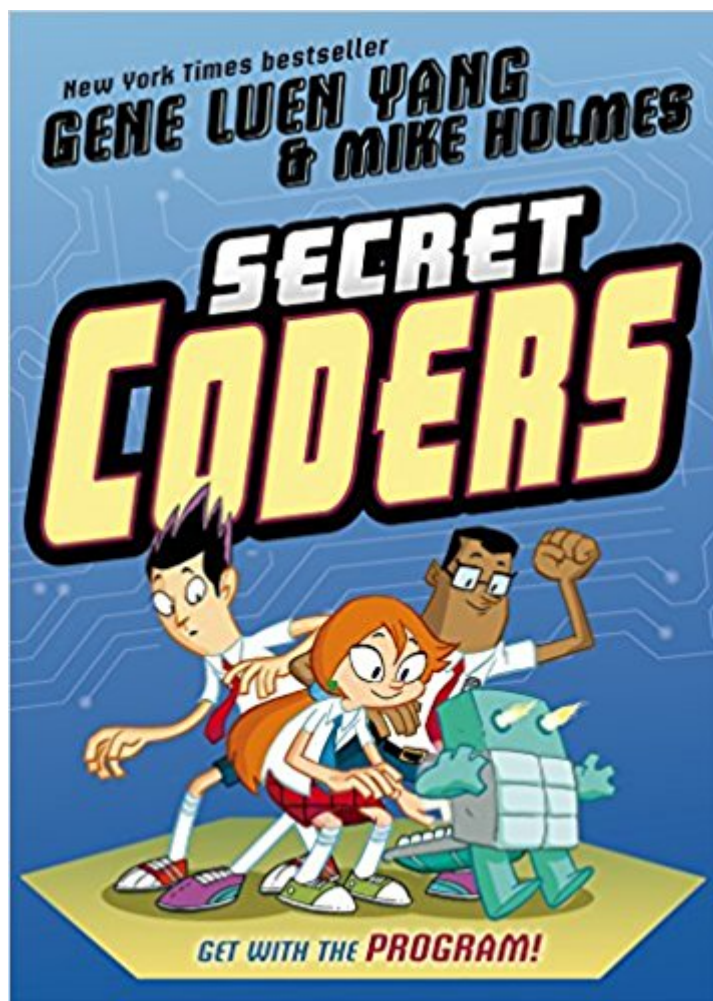




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# Secret Coders



## Synopsis

Gene Luen Yang is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and is a MacArthur Fellow, a recipient of what's popularly known as the MacArthur "Genius" Grant. Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is just crawling with mysteries to be solved! The founder of the school left many clues and puzzles to challenge his enterprising students. Using their wits and their growing prowess with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are going to solve the mystery of Stately Academy no matter what it takes! From graphic novel superstar (and high school computer programming teacher) Gene Luen Yang comes a wildly entertaining new series that combines logic puzzles and basic programming instruction with a page-turning mystery plot!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 380 (What's this?)

Series: Secret Coders (Book 1)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: First Second (September 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1626720754

ISBN-13: 978-1626720756

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 7.6 x 214.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,617 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Children's Books > Computers & Technology #164 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels #256 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7 — A mysterious school, transition to mastery, and an exciting new language run through this excellent new graphic novel. But it's not magic wands that dictate the new characters' skills — it's coding. Hopper, an enthusiastic 12-year-old girl (named after programmer Grace Hopper), has just started school at the creepy Stately Academy. After getting in a fight that involves "lung pudding" (a loogie!) with Eni (based on NBA star Chris Bosh), Hopper and

Eni become friends while unraveling the secrets of the school. Robotic birds, family troubles, and sinister, child-hating school administrators lead to a story both emotionally rich and rife with learning opportunities. Readers will feel themselves thinking in a new way as they watch Hopper and Eni transform into coders on a mission, but the story never feels pedantic. The graphic novel format is effective and will appeal to everyone from computer lovers to reluctant readers to mystery fans. The black and green art is effective and straightforward, and the pacing of the panels is excellent. The book is important in light of issues of diversity in the computer programming world; Hopper is biracial, and Eni is African American, and both have multiple dimensions to their characters (they are more than just computer nerds). This first volume ends on a cliff-hanger with real life magic: the magic of coding made accessible. VERDICT An excellent first purchase that introduces readers to the power of computer programming through an engaging graphic mystery. —Lisa Nowlain, Darien Library, CT --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Gene Luen Yang's talent is prodigious, his enthusiasm contagious....Even this confirmed technophobe was ready to learn coding." —Katherine Applegate, author of Crenshaw and The One and Only Ivan "Gene Yang brings computer coding to life." —Entertainment Weekly "Secret Coders not only uses Logo but also touches on computer fundamentals like binary code and the three major ways that code is organized: sequence, iteration, and selection. By the end of Secret Coders, readers will learn them all, right alongside Hopper and Eni, not as something dry or rote, but something transformative." —Wired "Gene Luen Yang's talent is prodigious, his enthusiasm contagious....Even this confirmed technophobe was ready to learn coding." —Katherine Applegate, author of Crenshaw and The One and Only Ivan "Yang and Holmes do such a great job explaining the concepts that even programming newbies will be likely to catch on. A cliff-hanger ending hints at deepening mysteries to come."

—Booklist "Holmes's bold cartoony illustrations are a natural fit for Yang's geeky enthusiasm, and their combined effort offers an enticing first taste of coding that may very well yield some converts." —Publishers Weekly "An excellent first purchase that introduces readers to the power of computer programming through an engaging graphic mystery."

—School Library Journal "Convincing kids that coding 'truly is magic' is Yang's and Holmes's agenda here, and their series opener certainly does the trick." —The Horn Book

My 7 year old daughter liked decoding the blinking birds. I sent it with her when she went with a

weekend trip with her mother and she read the whole thing long before she got to her destination. If it encourages my daughter to read AND think about math, its a win-win in my book!

So glad to have pre-ordered this and received today. I don't usually read books I order for my daughter before she does, but I am home sick so I figure, what the hey? This being aimed for the late grade school, middle school crowd, I am not surprised that the earlier part of the story involves new schools, bullying and fitting in. That is what any normal story would do, but Secret Coders gets extremely un-normal in a hurry and in a good way. Without spoiling, I can say that there are surprises at every turn, seamless integration of computing principles, reflective arcs that make you go "ah-ha!", and yes, even puzzles built into the comic. No to be left out are familiar themes that Gene's work is known for. Deeper themes of family and self worth done tastefully and without insult. As a fan of his stuff, I can honestly say that this is one of my favorites; and I would recommend to any parent or teacher to pick this up right away.

My five year old loves to read this book together and can't wait for the next book in the series. While this book is intended for slightly older children, the 5 year old is a big reader and enjoys science and computers, so I thought we would give it a go. She really enjoyed reading the book together, and she was able to the story line of a girl at a new school based on her kindergarten experiences. She also really enjoyed the coding puzzles that are written into the story line. As we read, we used a small whiteboard to work through the puzzles written into the story line, which use a open and closed eyes on four-eyed bird to teach the concept of binary. By the time we were half way through the book, she was able to work out each of the binary numbers with no help from me. This book is a great addition to any young readers bookshelf!

This graphic novel is a great way to introduce kids to coding. It's a fun, exciting story with simple, but increasingly more difficult coding challenges. Everything is explained clearly and even binary is handled well. (I wish someone had explained it to me that way.) I liked how the author showed programs that the reader can decipher along with situations where a program needed to be created - lots of good practice! My only complaint is how rude the kids are to each other at times. Be warned, though, this is a series. The books all end on cliff hangers, but my 10-year-old son enjoyed them so much, he didn't seem to mind.

Coding apps, programming computers. That is one of the most safe routes in this world for a young

person to a well paid job and certainty of having a job. This book is a brilliant educational fun story, that gives your kids an introduction to computational thinking by way of solving riddles that the author has build into the story. Any young person (age 5-17) could read this with equal benefit as the icebreaker to computational thinking. Buy it for your kid or any kid, who's up for a gift.

Ok,My 10yr old loves graphic novels so I decided I would give this a spin. My daughters default play mode is soccer, dolls and drawing, so I wasn't sure if she would figure out that I was hoping she'd learn something from this.15 minutes after I gave it to her she came running, full of excitement, to read a section to me... A section that taught her about binary numbers!!!! could hardly suppress my shock! My 8yr old is now reading it and I'm curious to hear what she thinks.Highly recommended!

Yes! Put this book in every school library and classroom. It may have been published with middle grades in mind, but my sharpest first graders are even taking to it. I picked it up from my public library and enjoyed it so much that I read it in one sitting (while learning something about binary)!This series is destined to be popular with kids of all ages and rides the exciting trend of kid coding.

I teach Computer Science to middle school and students understand the concept of programming better after reading the book.

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