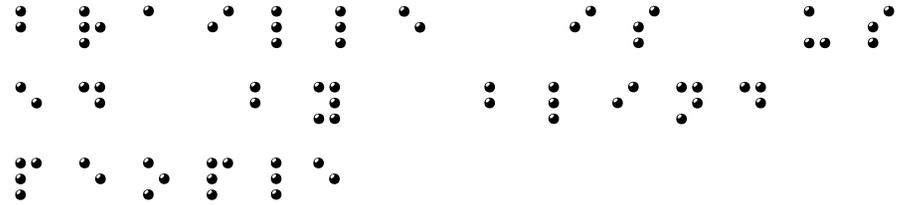
9-14 18-5-22-5-18-19-5.

2. AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

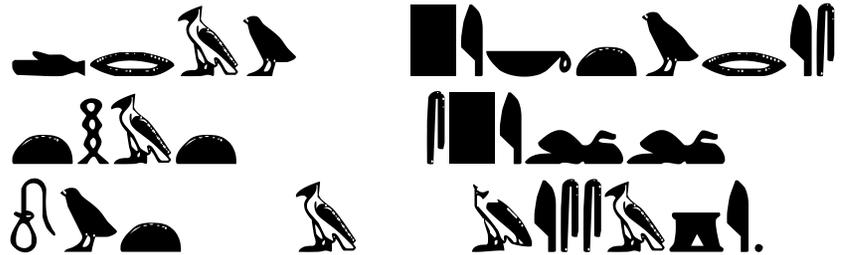


15.

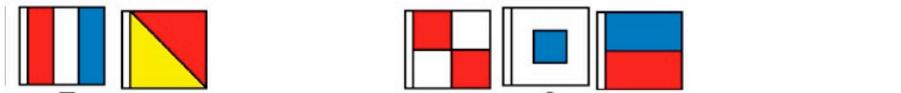
3. BRAILLE ALPHABET



4. EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHIC CODE



5. FLAG CODE



16.

6. PHONETIC ALPHABET CODE

PAPA HOTEL OSCAR NOVEMBER ECHO TANGO

ALPHA LIMA PAPA HOTEL ALPHA BRAVO ECHO

TANGO CHARLIE OSCAR DELTA ECHO

INDIA SIERRA UNIFORM SIERRA ECHO DELTA

BRAVO YANKEE TANGO HOTEL ECHO

MIKE INDIA LIMA INDIA TANGO ALPHA ROMEO

YANKEE

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘
└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘	└┘
∨	∨	∨	∨	∨	∨	∨	∨	∨

∨└┘└┘ ∨└┘└┘└┘└┘└┘

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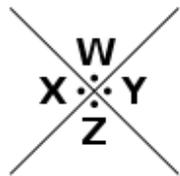
└┘∨└┘└┘└┘ ∨└┘└┘

└┘└┘└┘└┘└┘└┘

└┘└┘∨└┘└┘ ∨└┘└┘

7. PIGPEN CODE

A	B	C	J	K	L
D	E	F	M	N	O
G	H	I	P	Q	R



8. PIRATE CODE

Ahoy, Bucko!

Gangway for the blaggard

who's been pillaging booty

and grub. We'll keelhaul the addled thief by

sending him

to Davy Jones' Locker!

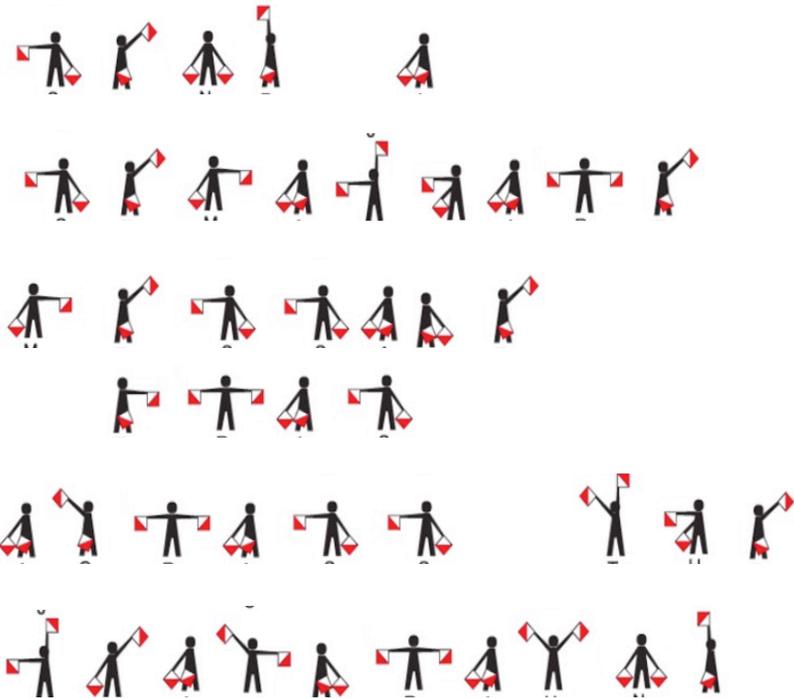
Belay and fair winds!

9. REVERSE ALPHABET CODE

Gsv ivevihv zlkszyvg rh

lmv lu gsv vzhrvhg xlwvh.

10. SEMAPHORE CODE



11. TEXTING CODE

**YO, BFF! S'UP GRL?
CALL ME L8R.
WE'LL DO W/E. LOL.
B4N. XOXO.**



SECRET FILE #6: ARE YOU A REAL CODE BUSTER?

1. English is your second language. Your first language is Pig Latin.
2. When you meet someone, you ask for the code name, not their real name.
3. You do your homework in invisible ink.
4. All of your book reports are encrypted.
5. You wear night goggles to bed so you can see in the dark.
6. You call your fellow Code Busters “operatives.”
7. You can tap out any song in Morse Code.
8. You type your homework on the Enigma machine rather than the computer.
9. You have blueprints to your school and know the secret passageways.
10. Your cell phone is a magnifying glass, walkie-talkie, and flashlight.
11. You’ve translated the entire FBI handbook into Hieroglyphs.
12. You wear a disguise when sent to the principal’s office.
13. You think your parents may be double agents.
14. You suspect the school bully is actually a mole.
15. Your dog is equipped with a surveillance camera.
16. You think the formula for invisible ink is the greatest invention ever.
17. Your cell phone number is code for “SAF-LINE.”
18. Your mailbox is a “dead drop.”
19. When you go to camp, you’re “off the grid.”
20. When asked a question, you answer, “The fox is in the henhouse.”
21. Your watch is equipped with a hidden camera.
22. Your lunchbox has a tracking device in case it’s ever stolen.
23. Your bedroom is blocked off with Crime Scene tape.
24. All of your homework is marked “Top Secret.”
25. Your middle name is confidential.
26. When mailing a coded letter, you hide the decoder key under the stamp.
27. You give your home address in latitude and longitude.
28. You’d rather go to Quantico than Disneyland.
29. You eat edible paper with coded messages for breakfast.
30. Your BFF wrote “SOS-CU@1300@HQ” and you know what that means.
31. Your comic books are full of eyeholes so you can spy on people.
32. You have cell phone apps for a police siren, a scream, a fake Taser, and the theme song from Scooby Doo.



SECRET FILE #7: INVISIBLE MESSAGES

SECRET TIP #1: HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN INVISIBLE INK

There are lots of ways to make your own invisible ink. Try each of these to see which one you like the best.

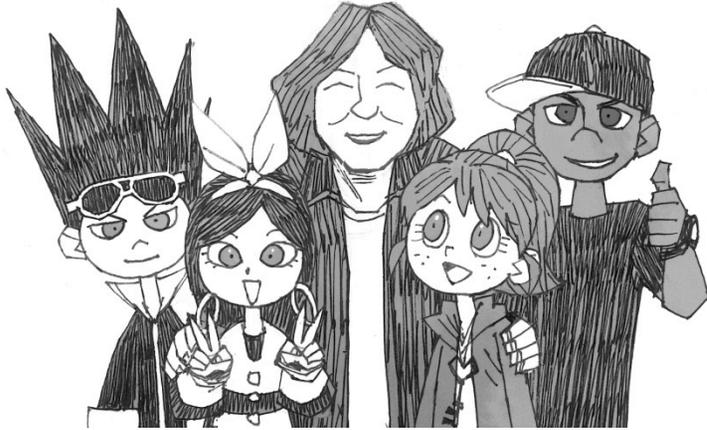
1. Lemon Juice or Milk
Write your message with lemon juice, using a Q-tip on plain white paper. Let it dry, then send it to a friend and have them hold it over a lightbulb.
2. Baking Soda
Mix a few spoonfuls of baking soda with water to make a paste. Use a Q-tip to write your message. To read the message, hold the paper over a lightbulb or dip a Q-tip in grape juice and rub it over the paper.
4. White Crayon
Write a message on white paper with a white crayon. Have your friend color over the paper with a marker to see the secret message.
5. Banana
Write a message on a banana peel with a toothpick. About an hour later, the message will magically appear.

SECRET TIP #2: HOW TO WRITE INVISIBLE MESSAGES ON THE COMPUTER

Here’s how to create an invisible message using the computer.

1. Type your message in an email in a favorite font with the **black** color.
2. Highlight/select the message when you’re finished.
3. Go to fonts and click on the **white**/clear color. Your message will disappear!
4. Email the message to your friend and tell him or her to highlight/select the message area, then go to fonts and click on the **black** color.
5. Voila! The message magically appears!

SECRET FILE #8: MEET THE AUTHOR: WHO IS PENNY WARNER?



Hi! I'm Penny Warner, author of the **CODE BUSTERS CLUB** series, as well as over sixty other books, mostly fun things to do with kids—snacks to eat, games to play, birthdays to celebrate. I love to make up stuff, especially for kids, and I love mysteries, especially Nancy Drew, Agatha Christie, and Sherlock Holmes. I even wrote a book about Nancy Drew called **THE OFFICIAL NANCY DREW HANDBOOK**.

I love writing the Code Busters Club series because it's fun creating and cracking codes. When I was a kid, I learned Sign Language, Morse code, Pig Latin and a bunch of other fun codes, so I could send secret messages to my friends. After I got my degrees in Child Development and Special Education, (I teach Child Development at the local college), I wrote a bunch of activity books for kids and mysteries for adults. That's when I thought it would be fun to write a mystery for kids filled with codes for readers to solve!

When I'm not writing books or teaching classes, I like to create mysteries for libraries so they can raise money for more books, and visiting schools where I present Code Buster Club events based on my book. The Code Busters Club books are published in Japan, Brazil, and Turkey, in case you can read other languages.



25.



JOIN THE OFFICIAL CODE BUSTERS CLUB

To join the Code Busters Club, go online, go to www.codebustersclub.com, and fill out the information.

TOP SECRET ANSWERS TO CODED MESSAGES

CODE BUSTERS' MESSAGES:

Cody's secret message: My mom is teaching me police codes. Check out the code section to see them.

Quinn's secret message: The pigpen code looks like tic-tac-toe.

M.E.' secret message: The Mexican flag is code for hope (green), harmony (white), and heroes (red).

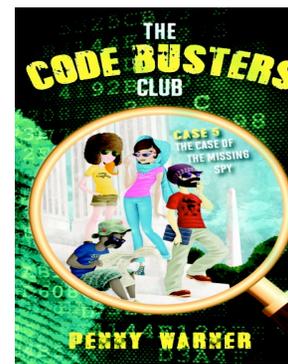
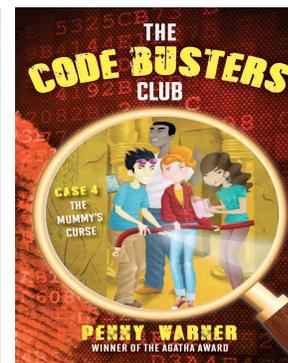
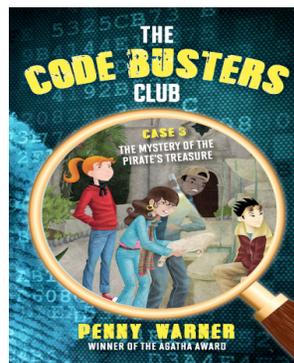
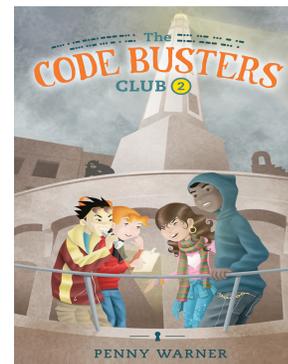
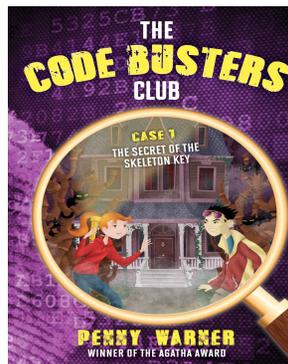
Luke's secret message: Write a message by mixing up the letters of each word. It's fun and easy! Code Busters Rule!

CODED MESSAGES:

1. You can also write the numbers in reverse.
2. Use the Sign Language alphabet to talk in secret.
3. Answer: Braille is used by blind people.
4. Answer: Draw pictures that spell out a message.
5. Answer: Make your own flags to use for codes
6. Answer: Phonetic Alphabet Code is used in the military.
7. Answer: The pigpen code was used during the American civil war.
8. Hey, Friend! Watch out for the bad guy who's been stealing loot and food. We'll punish the crazy thief by sending him to the bottom of the sea. Be quiet & good luck!
9. The reverse alphabet is one of the easiest codes.
10. Send a semaphore message from across the playground.
11. Yo, Best Friend Forever! What's up, girl? Call me L8R. We'll do whatever. Laugh out loud. By for now. Hugs and Kisses.
12. The Caesar cipher wheel is fun to use!

26.

CUT AND PASTE STICKERS



Code Busters in Japanese!