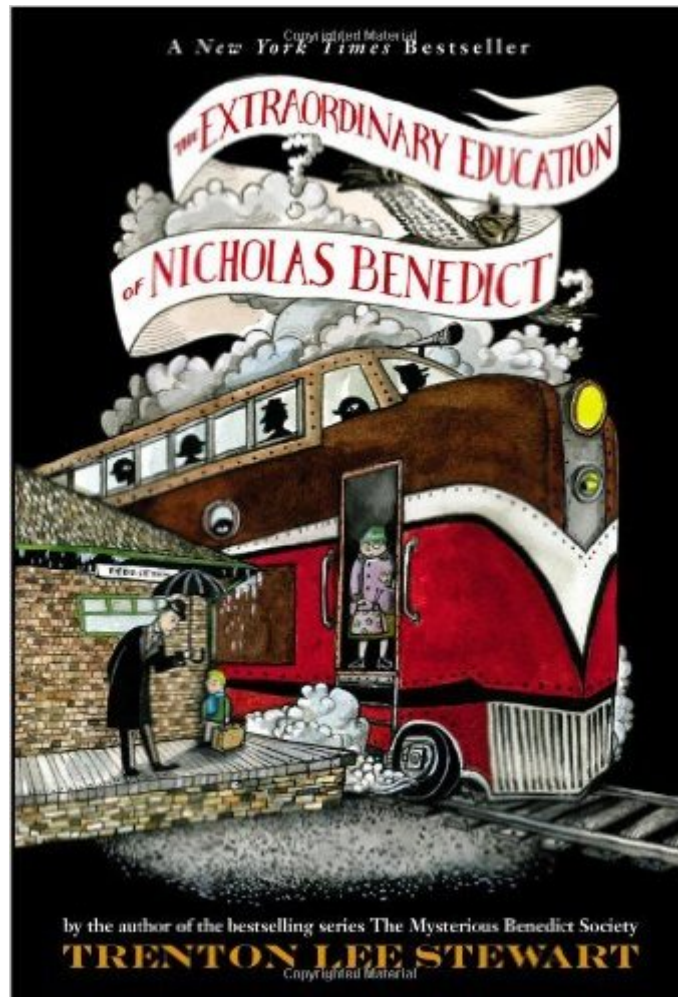


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# The Extraordinary Education Of Nicholas Benedict (The Mysterious Benedict Society)



## Synopsis

Before there was a Mysterious Benedict Society, there was simply a boy named Nicholas Benedict. Meet the boy who started it all...Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict has more problems than most children his age. Not only is he an orphan with an unfortunate nose, but also he has narcolepsy, a condition that gives him terrible nightmares and makes him fall asleep at the worst possible moments. Now he's sent to a new orphanage, where he encounters vicious bullies, selfish adults, strange circumstances -- and a mystery that could change his life forever. Luckily, he has one important thing in his favor: He's a genius. On his quest to solve the mystery, Nicholas finds enemies around every corner, but also friends in unexpected places -- and discovers along the way that the greatest puzzle of all is himself.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 900 (What's this?)

Series: The Mysterious Benedict Society (Book 4)

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 9, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316176206

ISBN-13: 978-0316176200

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (172 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,587 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #130 in [Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives](#) #452 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

If you haven't already been introduced to the Mysterious Benedict Society feel free to start with this witty prequel that details the early life of Nicholas Benedict, a genius orphan with narcolepsy who becomes the patriarchal figure in the later trilogy. Even without knowing a thing about the other books, you will quickly be pulled into Nicholas's world. The author does use some stereotypical

characters for the bullies and the staff at the orphanage, but somehow I was not bothered in the least by this as I got pulled into the mystery. The descriptive language may be a bit much for some, but I enjoyed the pictures it painted in my mind. Most children (and some adults) will need a dictionary close by when reading this book. I have to say I wasn't expecting to run across the words "vouchsafe" or "ebullient" in a children's book. This is book for a confident reader, not for a child who just switched to chapter books. It's also a lot of fun for an adult like me who refuses to grow up. Although Nicholas is only 9 in this book, he comes across as much older due to his intellect and insight. I found myself wishing I was as smart as this precocious child. Nicholas looks at the world in wonder, and you will find yourself looking for patterns and being more observant of your surroundings after reading this book. Simple objects may have uses you haven't thought of yet. The story is set in an old mansion that was turned into an orphanage and I'm still wishing I could find a manor to explore after finishing the book. In the beginning of the book Nicholas is quite cynical for his young age, which is to be expected when one considers what he has been through.

Those who have read and loved THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY and its sequels know Nicholas Benedict as an enigmatic man, a narcoleptic and a genius who kindly inspires his young protégés. They also know him as an old (or at least older) man. But what was Nicholas Benedict like as a boy? And how and when did he develop the abiding love of mysteries, puzzles and problem-solving that defined the rest of his life? The answers to those questions --- not to mention a rollicking good mystery plot --- lie at the center of THE EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATION OF NICHOLAS BENEDICT, a prequel to Trenton Lee Stewart's three previous novels and a thoroughly entertaining story in its own right. When we first meet the nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict, he is on his way to a new orphanage, one that promises to manage his narcolepsy and its attendant night terrors better than his previous lodgings. Nicholas, whose prodigious intellect and impeccable memory belie his childlike optimism, wants to believe that this new location will offer him a new beginning, away from the bullying and cruelty he has encountered at his previous schools. Far from a fresh start, however, Rothschild's End (or "Child's End," as it is known) seems to provide an even worse environment. Before he even arrives, Nicholas, who looks younger than he actually is, is targeted by the resident gang, known as the Spiders. And Mr. Collum, the head of the school, seems to think that only the most draconian measures --- which include bricking in Nicholas's window and locking his door from the outside --- can save our narcoleptic hero from himself. Even worse, Nicholas is barred from utilizing the school's amazing library, which is "the most exciting spectacle of his life."

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