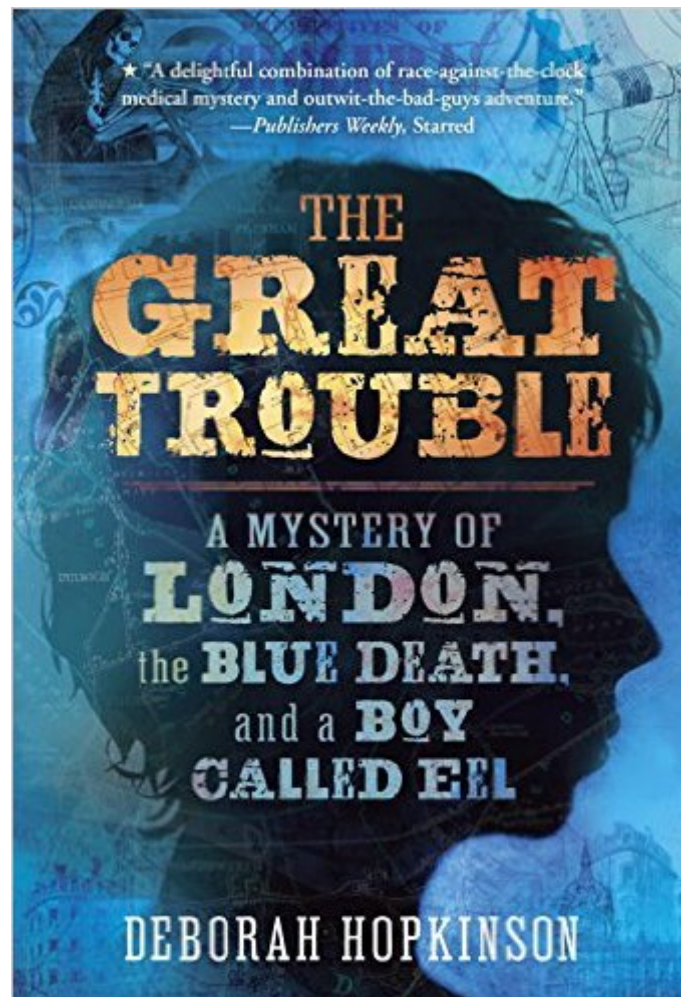


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# The Great Trouble: A Mystery Of London, The Blue Death, And A Boy Called Eel



## Synopsis

A delightful combination of race-against-the-clock medical mystery and outwit-the-bad-guys adventure. Publishers Weekly, Starred "Eel has troubles of his own: As an orphan and a mudlark, he spends his days in the filthy River Thames, searching for bits of things to sell. He's being hunted by Fisheye Bill Tyler, and a nastier man never walked the streets of London. And he's got a secret that costs him four precious shillings a week to keep safe. But even for Eel, things aren't so bad until that fateful August day in 1854—the day the deadly cholera (blue death) comes to Broad Street. Everyone believes that cholera is spread through poisonous air. But one man, Dr. John Snow, has a different theory. As the epidemic surges, it's up to Eel and his best friend, Florrie, to gather evidence to prove Dr. Snow's theory before the entire neighborhood is wiped out. Hopkinson illuminates a pivotal chapter in the history of public health. . . . Accessible . . . and entertaining." School Library Journal, Starred "For [readers] who love suspense, drama, and mystery." TIME for Kids From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0660 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (February 10, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375843086

ISBN-13: 978-0375843082

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #65,031 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #406 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health #721 in Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

London 1854 is not a kind city for an orphan. Eel lives in a world where children live day to day in the filthy streets, sleeping under bridges, and begging, working, stealing for food. Eel has a steady job as an errand runner and a second job taking care of animals for Dr. John Snow a prominent

London physician. Eel has it a bit better than other twelve-year-olds, but unfortunately he loses the errand job due to a thief and liar who has a grudge against him and the job with Dr. Snow does not pay him as much as he needs to make live. Back on the streets, with a bad man from his past looking for him would seem like the worst thing that could happen. But Eel has a secret. This secret is costing him money each week that he does not have due to the boy that caused him to lose his job. His desperate attempt to make money forces him to make decisions that would terrify grown men, let alone a young boy. With all of this going on, Eel goes to see a friend of his only to find the father of the family dying from the blue death which was cholera. The common theory is that this disease is spread by poisonous air, but Dr. Snow has a different theory. When he enlists Eel to help him investigate and support his theory. Working against the clock amid the death knocking at almost every door in the neighborhood, Eel faces friends and foes to help the Doctor. This just might be the best thing that has ever happened to him. This book was written for children 10 years and up. I am way past 10 and was thoroughly engrossed in this story. There was history, mystery, science, intrigue and relationships to wonder and worry about. The story is based on real people and the actual cholera epidemic in London.

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