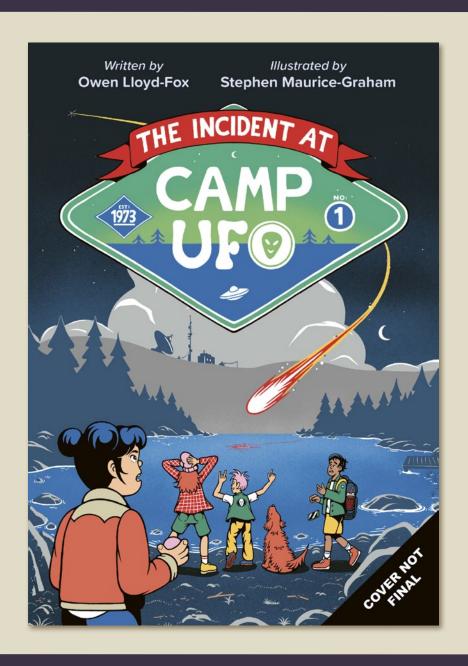


DK - FBF24 - middle grade and graphic novels

The Incident at Camp UFO



Unravel cryptic clues, solve fiendish puzzles, avoid the Shini-rax aliens at all costs while you help the gang solve the incident at Camp UFO!

- A brand-new adventure puzzle book series complete with graphic novel style illustrations. Perfect for fans of Bunny vs. Monkey, Stranger Things and gaming enthusiasts. A must-have for reluctant readers.
- Featuring a strong cast of characters with authentic stories from diverse backgrounds, including South and South East Asia, plus a non-binary character with partial hearing loss.

The Incident at Camp UFO



swan glanced around at the dark forest, he glistening lake and the far-off municipe. "Blists" done that What need

Um., "said Daz, scenning his fot. How about ghost stories? Anybody know any?" Nobody did.

Come on!" Vallehined. "Something scary NAS to have happened here. A masked lock with a murderous vendetta against camp kids? Mutant blood-sucking liveches? A tragic dodashall accident?"

Daz thought for a moment. "Well, there is OLD JiM. He's this we're did diner who's lived alone in the woods for. well, langer then anyone can remember. He's just alway thems. Lurking Sometimes you see him on the lake in a beat, cackling like this." Daz guilled a floe like a cut that was about to it





the Early Bints watched in silence as the bost disappeared out of niew.
Immen. Let not that sow, "I said frankle.
Teah "Will agreed rather unahandstrintiolarly. The con't help teining sid and eoughing."
Teapet A!" halfed Daz, glaing up all pretence of "respring young people" for the day.
The going to be A! hut the fire out before you leave and be certail of the... uh... vaster.

"C-can he do that?" asked Kinyi. The others turned to her, surprised. This was the first thing they remembered Kinyi saying since they arrived.

Then suddenly, she screame









The Early Birds looked at each other in utter astonishment, then sprinted towards the lake. Poppy followed, barking madly. She didn't have a clue what was going on, but she loved running.



"Y-you realise what's happening now right?" puffed Pawan, struggling to keep up with the others. "A SUPERHERO ORIGIN STORY! Space rock falls from the sky, local kids find space rock, space rock makes them FLY or TURN STRETCHY or give them the power to make people EXPLODE or something!"

"Was it definitely a space rock?" asked Val. "Whatsit called? An asteroid. Maybe it was a satellite. Or a part of a PLANE! I heard once that an aeroplane's toilet chute opened and the stuffinside fell out of the sky, and because it's SO cold up there, it FROZE and hit a man and everyone knew that he'd been squashed by a massive frozen ball of POO!"

"Definitely not poo," said Frankie, who had made it to the shore first.

The others arrived and stared out at the emanating water. "Poo doesn't glow."



"Woah" said Val, astutely

"I guess we should report this to, uh, whoever you report asteroids to?" Frankie posited.

"Um, sorry, I think you mean meteorite," said Xinyi, apologetically. "Asteroids are when they are in space. When they fall they are a meteor, and when it lands it's a... meteorite..." Xinyi frowned. WHY did I have to say that for? Now they'll think I'm a COMPLETE dweeb...

Frankie turned to her and smiled. "Thanks Xinyi. It's probably best we know exactly what it is when we tell—"

"Or." interrupted Val. "we DON'T tell anyone and fish it out ourselves!" The gang looked down at the glow once more. Pawan nodded slowly. "Yeah. I mean, do you KNOW how much meteorites go for online?" He said, biting his lip. "Like, mucho gold coins. Plus, still hoping for superpowers here..?"

"Yeah! Come on Frank-le-plank," beamed Val, "I wanna make people explode!"

Frankie sighed. She saw what this was. Just because she was older – just because she was older – just because she wasn't suggesting stupid things like FISHING FOR (potentially) MAGIC SPACE ROCKS – they were making her be the mum. The sensible one. The leader. Frankie took a deep breath. Not today. Not this entire summer, actually. She had decided in the car that this summer, she wasn't going to be in charge of ANYTHING. Especially not Val.

"Yeah, okay. Let's get the meteorite out of the lake," the new, relaxed go-withthe-flow Frankie replied. "So... how are we going to do that?"



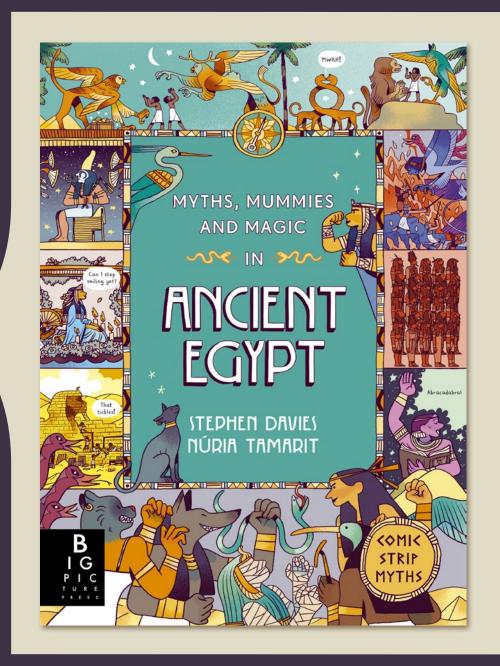
How COULD the gang fish the meteorite out the lake? When you think you've got it, turn to the next page - or check the answer at the back!



Hint: Try skipping back a few pages and see if there's any helpful lake-related gearl

Pub Date	05/02/2026
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788725
$H \times W$	210 × 148mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Owen Lloyd-Fox
Illustrator	Stephen Maurice
	Graham
Extent	112pp
Word Count	15000 words
Translation Files	20/07/2025
Files To Printer	15/09/2025
Freight On	04/12/2025
Board	

Myths, Mummies and Magic in Ancient Egypt



A vivid and contemporary retelling of the ancient Egyptian myths - now available in paperback.

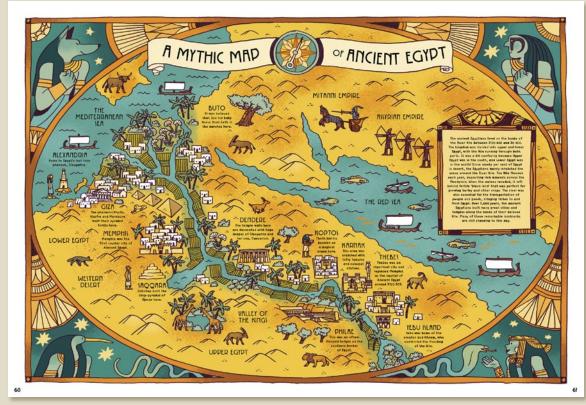
- The myths are be broken up with a series of 'theme' spreads, which take a broader look at certain aspects of Egyptian mythology (mythical beasts and monsters, the pharaohs, gods etc.)
- Striking artwork by renowned illustrator and comic artist Núria Tamarit (75k followers on Instagram)
- Mythology is an evergreen subject with strong backlist potential
- Growing demand for graphic novels and comic books for children

Myths, Mummies and Magic in Ancient Egypt



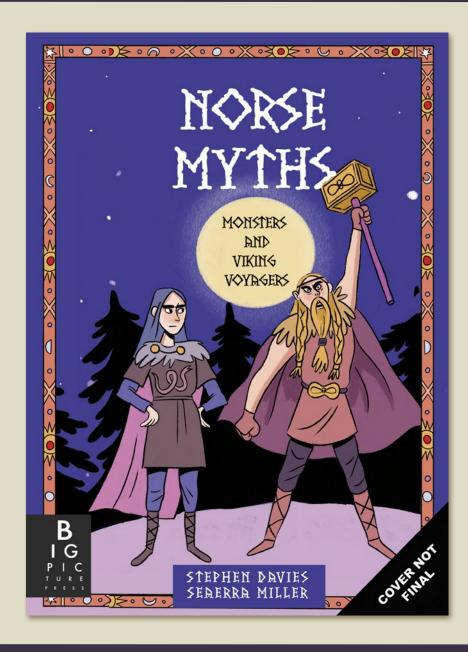






Pub Date	02/01/2025
Pub Price	£10.99
ISBN	9781835870068
$H \times W$	297 × 216mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Núria Tamarit
Extent	64рр
Rights Available	World

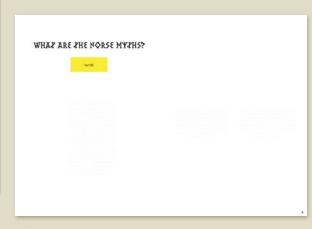
Norse Myths, Monsters and Viking Voyages

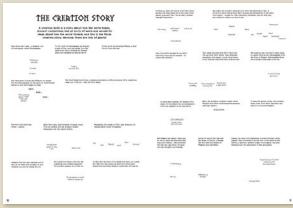


A vivid comicstrip retelling of the greatest Norse myths.

- Contents: Myths The Creation Myth;
 The Theft of Idun's Apples; Treasures of
 the Gods; Thor's Journey to Utgard; The
 Deal of Balder; Ragnarok; Sigurd and
 Fafnir Theme spreads What are the
 Norse Myths?; Meet the Norse Gods;
 How the Myths Explained the World;
 Meet the Vikings; Mythical Creatures
 and Deadly Beasts; The Afterlife; How
 the Norse Myths Came to us; A Mythic
 Map
- Following on from the success of Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece (which has sold over 50,000 copies worldwide as of July 2024) - this is the next title in a growing series for Big Picture Press

Norse Myths, Monsters and Viking Voyages



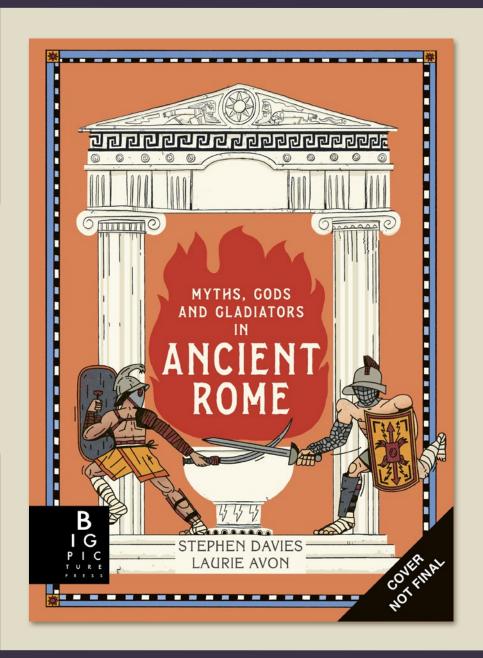






Pub Date	04/09/2025
Pub Price	£14.99
ISBN	9781800786745
$H \times W$	297 × 216mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Seaerra Miller
Extent	64рр
Word Count	12000 words
Files To Printer	10/04/2025
Freight On	14/08/2025
Board	
Rights Available	World

Myths, Gods and Gladiators in Ancient Rome

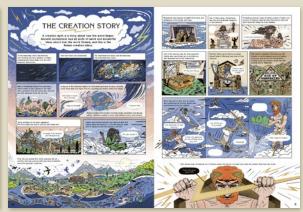


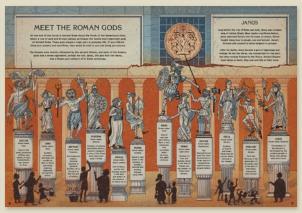
A historical and humorous comic book retelling of the ancient Roman myths.

- The myths are broken up with a series of 'theme' spreads, which will take a broader look at certain aspects of Roman mythology (mythical beasts and monsters, the gods, heroes etc.)
- Following on from the success of Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece (which has sold over 50,000 copies worldwide as of July 2024) - this is the next title in a growing series for Big Picture Press
- Growing demand for graphic novels and comic books for children and adults alike
- Cover treatments: Deboss and pantone

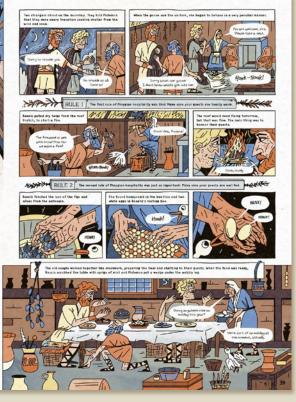
Myths, Gods and Gladiators in Ancient Rome





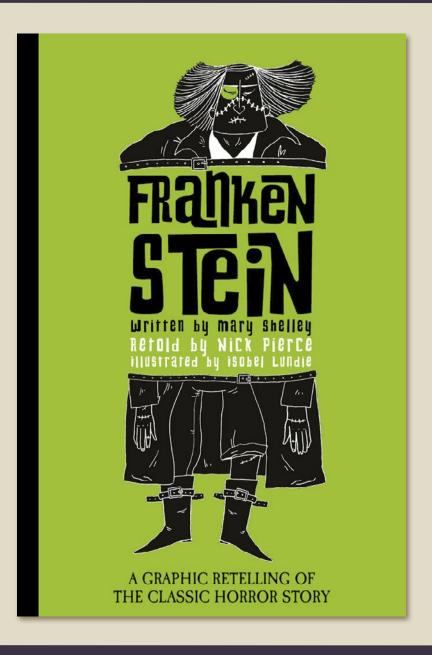






Pub Date	01/01/2026
Pub Price	£14.99
ISBN	9781800788770
H×W	297 × 216mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Laurie Avon
Extent	64pp
Word Count	12000 words
Translation Files	30/03/2025
Files To Printer	05/05/2025
Freight On	12/06/2025
Board	
Rights Available	World

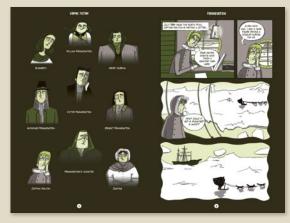
Frankenstein



A graphic retelling of Mary Shelley's gothic masterpiece

- A contemporary twist on a 19th Century classic. This creepy graphic retelling is the perfect tool for engaging reluctant readers and introducing children to the literary canon.
- An excellent English Literature curriculum companion. The endmatter contains an educational author biography, history of the text and key theme analysis to further help children.
- A wonderful introduction to the horror genre. Young readers will be captivated by Isobel Lundie's beautiful, spooky illustrations.
- Utilises speech bubbles and easy-tofollow sequential ordering to make the story more accessible.
- Next title in the series: Dracula

Frankenstein



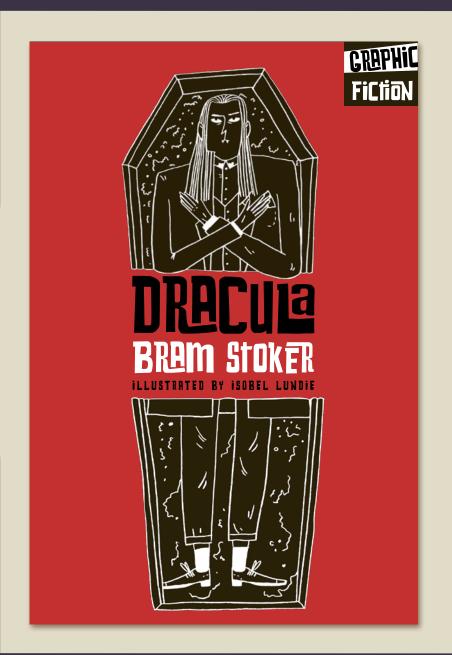






Pub Date	12/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788800
$H \times W$	210 × 140mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Mary Shelley
Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	64рр
Word Count	4316 words
Rights Available	World

Dracula



Bram Stoker's legendary gothic masterpiece is bought back to life in this blood-sucking graphic retelling!

- A contemporary twist on a 19th Century classic. This creepy graphic retelling is the perfect tool for engaging reluctant readers and introducing children to the literary canon.
- An excellent English Literature curriculum companion. The endmatter contains an educational author biography, history of the text and key theme analysis to further help children.
- A wonderful introduction to the horror genre. Young readers will be captivated by Isobel Lundie's beautiful, spooky illustrations.

Dracula





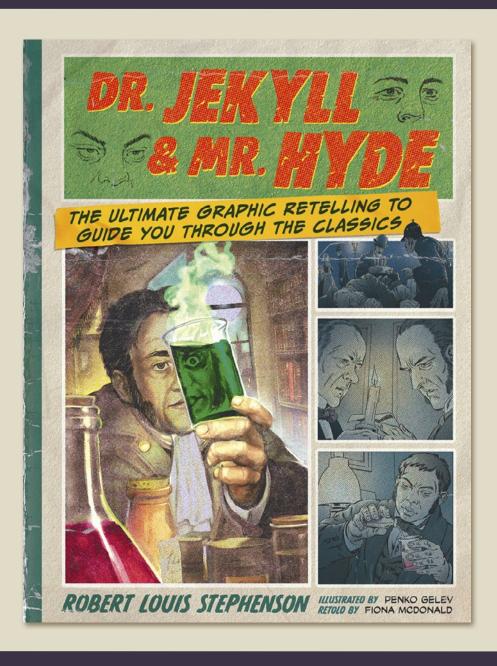






Pub Date	12/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788817
H×W	210 × 140mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Bram Stoker
Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	64pp
Word Count	3140 words
Translation Files	29/01/2024
Files To Printer	22/04/2024
Freight On	27/06/2024
Board	
Rights Available	World

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde: Classic Comics



The ultimate comic book companion to guide you through the Victorian classic, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

- The highly visual nature of comic book storytelling is the perfect way to encourage reluctant readers who are challenged or intimidated by reading to improve their literacy skills.
- Small amounts of text and easy-to-follow sequential ordering of the picture strips help make Shakespeare more accessible.
- Perfect curriculum companion to students studying Jekyll and Hyde at school, with an additional glossary to help dissect any tricky jargon or Victorian terms.

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde: Classic Comics



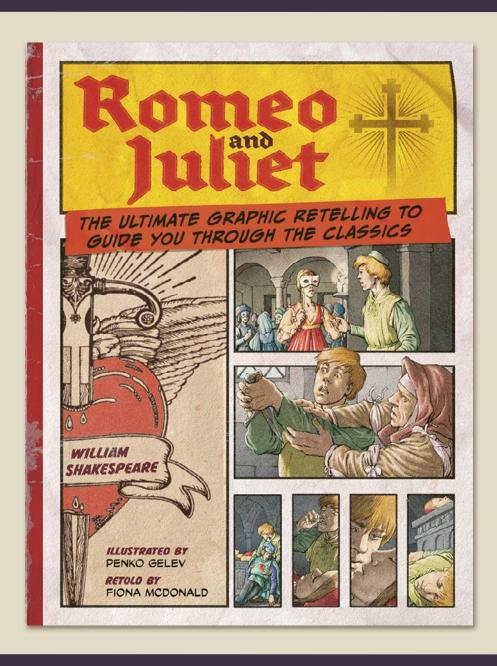






Pub Date	26/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800789142
$H \times W$	246 × 189mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Fiona
	MacDonald
Illustrator	Penko Gelev
Extent	48pp
Word Count	5715 words
Freight On	17/07/2024
Board	
Rights Available	World

Romeo and Juliet: Classic Comics



The ultimate comic book companion to guide you through Shakespeare's classic, *Romeo and Juliet.*

- The highly visual nature of comic book storytelling is the perfect way to encourage reluctant readers who are challenged or intimidated by reading to improve their literacy skills.
- Small amounts of text and easy-to-follow sequential ordering of the picture strips help make Shakespeare accessible.
- Perfect curriculum companion to students studying Romeo and Juliet at school, with an additional glossary to help dissect any tricky jargon or oldfashioned terms.

Romeo and Juliet: Classic Comics







of the control and John. The section of many more for the Control and the control and property of the control and the control and property of the control and property interests of the control and property interests of the control and property interests a

DO TALL

PHENOMENES THE SEAR PROPERTY OF SEAR PROPERTY OF

appearance make the John Law Service and the Service and Service a

and nev's Sectorated by somiples. Demonstration of influence were not of feeting were of an extensive server on a C S Metty that make of the extensive server of the extensive server of the server of

HAR LAURENCE'S PLA

Now, sir, her father counts it diagrenus that she do give her enrew and in his widom hazes our marriage. On Thursday, sir? The sime is very short.

JULET HURRIES TO SEE FRIAR LAURENCE, NOT KNOWING THAT PARIS IS VISITING THE FRIAR TO ARRANGE THER MARRIAGE. BUT THE FRIAR IS TRYING TO DELY THE CEREMONY, KNOWING FULL WELL HE HAS ALREADY MARRIED.

PARIS EXPLAINS THAT JULIET'S FATHER IS KEEN TO SPEED UP THE MARRIAGE AS HE IS WORRIED THAT JULIET IS SO UPSET AT TYBALT'S DEATH.



THE FRIAR TRIES TO LOOK PLEASED FOR AT THAT MOMENT, JULIET APPEARS, LOOKING PARS, BUT IS SECRETLY WORKED ABOUT FLUSTERED, PARIS IS DELIGHTED THAT SHE HAS WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN LODE CAPULET FINDS OUT ABOUT JULIET'S MARRIAGE



JULIET WANTS TO TALK TO THE FRIAR ABOUT ROMEO BUT CAN'T SAY A THING WITH PARIS THERE, PARIS IS EAGER TO TALK ABOUT THE WEDDING, BUT JULIET IS RELUCTANT.

FINALLY, TO GET RID
OF PARIS, JULIET PRETENDS SHE HAS COME
TO MAKE HER CONFESSION, PARIS LEAVES
SO SHE CAN BE ALONE WITH THE FRIAR.

O, shut the door and when thou hast done so, come weep with me FRIAR LAURENCE'S ONCE PARIS HAS GONE. JULIET IS SO UPSET THAT SHE THE FRIAR CALMS JULIET DOWN THREATENS TO KILL HERSELF PLAN THE FRIAR REVEALS HIS PLAN: WHEN PARIS FINDS NER WHEN THE POTION WEARS OFF. THE NIGHT BEFORE HER WEDDING TO PARIS, SHE MUST SWALLOW EVERYONE WILL THINK THE FRIAR AND ROMEO WILL BE SHE'S DEAD AND SHE'LL A POTION THAT WILL MAKE HER BE BURIED IN THE FAMILY CAN LEAVE VERONA AND START A

ve me, give
il 0 team of head of felor with
speed to Mantha, with
ne of fear!

KES THE VIAL THE THE FRAR PROMISES THAT HE

JULIET TAKES THE VIAL. THE THE FRIÂR FRIAR WARNS HER THE POTION IS NOT FOR THE FAINT- ROMED S HEARTED. THE PLAN.

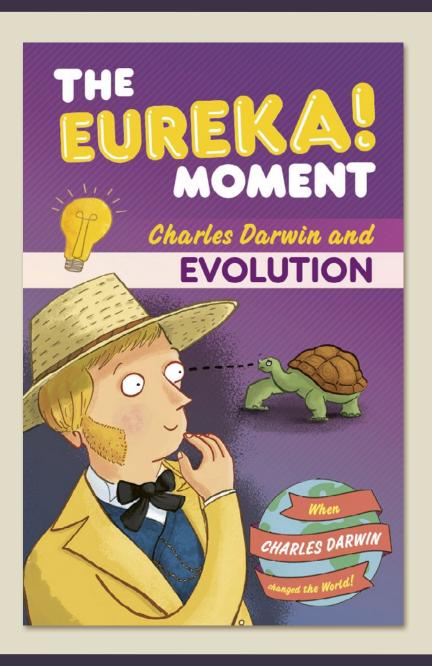
E JULET THANKS HAM AND

THE FRIAR PROMISES THAT HE JULIET THANKS HIM AND WILL SEND A MESSENGER TO LEAVES, CLUTCHING THE PLAN.

1, with this knike... presently if you can't hap me, it is also myser with this knike. 2 vier bottle. 3, desting signor drink that spreads strongly a body. 4 there is those chart you will seem dead. 5, visual some. 6, against... audies to be ready when you was... 7, online part. 6, "I make Carrier Car

26/09/2024 **Pub Date Pub Price** £7.99 9781800789159 **ISBN** 246 × 189mm $H \times W$ **Binding Paperback** Age Range **9-11 years Fiona** Author **MacDonald Penko Gelev** Illustrator Extent 48pp **Word Count** 13401 words 17/07/2024 Freight On Board Rights Available World

Evolution: The Eureka! Moment



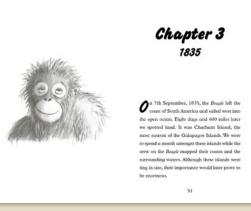
Explore Charles Darwin's incredible 'Eureka' moment!

- Child-friendly narrative non-fiction curated to deepen children's knowledge of key moments in the history of science in an accessible, entertaining way.
- Short comic strips scattered throughout the narrative to help children visualise and engage with key events.
- This series introduces children to a myriad of inspirational individuals and the barriers they faced during their quest for knowledge, encouraging and inspiring young people to dare to think differently.
- Combines history and STEM focused learning. The perfect curriculum companion to children studying evolution, adaptation, animal biology, and survival of the fittest.
- Includes extra end matter, such as timeline and glossary, to help children to fully understand concepts and the historical context.

Evolution: The Eureka! Moment





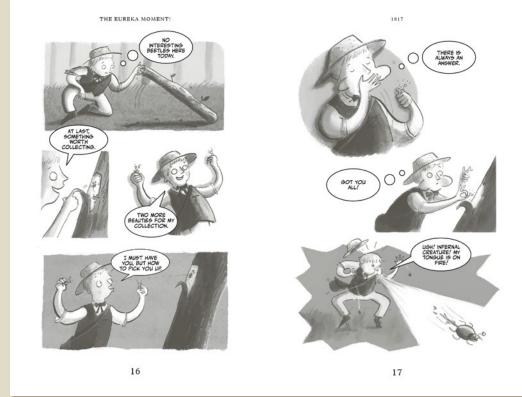


I was troubled by not being able to make sense Evolution before of the birds I had collected on the Galapagos Islands. I gave them to John Gould, a bird expert Darwin at the Zoological Society and said to him, "I am at a loss to know what to make of these little creatures. They appear to me to be different kinds of blackbirds, finches, gross-beaks and wrens. I think they are of little importance, but make of them what you will. If anyone can untangle their mystery, you can." A few days later, I returned to the society to that creatures changed their behaviour hear what Gould thought. I was astonished when he said, "All the birds are ground finches which are so odd that they form an entirely new group

Instantly, I realised their great importance to mu work and I regretted not labelling them with which islands they had come from. Others on the Beagle, including Captain FitzRoy, had also collected birds on the islands and luckilu theu had

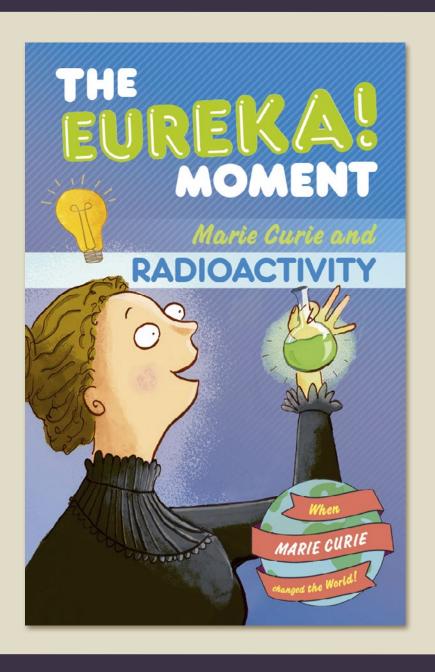
of twelve species."

The first person to develop a scientific naturalist called Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744-1829). He thought living creatures continually came into existence from non-living matter and evolved into more and more complex creatures. He thought to suit their environment and that these changes in behaviour physically changed the creatures. He also thought that these physical changes that happened in a single lifetime were passed on from one



Pub Date	29/02/2024
Pub Price	£5.99
ISBN	9781800788473
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Ian Graham
Illustrator	Annaliese
	Stoney
Extent	144рр
Word Count	15936 words
Rights Available	World

Radioactivity: The Eureka! Moment



Explore Marie Curie's incredible 'Eureka' moment!

- Child-friendly narrative non-fiction curated to deepen children's knowledge of key moments in the history of science in an accessible, entertaining manner.
- This series introduces children to a myriad of inspirational individuals and the barriers they faced during their quest for knowledge, encouraging and empowering young ones to follow their own research.
- Blends history and STEM-focused learning. The perfect curriculum companion, especially on the themes of radioactivity, medicine and scientific advances during WW1.
- Includes extra end matter, such as a timeline and glossary, to help children fully understand concepts and historical context.

Radioactivity: The Eureka! Moment



about it. They all thought that I must have made an error somewhere in my work. They looked down their noses at me and told me to do my ents again and be more careful this time But I knew I hadn't got it wrong. There had to be another reason for these unexpected results. When seemed obvious. The extra radiation must be had seen before. I was sure it was there and I had

When I told Pierre, he agreed with me. He was so excited at the possibility of discovering a new element that he stopped his own research and came to work with me. We crushed some pitchblende to powder, heated it and mixed it with water, acids and other chemicals to divide it up into the different materials it contained. We finally produced a tiny sample, just a few grains of radioactive material. When I tested it, I wrote

that I underlined it. I could scarcely believe it. Later, I read it out to Pierre, "150 times more active than uranium." I'd done it. I'd found a Pierre said, "You discovered it, so you can

the result in my notebook. It was so surprising

Pitchblende

Pitchblende is a natural material that contains uranium and thorium. A piece of rock that is all made of the same is called a mineral. And minerals that contain valuable substances like uranium are called ores. Today, pitchblende is







As 1914 began, I was bringing up my two seautiful daughters, Irène and Eve, on my own. My husband, Pierre, had died in a road accident eight years earlier. Life went on, but I was very unhappy. He was in my thoughts all the time and I missed him dreadfullu.

The Sorbonne asked me to take Pierre's place. I became the first woman professor there and head of research in the science department. I taught Pierre's science classes and also carried





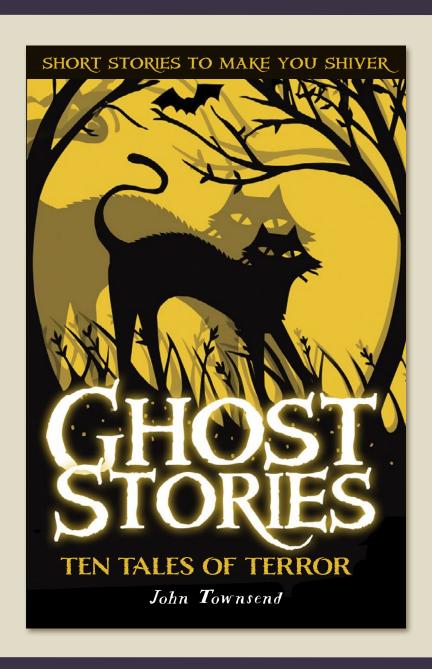






Pub Date	29/02/2024
Pub Price	£5.99
ISBN	9781800788527
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Ian Graham
Illustrator	Annaliese
	Stoney
Extent	144рр
Word Count	14683 words
Rights Available	World

Ghost Stories



Ten spooky spinetingling short stories!

- An entertaining, child-friendly introduction to ghost stories and the conventions of the horror genre. Perfect for children studying this in English.
- Shortlisted for the Leicester Libraries Our Best Book Award 2020.
- Kids will feel chills and thrills as they read about such things as haunted houses that burst into flames, ghosts frightening and friendly, a skull that won't stay buried, and a terrifying clown.
- A spooky halloween gift.

Ghost Stories

SHIVER

off his hiking boots. He fell onto the grass with a groan. "I never want to go on a hike again. Never. They said the Bronace Award expedition would be a piece of cake. I'm dying for a piece of cake right now. My feet are killing me. I give up where are we?"

Sacha gulped from her water bottle. She sank to her knees, sitting on her mud-caked boots. "I haven't got a clue. Right now, I don't care."

Liam bit into a mini Mars Bar then handed her the rest. "Make the most of this last bite. No more left after this."

Sacha passed him the bottle, "Just a few sips. There's hardly any left."

Clouds cast deepening shadows over the hills.

A large bird of prey rose in the sky and soared above the moor.

"This map doesn't make sense. I'm sure we turned left at the church in the village." Liam traced his finger over the map. "It doesn't agree GHOST STORIES

with my phone, either. The GPS is useless.

The signal's no good out here in the middle of nowhere. It keeps cutting out."

"My battery's virtually given up the ghost. Just like me," Sacha nighed before adding wearily," I think we should go back. We know there's a pub a few miles back. I'd kill for a plate of hot chips." She looked up. "There's a huge bird up there. It must be a vulture waiting for us to die of thirst."

Liam turned the map round. "Unless that clump of trees is this bit of green on the map and on my phone." He swore when he lost the signal

Sacha laughed. "Let's face it, you haven't got a clue."

He kept looking at the map. "There's a red triangle thing marked here. It's a youth hostel. We can't be far off. Let's go there. Hostels are cheap. It's only a couple of miles."

Sacha got to her feet. "If you say so. It'll be

SHIVERS

dark soon." She stared up at the circling bird with a growing sense of doom, as Liam put on his rucksack with a renewed burst of enthusiasm. "We'll be in the dry before the ruin starts."

They linked arms and began walking towards the setting sun – towards the bird of prey and the dead of night.

The first drops of rain began to fall as Sacha pulled on the hood of her raincoat.

"How much further, Liam? My blisters say it's bed time."

"Not far. I'll be able to tell when we get to

"Not far. I'll be able to tell when we get to the top of this hill. We'll see down into the next valley. I should get a better phone signal up there."

Sacha snorted. "It'll be dark by the time we get to the top."

Thunder clouds blotted out the rising moon and rolled across the moor as a shriek filled the darkening sky. Liam and Sacha stopped to look CHOST STORIES

up. A black shape swooped over their heads.

"Scary!" Sacha frowned. "That bird is like an omen. An angel of doom!"

Their boots somethed through mud. "Not.

long." Lam called: "Well soon be at the top."
A flash of lightning snaked across the sky and a loud crack rambbed over the moor. "It's like something from a horror movie," Sucha panated. The rain swept across in silvery sequals. At the top of the hill Liam pointed into the next valley. "That must be the hostel. Down there. With the

"I don't like the look of it," Sucha nurmured.
"It won't take us long." Liam sold, ignoring
her. The air was now very still. As they walked
down towards the hostel, a strange silence fell.
There was no rain here and everything was
deathly still – apart from a bird hovering above
the smoke that rose towards the pale moon
peoping through parting clouds.

SHIVERS

A sign by a set of black iron gates said Youth Hostel. Members Only'. Just beyond stood a stark Gothic mansion surrounded by bent and twisted tree trunks.

Apart from a faint glow from one of the large upstairs windows, the house was in eerie darkness.

"I told you we'd find it," Liam said, smiling. Sacha wasn't so sure. "It doesn't look very nice," she said.

Liam ignored her and added, "Tve got cash. They'll let us stay the night."

Clanging through the gats, they walked along the path, up some crumbling steps and to the porch. A pair of bosts caked in dried mod lay on the top step, Liam slammed his fist on the beavy door and a holler that deshoot before the doer swung open. A dimly lit hallway with dark ook panels stretched in front of them. The smell of soot driftled out over the porch. A thin, best man

GHOST STORIES

in black stood in front of them. He had a hooked nose and small beady eyes. "Yes? What is it?" he croaked. His eyes stared like a bird's.

"Can we stay the night?" Liam said. "I can pay with a card or cash."

The man blinked. The light from a single bulb cast his shadow over the front steps. He had a shadow like a vulture's.

"Members only," he said. "You'll have to join."

"How much?"

"We've got rules," the man continued, not listening, "No matches. No paraffin. No time." Sacha squeezed Liam's hand. She could smell

drink on the man's breath.

"Are you the warden?" Liam asked

The man ignored him. "It's late. It's only because of the clocks I can bend the rules tonight. We're full. One of you will have to sleep in the attic. The other in the boiler room."

Sacha pulled a face. "I don't like the sound of

43

SHIVERS

if she'll appear. You see, you shared Cornerstone Cottage with Mrs Coombs. She can be quite unpredictable but at least you survived a full week. Some don't. Apparently, she was the dairy maid long ago... before she passed away while knitting in her rocking chair in the back room. All very mysterious. They say she was found with a row of insect bites in the shape of a letter C on her neck."

36

GHOST STORIES



WHEN THE CLOCK STOPS

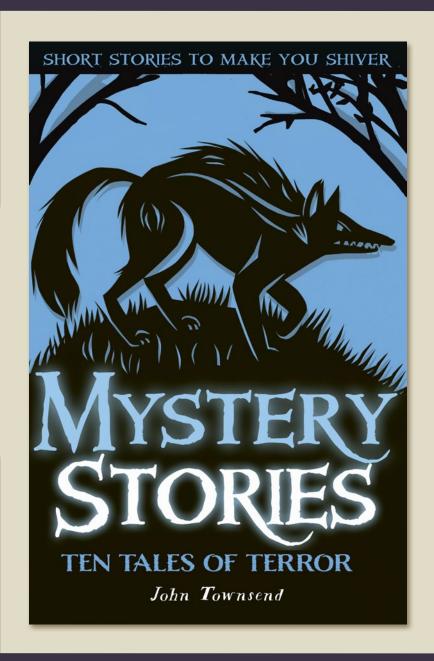
hen they wander from the expedition party, fifteen-year-olds Liam and Sacha are alone on the moors. Lost. At first, it's no big deal, as the map shows a hostel isn't too far away. But they haven't bargained on what is waiting in the darkness, and on what will happen on the night the clocks go back...

Liam threw down his rucksack and pulled

37

Pub Date	01/04/2018
Pub Price	£6.99
ISBN	9781800788992
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	John Townsend
Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	128pp
Word Count	21744 words
Rights Available	World

Mystery Stories



Ten mysterious, spooky short stories

- A wonderful, entertaining introduction to the horror genre and short story writing, perfect for children studying this in English.
- Perfect spooky gift for children to read one story each night in the build up to Halloween.
- Encourages independent reading and exploration of new genres.

Mystery Stories

SHIVER

In case you are wondering, Dei Gratia is Latin for 'by the grace of God'. She became a wellknown name, all because I told the captain what I'd seen that chilly December day.

There was a fair wind and the sea was choppy. although I'd known far worse. I was still finding my sea legs and was horribly sick when we first set sail in heavy seas. I always dreaded being told to climb the main mast to deliver a message to the lookout in the crow's nest. Up there you feel the swell far worse and have to cling on tight. Our ship had two masts, so it was called a brigantine. She was built in Canada only the year before, so we were both getting used to crossing the Atlantic. We were apparently 400 miles east of the Azores, some 500 miles from the coast of Portugal. The lookout pointed over to the horizon, but I happened to glance further to my left and saw a tiny speck in the far distance. 'Have you spotted that ship over there?' I

MYSTERY STORIES

asked. The lookout held a telescope to his eye.

That's mighty odd, 'be muttered. 'She seems to
be out of sorts, if you ask me. Go tell the captain.'

Captain Morehouse was concerned and he
ordered us to change course. He steered us
towards the ship, keeping a close eye on her

strange zigzagging through the waves.

'She's going all over the place. Whoever's at
the helm must have been on the rum all night.'

The closer we get to the 'drunken ship', as the captain called her, the more alarmed he became. He called to Mr Derwau, the first mate: That ship is definitely adrift. There's nothing guiding her and she's at its of keeling over line one sets her a proper course. Lower the rowing beat and investigate. Take the second mate and the boy and tell me what you find.'

I gingerly climbed down into the boat and we rowed across to the swaying ship, drawing up alongside. John Wright, the second mate, SHIVERS



MYSTERY STORIES

MYSTERY FACTS

Did you know ..

I. During an attempt to fly around the world in 1937, American aviator Amelia Eurhant disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean. The wreckage of her aircraft was never found, and her disappearance remains one of the big unsolved mysteries of the 20th century. Before her disappearance, Amelia Eurhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

The search to find the Yeti can be traced back to the time of Alexander the Great, who in 326 BC set out to conquer the Indus Valley and demanded to see a Yeti for himself. Local people were unable to belo. The name 'Abominable. SHIVERS

Gimlin in the Bluff Creek region of northern California. Despite much investigation since that footage from 1967, it is still uncertain where this was a boox or a genuine sighting. Take a look at it online and decide for yourself —if you dare!

MYSTERY STORIES

GLOSSARY

Bermuda Triangle an area in the Atlantic Ocean between Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Florida where ships and planes have apparently disappeared mysteriously.

Chupacabra a creature of legend said to live in parts of the Americas, with the first sightings reported in Puerto Rico. The name comes from its reputation for drinking the blood of goats.

Cryptozoology the study of creatures, such as the Chupacabra, the existence of which has not been scientifically proved.

Dire wolf an extinct wolf that was widespread in North America up to about 12,000 years ago, having a larger body and a smaller brain than today's wolf

SHIVERS

her, too - but Miss said we should relax as it was only the cruise boat chugging and making waves.'

He frowned and looked at his watch. 'Not now. Not in the fog it wasn't. Boats don't sail in bad weather. They've all been moored for the past hour. No boats were out on the loch when you heard that noise.' He looked very serious, lowered his voice and added, 'The only one brave enough to venture into those dark and misty waters would be the very monster itself.'

Mrs Milligan could only gulp and stare. Apart from that, she still seemed fairly relaxed. So relaxed, she didn't stir. That's because she'd just fainted with a terrified gasp — face down in the man's porridge.

MYSTERY STORIES



THE GHOST SHIP

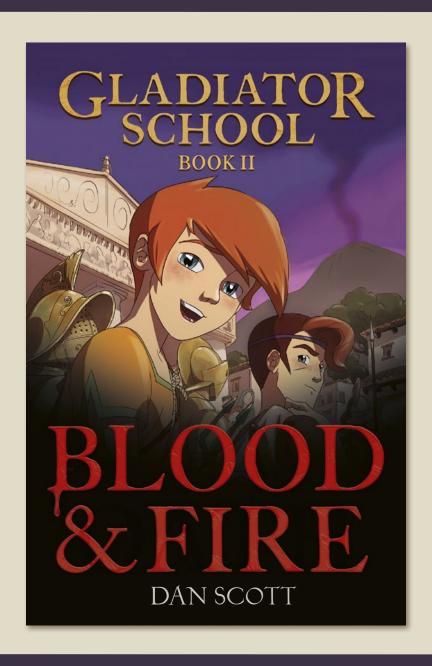
was only 12 at the time. It was my first voyage as cabin boy on the ship *Dei Gratia* in 1872. In fact, it was me who first spotted flapping sails in the distance and reported the drifting vessel to Captain Morehouse. Little did we know what we were about to find.

109

Pub Date 01/11/2020 **Pub Price** £7.99 **ISBN** 9781800789005 H×W 198 × 129mm **Paperback** Binding Age Range 7-9 years **John Townsend** Author **Isobel Lundie** Illustrator 128pp Extent Rights Available World

10

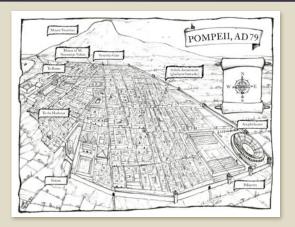
Gladiator School 2: Blood & Fire



The second in the Gladiator School series - an epic ancient tale of blood, sweat and sacrifice.

- An epic fictional story set in a real-life historical context. Perfect for lovers of the ancient world or those studying the Ancient Romans in school.
- Fast-paced, action-packed and full of unexpected twists and turns. A great option for reluctant readers searching for an exciting, gory adventure story to keep them entertained.
- Contains additional notes throughout to define key Roman terms, helping children to learn more about ancient society and immerse themselves in the time period.

Gladiator School 2: Blood & Fire



CHAPTER I



he midday sun beat down on Lucius as he pursued Quin through the streets of Poupeit. He glisupsed his browler's tall, athletic figure up alsoed, sumering along through the reach heading west towards the Forum. Eurius could have perferred to walk side by side with Quin hrough this unlamilar city, but season the would not

see werekunen.

Sincells of cooking meat from the fast-food shops mingded with the strench walking over from the fullsasce factories mear the harbour. Lecius's cars either sasce factories mear the harbour. Lecius's cars exclude with the cries of fruit sellers and wine merchant and the pipes and drums of bankers. The noise and "Formattle main modelplan which was developing to binding metringting and the properties of the properties of the properties of the "Tomattle main modelplan which was developing to binding metring."

23

GLADIATOR SCHOOL

spalser reminded him of Suberra, the area where he more lived in Rous. Yet Dunqu's several to carey an exter air of unexace. The shadow-filled allays, the hard forces of the young men, the cold-eyed state of a begar woman – they all spelled danger to Lexins. Maybe it was his insignation, but Pomper's essent like a city brisinning with desperate and unerrapulson people whole many the contract of the contract of

From a searly side street, Lorius heart a cryo opin, Hin natured carries made him wast to knery on past, but these he was Quin true and enter the hely. Hockandy, Lorius followed, Adding the ring on his forefringer for luck, It was his only memerics of his father, and had become his sideman. Concerling himself behind a pile of amphones. Lorius was Quin himself behind a pile of amphones. Lorius was Quin was the least of the large of

emplores (ringeler amplore); eartherwere storage jass.

6

BLOOD & FIRE

His sense of fairness clearly offended, Quin impulsively strode into the mêlée and pushed aside one of the bulkes, who had been holding the viceius in a neck lock. The bully squeaked in surprise and fell to the ground. His friends immediately closed in around

the ground. His friends immediately closed in around Quin, their jeers turning to under ol or larger. There were six of them - three around with which against the unserned Quin. Locking prounds He steeled Jamesli, knowing he would have to go and help his brouther. With his shedor bulk, Lockins waarn's made for physical violance. He cursed their fate for bringing them here to Pomprii.

0

It was ten days since Crasson, the laminta of the gladlastor whoch had made the amount encount. The whole had had had the the amount encount. The whole had had had been the forthcoming games in Possporii. As tond of theiry gladlastors would be gains, including good, and Larish and been disusport to learn that be too was among those selected to go, It was a seven-day, march to Posspori, and the result of the Sorther work, speat in the city. Taking the return march into account, and there would be a forther work speat in the city. Taking the sizes march in the counter that meant that Lacions would be gone fresh been found to the contact the bands of the contact the bands of the contact had been described for the late of the contact had been described for the late of the contact had been described for the late of the contact had been more formed that the more ordering for his darker. What I August a few occurred had been more formed and the second of the late of the contact had been more ordering the second of the late of the contact had been more ordering and intervent of the present than them more ordering.

25



THE MAIN CHARACTERS

Lucius, a Roman boy

Quintus, his older brother

Aquila, their father

Ravilla, their uncle

Caecilia, their mother

Valeria, their sister

Isidora, Lucius's friend, an Egyptian slave

Crassus, a lanista (trainer of gladiators)

Valens, editor (sponsor) of the games at Pompeii

Atia, a seer

Eprius, a young patrician (nobleman) of Pompeii PROLOGUE

FIRST BLOOD

ROME 10 August AD 79





ames given by Gaius Valerius Ravilla,' Lucius read aloud. 'Forty gladiators will fight. Perfumed water will be scattered.' His finger hovered over his brother's name.

'Quintus, Retiarius, tiro, will battle Burbo, Secutor.* Burbo has won ten bouts.'

'You've read it at least twenty times,' said Isidora, sounding rather impatient. 'You can't change the words by staring at them, you know.'

Lucius dropped the programme back into his bag and rubbed his eyes. He hadn't had much sleep.

Retiarius: a gladiator who fights with net (rete) and trident; tiro: a gladiator fighting in public for the first time. Secutor: a gladiator who wears an enclosed, egg-shaped belimet and fights with a short sword (gladius); bis name means Chaser.

Pub Date	23/05/2024
Pub Price	£6.99
ISBN	9781800789104
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Dan Scott
Extent	224pp
Word Count	46723 words
Rights Available	World

7

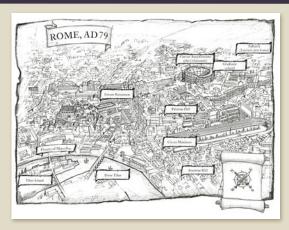
Gladiator School 1: Blood Oath



A tale of blood, sweat, sand and sacrifice, set in the gladiator arenas of Ancient Rome

- An epic fictional story set in a historical context, perfect for lovers of the ancient world.
- Fast-paced, action-packed and full of unexpected twists and turns. Great for reluctant readers searching for an exciting adventure story to keep them entertained.
- Contains additional notes throughout to define key Roman words, helping children to learn more about ancient society and immerse themselves in the time period.

Gladiator School 1: Blood Oath



Lucion's older brother had found electy to sa Lucius's older brother had found plenty to say. Quintus, named after his father, was never lost for words. He had followed the soldiers through the villa as they searched for his father, warning them of the dire punishments that would fall on their heads when his father returned, threatening them with curses and finally invoking the household gods to protect the family against the introders.

family against the intruders.

But, throughout it all. Lucius had stayed in the atrium, his back pressed against the cool marble walls. The statues were still wearing their crowns of flowers and leaves. Less than a day had passed since they had celebrated their mother's birthshay. And sow his world was crumbling around his ears. 'Where is he, boy?'

A soldier was standing in front of him, demanding

an answer.

'The Senate?' snapped Quintus from the doorway to the atrium. 'The Forum?' Where else would you expect one of Rome's most respected senators to be at this time of day?

'He's not there,' Lucius said. His voice sounded croaky and unfassiliar. 'What are you talking about?' asked Quin.

okstylaer of ancient Rose, which was also the place for

He sounded irritable and indignant. How favory, thought Lucius. Quin always knows everything. How com

'Explain yourself,' rapped out the soldier, who was

Esplain yourself, rapped out the soldier, who was evidently losing parience fast. Look, said Lucius. Finally, Quin followed the direction of his brother's gaze and his eyes fell on the altar. Lucius saw Quin's posture change. His shoulders sagged, his face egistered confusion and disbelief.

The dog's gone," he said. Of the three statues that re-Of the three statues that represented their household gods, the wooden dog had always been their father's favourite. It had stood on the hearth altar for as long as Lucius could remember. Aquils had said that it represented the faithfulness of true friends. He would or take the statue on a normal working day. But it would always travel with him when he made a

The's taken the statue?' demanded the soldier.

Lucius nodded. The soldier's mouth set into a grim line. 'Right,'

He called his men and ordered them to his side. You're going? Quin asked.

Yes,' said the soldier. We'll leave you to your

'What's that supposed to mean?' Quin had recovered from his initial shock and was truculent again.

be many weeks - perhaps mouths - of this alread

Quin had always seemed strong and powerful. But Quin had always seemed strong and powerful. But more, standing barefoot is the middle of the areas, wearing nothing but a loineleth, he looked like a child. Blood and weart were smeared across his back and shoulders. Other novicii gladiators were watching from the side steps, and Lucius had ventured out of the back.

rooms of the school to see how Quin was getting on. Now he wished that he hadn't bothered. No sword, no shield, no armour, 'he muttered, 'It's

a voice behind him. The weapons come later.'
Lucius spun around and sure a slave girl standing
there. Her thick, black hair hung in two heavy plaits there. Her thirk, black har hing in two heavy plans around her oval face. Locin ddn't know what to say. A month ago he world have smiled and thanked her. He would have known his own status. Now, working in the gloditars whool, he didn't even feel like hisself any more. He certainly didn't feel like talking. He turned back to the arena, where Onin was on his back again

back to the areas, where Quas was on his back again.
One of the watching gladitators normed to Lucius.
His lips parted in a black-toothed grin.
Your brother's not even out of his swaddling clothes, he said, spitting onto the sand. We eat his sort for breakfast.

Clearly this gludiator was already trained and fighting for enougy. Lacius dish't answer best, as lee heard another cay of pain from Quin. his threat bearned. He would be eick if he leeft on waterling. He had no got out. Lacklily, he had an excuse to leaver his sucke had asked him to deliver a message to someone in the Forum.

The sweltering streets of Rome seemed less busy than smal. Lucius wove his way towards the Forum, the cries of street sellers ringing in his ears as he dared through the throug of carts and chariots. The acid smell of urine and excrement stung his threat. He stumbled

over a litter of piglets trotting across his path and the owner yelled at him: 'Out of the way, boy!'

sever yelled at him: Out of the way, boy?

Story: Lackin memment, seconding to the side of
the street, where a next versible who was selling piles
of fresh red blangs was splatning severyone in the
scienty with bland, supplying much streeties as ble crases
and incor. He beams the streeties as ble crases
and incor. He beams the streeties as ble in crase
and incor. He beams the streeties was blat has fore
twoods corey him to the maderaphes while his inside
would corey him to the maderaphes while his inside
that he was standing on the street where their old boars
as. The shape are into the will, walled were selling
the same clotha and clay part of silver oil an abugy's
three streets are the street of the street of the street
Encycling blood pile as in the belle was to do they are



THE MAIN CHARACTERS

Lucius, a Roman boy

Ouintus, his older brother

Aquila, their father

Ravilla, their uncle

Caecilia, their mother

Valeria, their sister

Isidora, Lucius's friend, a slave

Rufus, a slave

Crassus, a trainer of gladiators

PROLOGUE

TRAITOR!

JULY AD 79





ucius stared at the household gods.

Everyone else seemed able to shout and cry and wail and rage, but Lucius couldn't even open his mouth. From the moment the soldiers had

burst in to arrest his father and found him missing, Lucius's eyes had been glued to the little wooden

The soldiers had stormed through the villa, overturning furniture, rattling their swords and yelling, 'We arrest you, Quintus Valerius Aquila; in the name of the Emperor, show yourself!'

His mother had collapsed, trembling, onto the couch in the atrium,* clasping Lucius's sister Valeria

Pub Date	23/05/2024
Pub Price	£6.99
ISBN	9781800789098
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Dan Scott
Extent	224рр
Word Count	44294 words
Rights Available	World

^{*} atrium: the entrance ball of a Roman villa.



DK - FBF24 - middle grade and graphic novels

Created by Cecilia Fanucci cecilia.fanucci@bonnierbooks.co.uk

Updated 21 February 2025