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The Whipping Boy



Synopsis

Award-winning author Sid Fleischman blends the broadly comic with the deeply compassionate in this memorable novel, winner of the Newbery Medal. A Prince and a Pauper . . . Prince Brat and his whipping boy inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like each other. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other. "A rollicking tale of adventure and mistaken identity . . . Robust scenes and characters are vividly evoked." —Kirkus Reviews This briskly told tale of high adventure, taut with suspense and rich with colorful characters, was named an ALA Notable Book. Sid Fleischman's celebrated novel features brief, action-packed chapters and includes black-and-white illustrations by Caldecott Honor artist Peter S. "An 18th century tale about the escapades of a resourceful orphan and a spoiled young prince. . . . Full of adventure, suspense, humor, and lively characters." —The New York Times Supports the Common Core State Standards

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (196 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,233 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Royalty #165 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths #279 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Customer Reviews

You'd think being plucked from the street to live in the palace would be a dream come true for an orphan. But Jemmy would disagree. He's be given the job of official whipping boy and is punished

every time the prince does something wrong. And there's a reason the prince is called "Prince Brat" behind his back. Jemmy dreams of running away, but is surprised when the prince announces one night that both of them are running away. Before they know it, the outlaw Hold-Your-Nose Billy has kidnapped them. Can Jemmy keep them both alive and get them back to the castle? Or will the oblivious Prince Brat spoil his every plan? I'd been intrigued by this book for some time, and finally had a chance to read it. The story is quite fun. While I saw the ultimate end coming, there were plenty of fun twists along the way that kept me engaged. And I truly came to care for the characters; I'd love to know what happens to them next. Kids will love this tale of adventure set in a time long gone, and adults will enjoy sharing it with them. Get this book today for some good family reading time.

This Newberry Award winning kids book is great good fun in the tradition of *The Prince and the Pauper* and *The Princess Bride*. It's the amusing tale of a spoiled heir to the throne, so obnoxious that he's known as Prince Brat, and of Jeremy, the peasant rat-catcher's son, who is drafted into the King's service to stand in for the Prince when he earns a whipping. Of course, having a whipping boy who gets punished in your stead leaves you little incentive to improve your behavior. The Prince is so incorrigible that he hasn't even learned to read and write, though Jeremy has just by overhearing the lessons. When one day the Prince decides to run away, Jeremy follows, figuring he has nothing to lose, since he'll be beaten for it anyway. But things take an unexpectedly nasty turn when the boys are captured by two cutthroats: Cutwater and Hold-Your-Nose Billy. The quick thinking Jeremy is able to convince the bandits that he's the Prince, since after all, he's the one who's literate, and tries to get them to release his compatriot; but the obnoxious Prince is so offended that he refuses to take this means of escape. Gradually, as their misadventures continue, the boys learn to respect and even like one another and all, of course, ends happily. One thing that occurred to me in reading this story is the way that Anglo-American literature turns the traditional fairy tale of mistaken identity on its head. The emblematic story of European tradition would be the *Frog Prince*, wherein the royal personage lies buried beneath a facade, but inevitably is discovered and accedes to his birthright. American stories like this one and *Prince and the Pauper* have as their premise that the regal upbringing has left the heir somehow unfit to rule and only after experiencing life as a commoner can they rightly ascend to power. The contrast obviously owes much to the underlying political philosophy of the respective cultures--the former supporting the idea of nobility being a function of birth, the latter premised on, if not consent of the ruled, at least a requirement of worthiness on the part of the ruler and an informed understanding of the plight of his subjects. Kids

needn't be concerned with all that though, they can just sit back and enjoy this amusing adventure for it's own sake. We savvy parents will keep the subliminal democratizing message to ourselves. GRADE: B+

I recommend *The Whipping Boy*. This book was written by Sid Fleischman and received the 1987 John Newberry Medal award. The story is about an orphan, Jemmy who is taken to a palace to be a "Whipping Boy". A whipping boy is a child who gets whipped in place of the prince in the palace. The prince happens to be a spoiled rotten brat and is known throughout the country as "Prince Brat". Needless to say, the poor whipping boy gets whipped a lot. In the book the two very different boys end up running away for different reasons. They are faced with several difficult situations and through their experiences and adventures, their lives are changed evermore. You should read this book because it is very entertaining.

I read the book *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman. This book is great for both boys and girls because it is about suspense and a surprising friendship. In some parts of the book you want to yell at the prince to follow Jemmy's ideas. The prince not following these ideas leads to trouble for both the boys. The result of the prince's behavior leads to the suspenseful adventures and the forming of an unlikely friendship that makes this book so interesting. *The Whipping Boy* is about a spoiled prince named Horace. He is always getting in trouble and has become bored with his life. Horace decides to run away from the king and his castle. The prince runs away with his whipping boy by his side. Jemmy is an orphan boy who takes the prince's whippings when Horace gets in trouble. The book tells an exciting story of suspense and surprises. The two boys are kidnapped by outlaws as they make their way through the foggy forest that surrounds the castle. Their many adventures lead the boys to form an unlikely friendship as they attempt to escape the outlaws. I really enjoyed the book. The descriptions of the adventures were so good. I felt like I was right there with the boys as they tried to make their way back home. I also liked how the prince's character changes throughout the story. You don't find out until the end whether the prince is a trustworthy friend. The theme of the book is that people can and do change. The prince in the story is best known as "Prince Brat." But throughout the story, he chooses to do things that change who he is. It's through these experiences that he learns to appreciate how friends can help each other. I learned that having compassion for people around you sometimes will lead to great friendships. I would recommend this book for six to ten year olds. I would give this book five stars. It was great to read. It is a great book to read when you're up for a dangerous adventure in the comfort of your home. I hope you'll like the book as

much as I did.

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