

# Online Book Club

## The Monumental Mystery on the National Mall

### Bring It To Life!

1. Research the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Make a list of all the museums, monuments, and attractions considered to be part of the National Mall. Circle the places that the kids visited in the mystery.
2. Bring your characters to life! Character tags are very important to a story. They help the reader identify a character by a certain trait. For example, a character may continually have keys jingling in their pocket, or a character might hum when nervous. Mr. Tablebottom has a character tag. Do you know what it is?
3. In the mystery, Tara had an ID badge with a secret symbol on it. Create a secret symbol of your own and make an ID badge. You can get ideas for your symbol from magazines, television, decorative buttons or jewelry—just about anywhere!
4. There are many monuments, gardens, and museums to visit on the National Mall. Pick one that you would most like to visit. Research that place to learn the five W's about it: who, what, when, where, and why. Write a summary to describe the location and why you chose it.
5. Draw it! The Smithsonian Castle is a very majestic red building containing artifacts and artwork. Research some of the artifacts housed there. Draw a picture of one that you find particularly interesting. Write a fictional story about it, and end your story by describing how the artifact ended up in the Smithsonian Castle.

