

GIST undergraduate student Yeon-woo Bae publishes 《Detective Myeong-arū》 and wins the grand prize at Biryongso's first "Sherlock Holmes Award"

- Yeon-woo Bae, an undergraduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Class of '23), will publish her first book in August based on her award-winning work... A full-fledged mystery novel in which elementary school detective Myeong-arū logically solves mysterious cases
- In 2023, she also won the 7th Munhakdongne Elixir Mystery Award in the short story category... "I want to consistently write what I love and contribute to the growth of the authentic mystery genre in Korea"



▲ GIST Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science student Yeon-woo Bae (class of 23), who won the grand prize at the 1st Biryongso 'Sherlock Holmes Award', is taking a commemorative photo holding the children's mystery novel 'Detective Myeong-arū', which was published based on the winning work.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced the publication of a children's mystery novel, "Detective Myeong-arū," in August, based on the work of Yeon-woo Bae (Class of '23), an undergraduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, who won the grand prize in the first Biryongso Sherlock Holmes Award.

The Sherlock Holmes Award is a contest launched in 2024 by Biryongso, a children's and young adult publishing company, to discover Korean children's mystery literature.

* serious mystery: A genre of mystery novel that follows the tradition of classic detective novels and centers on solving riddles. It emphasizes the process of logically uncovering the truth through clues.

"Detective Myeong-arū" is a mystery novel in which elementary school student Myeong-arū acts as a detective and solves cases. Detective Myeongaru's logical reasoning gradually reveals that seemingly mysterious incidents, such as the ghost story of the abandoned house behind the school, the theft of a cursed doll, and the rotting school pond, are in fact connected to one incident.

Judges Kyo-beom Heo (children's and young adult literature writer) and Young-cheon Yoon (operator of How Mystery) praised "Detective Myeong-arū's Journal" as "a highly accomplished work that combines horror and mystery based on a ghost story." They added, "It demonstrates a keen understanding of the interests of young readers, and the author's deep understanding of the mystery novel tradition, his age-appropriate adjustments to the level of fear, and the protagonist's realistic problem-solving skills stand out."

Author Yeon-woo Bae previously won the 7th Elixir Mystery Award in the short story category in 2023 for "Detective, Sujeong." She has since published a series of short stories and columns in Elixir's mystery magazine, "Mysteria." "Detective Myeong-arū" is her debut book.

* Elixir Mystery Award: Hosted by Elixir, the genre fiction brand of Munhakdongne, this contest recognizes highly accomplished mystery works by both established and emerging writers, unpublished elsewhere. The contest covers a variety of subgenres, including full-length mystery, everyday mystery, suspense, thriller, hard-boiled, and espionage, and is divided into long-form, short-form, and critical sections.

Regarding the inspiration behind the work, author Bae explained, "I've always enjoyed ghost stories, and I thought that settings like abandoned houses near schools or rumors of monsters circulating among students would be particularly appealing to elementary school readers." She added, "The key to mystery novels is that there's a logical truth behind these mysterious events."

She continued, "When writing for young readers, I minimized provocative imagery and focused on the narrative of the protagonist solving the case. I believe my experience as an engineer helped the protagonist develop her scientific thinking."

Author Bae cites Yukito Ayatsuji, a leading figure in the Japanese "new honkeki" mystery genre, as his favorite author. She says, "From his 'Kwan' series, I learned the joy of honkeki and the 'fair puzzle-solving' approach, providing readers with ample clues to help them reason together." She adds, "My goal is to continue writing the stories I love, and through this, I hope to contribute to the growth of the Korean honkeki genre."

* Shin-honkeki mystery: A modern variation of the honkeki genre that emerged in Japan, this genre combines traditional mystery elements with psychological and social elements, emphasizing the process of solving cases and solving puzzles.