

Jesse Steam Mysteries

Solving Mysteries Through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math

Ten-year-old Jesse Steam's curiosity about how the world works leads her to one mystery after another, as she pedals around town, often with Mr. Stubbs, her tabby cat, keeping her company in her bike basket. Using simple scientific tools and their powers of observation, Jesse and her friends analyze, test hypotheses, and conduct experiments. If the kids get stuck, they know they can count on Professor Peach, a retired college science educator, to step in with a clear explanation.

Each title in the Jesse Steam series includes a culminating Makerspace Activity for hands-on practice of the skill.

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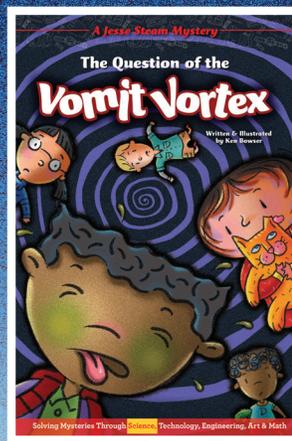
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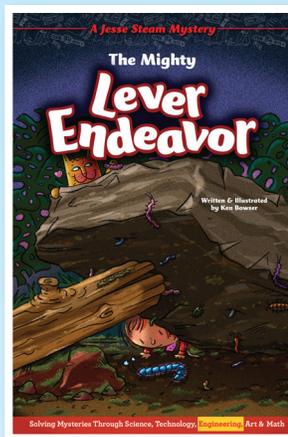
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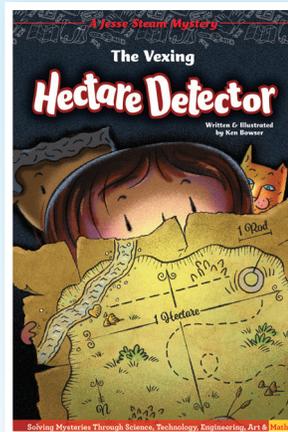
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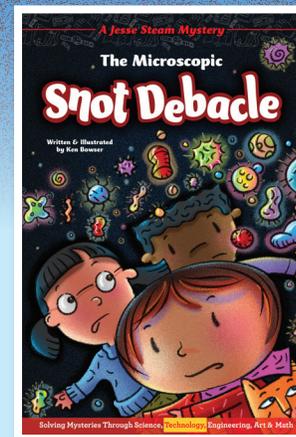
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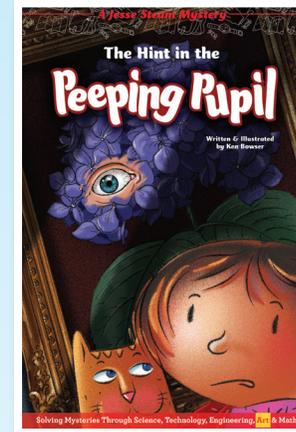
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Book features:

- Original illustrations
- Table of Contents
- Word List
- Hands-On Makerspace Activity

through the big field between the park and Bruce Spring Stream, cutting through The Secret Clearing on the way.

The pair stopped once again, and Jesse gave The Challenge of the Iron Spike even more reflection. Sitting in the dark of The Secret Clearing, and by the light of her lantern, Jesse questioned the many attempts at removing the stubborn stake.

Crickets chirped, fireflies danced, and a solitary bat loitered from a high branch in the soft moonlight. One lone owl hooted in the far off distance.

"I'll have to sleep on this one, Stubbs," she said to her cat who was now back in her basket. It wasn't long before the duo headed back home for the evening.

Later that night, Jesse had curious, vivid dreams about Snord's and the iron spike in the plank. Except this time the spike was humongous and stuck in a stone, not a plank,

46.



From *The Mighty Lever Endeavor*

Makerspace Activity

Try It Out!

Learn About Measures and Units
In *The Vexing Hectare Detector*, Jesse Steam solved "The Riddle of The Rock" by using her tape measure and some terms and definitions that she learned from her dictionary. You can do some of the same calculations that Jesse did with just a few items that you may already have at home.

What You Need: A tape measure—the longer the better. A 20 foot tape measure would be best, but even a simple ruler will work. A pencil and something to write notes on. A small handheld calculator. You can do the calculations without a calculator if you have strong math skills but a calculator makes it easier.

Steps:

1. Start with something simple, like your kitchen table.
2. Measure the length of the table top and note it on your paper. It's easiest if you round up to "feet" while you're first learning the process. For example, if your table top is three feet, ten inches long, just round up to four feet.
3. Measure the width and note it on your paper. Round up to feet as you did in step 2.
4. Using your calculator, multiply one measurement by the other. For example, if your table top was four feet by five feet, you just multiply 4×5 which equals 20! You've just learned that the top off your kitchen table is 20 square feet!

Now you have the skills to find the square foot or square inch measurements of anything you like. Even something as big as your entire room. Or your whole house!

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From *The Vexing Hectare Detector*

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One Giant Leap for Frog-kind



Chapter 8

Jesse plopped down on the bank of Bruce Spring Stream to rest and soothe her tired feet in its cool, clear water.

"We figured out all of the equations. We followed all of the clues, and we solved the meaning of the oscillating ring. All of that. Only to hit a dead end after traversing, who knows how many rods and hectares. Looking for a rock that's not on the ground." Jesse sighed.

"Ribbit!"

"Did you say something, Stubbs?" Jesse asked.

"Ribbit!" She heard the sound again. Jesse turned just in time to see Mr. Stubbs chasing after a giant bullfrog by the stream.

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From *The Question of the Vomit Vortex*

bugs are crawling all over your skin.' Well, I certainly had that this morning when I woke up, but that was just a dream." She nudged Stubbs with her elbow. "So, that's not it."

Jesse continued her Internet search.

"Okay, maybe this is it. 'Basorexia.' Do you think that's what I have, Stubbs? Basorexia? Basorexia—an overwhelming urge to kiss. YUCK! No. And I hope I never get it. Gross." The very thought of it made Jesse's skin crawl.

She continued to scour the Internet.

"Pica—the urge to eat things like dirt, paper, or glue.' Chompy Dog has that for sure." Jesse laughed.

"The Collywobles. A bellyache or butterflies in the stomach.' Hey, I have the Collywobles before every algebra test!"

"Tyrotoxisim. Poisoning by cheese.' Nope. No cheese in the last 24 hours so it can't be Tyrotoxisim."

"Okay. Let's look some more," Jesse said to Stubbs who was now sound asleep. She scrolled further down on her screen.

"Rhinitillexomania.' Hey. Maybe it's

47.



From *The Microscopic Snot Debacle*

