

THE POSTCARD

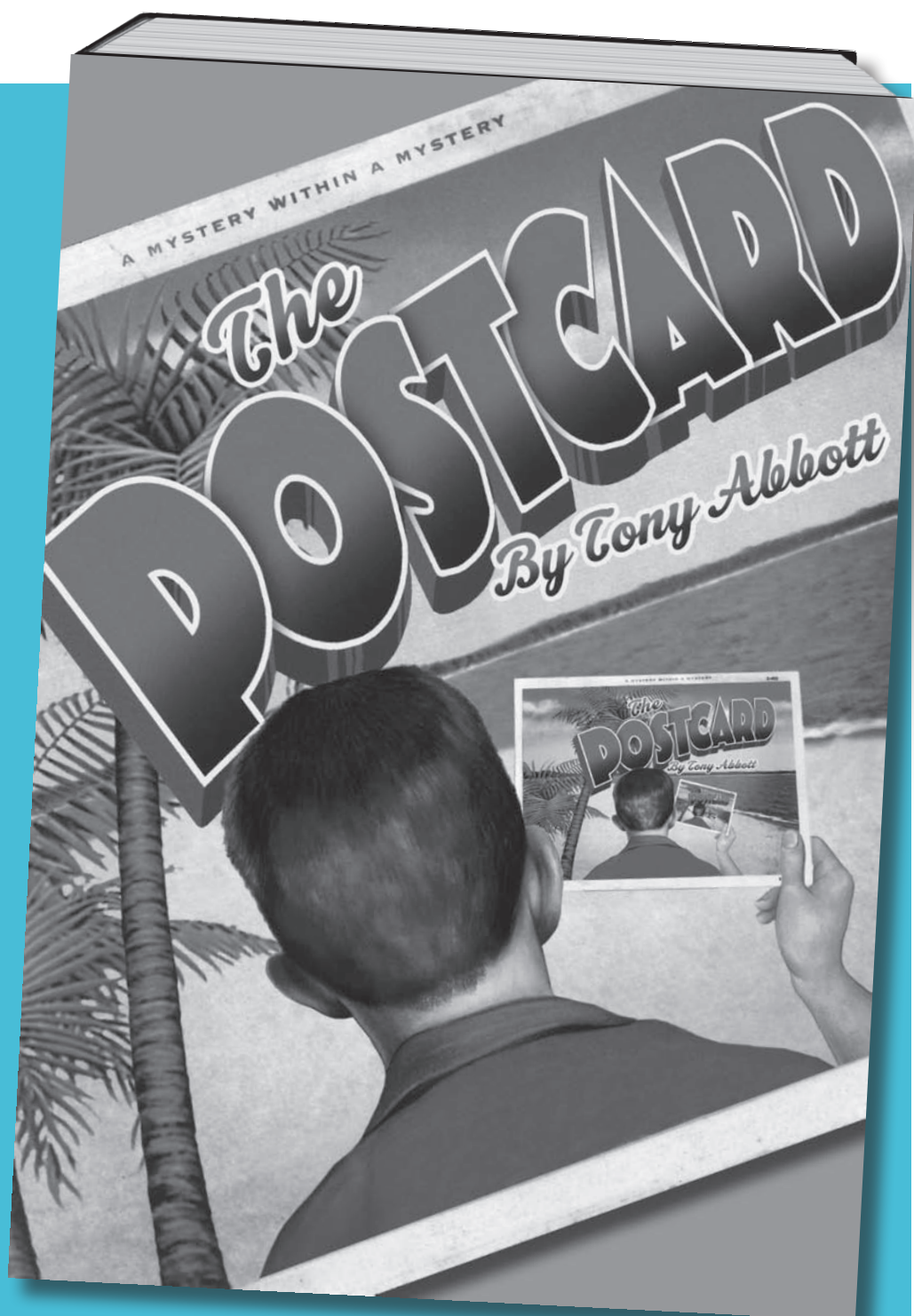
Thematic & Curriculum connections

- ❖ Divorce
- ❖ Mystery
- ❖ Historical Buildings

Ages 8 – 12

Award-winning author Tony Abbott shines in this thrilling mystery.

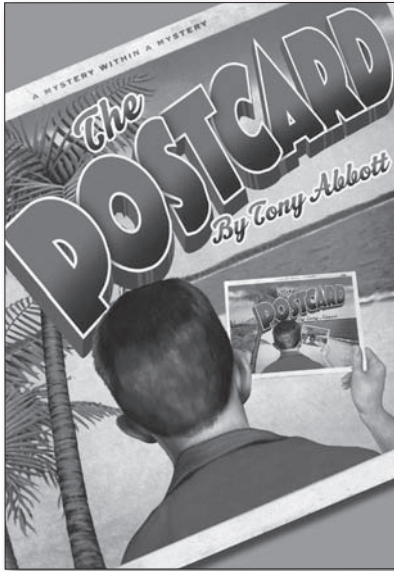
By Tony Abbott



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jason's father has an interesting history. He tells Jason he doesn't know who his father is and that his mother was never married. Why did Jason's grandmother make up a father? How does this information affect Jason? Would an unmarried mother today have to make up a father for the same reason Jason's grandmother did?
2. Jason learns that his great-grandfather was a railroad tycoon and owned hotels, including the Hotel DeSoto. How does this change the way Jason views his grandmother? How does Jason's dad react to this information?
3. Jason receives a mysterious phone call that leads him to find a hidden postcard. This postcard is the start of a mystery trail that Jason and Dia follow. Before you finished the book, where did you think this trail would lead them? Was the outcome what you expected?
4. Some very unusual people attend Grandma's funeral. Did you have a guess as to who these people were when you read this scene for the first time?
5. The main character in the *Bizarre Mysteries* story is named Marnie. Mr. Chalmers accidentally calls Jason's grandmother by this name at her funeral. Do you think this is a coincidence? What might you extrapolate from this? Later in the book, you find out who Marnie is. Were you surprised by the conclusion or not?
6. For someone who is dead through the entire book, Grandma is a key character. What other stories can you think of where a dead, or absent, character plays a key role? How does this absent character add to the suspense of the story?
7. When you read the story in *Bizarre Mysteries*, and the following chapters Jason and Dia uncover, did you think any part of it was true? How do you think this story is connected to Jason's grandmother? What similarities are there between what Jason knows is true and the story? Did you expect to find out more about the events and characters in the story as Jason uncovered the truth about his grandmother?
8. Jason repeatedly says he hates Florida and wants to go home to Boston. When his dad gets hurt, he has the chance to call his mother and go home. Why doesn't he? How does he feel about Florida by the end of the book?
9. Dia helps Jason with his search for the stories and the truth about his family. Do you think Jason would have been successful in either if Dia hadn't helped him? What skills and personality traits does Dia possess that are valuable to Jason's search?
10. How do Jason's feelings towards his dad and grandmother change as he learns the truth about their history?
11. Several times in Nick's story, the accident that hurt Marnie and Fang is alluded to. Why is this a key event in the story? Why do you think the truth about the accident is revealed only at the end of the book?
12. At the end of the book, Jason discovers the identity of his paternal grandfather. Jason had a hunch about his grandfather's identity, but it wasn't confirmed until the end. Did you have the same hunch as Jason about his grandfather's identity? What similarities are there between the relationship between his grandfather and father and between Jason and his dad?
13. Do you think the adventures Jason and Dia have are realistic for kids their age? How are their adventures similar to Nick and Marnie's?
14. At the beginning of each chapter there is a picture of an old postcard. As you read the book, did you expect each of the locations depicted in the postcards to be important to the story? How did these images help establish the setting? Did they help you picture old Florida as Nick's story unfolded?
15. What do you think will happen to Jason and his family after the book ends?

about the book



The Postcard by Tony Abbott

978-0-316-01172-3 HC

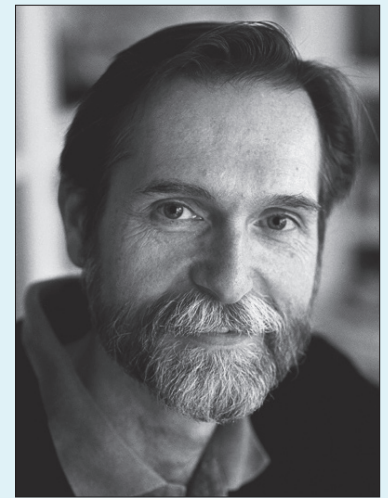
978-0-316-01173-0 PB

AR 4.0 • F&PX

When Jason’s grandmother dies, he’s sent down to her home in Florida to help his father clean out her things. At first he gripes about spending his summer miles away from his best friend, doing chores, and sweating in the Florida heat, but he soon discovers a mystery surrounding his grandmother’s murky past.

Award-winning author Tony Abbott weaves an intriguing and entertaining mystery of adventure, friendship, and family.

about the author



Tony Abbott is the author of over 75 books for young readers, including the extremely popular Droon series, which has sold over 4.5 million books to date. He has been a bookseller and librarian, and currently lives in Connecticut with his wife and two daughters.

praise for *The Postcard*

★ “The plot shimmers with originality.”

—BCCB (starred review)

“Abbott’s gift for creating complicated, realistic young characters is evident.” —SLJ

“Abbott weaves a fun, engaging tale that draws in readers and keeps them entertained.” —VOYA

An Edgar Award finalist