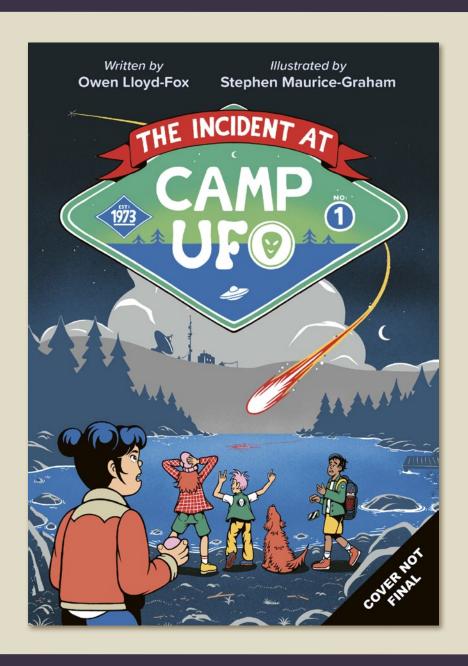


# Ukraine - FBF24 - middle grade and graphic novels

## 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 uncharacteristically. The con't help teining sit and soughing."
Teapet A!" halfed Dzz. glaing up all pretence of "respring young papelin for the day.
The going to be A! hut the fire out before you leave and be careful of the... uh... vastr.)

"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 III 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?"



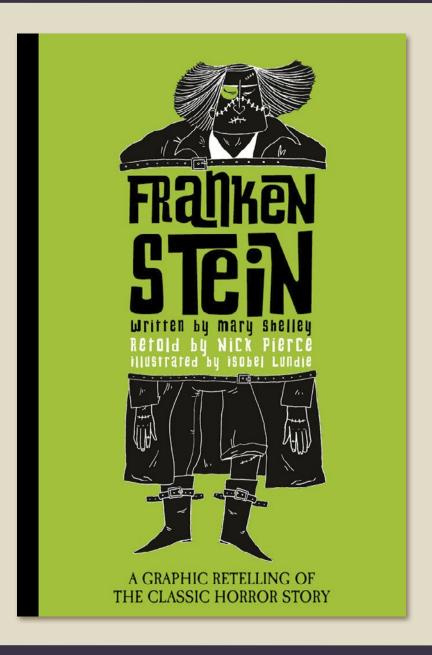
How COULD the gang fish the meteorite out the lake? When you think you've got it, turn to the next page - or check the answer at the back!



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	<b>Stephen Maurice</b>
	Graham
Extent	112pp
Word Count	15000 words
Translation Files	20/07/2025
Files To Printer	15/09/2025
Freight On	04/12/2025
Board	

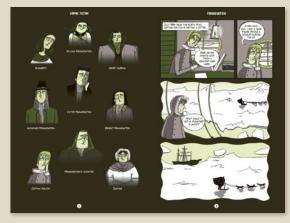
## **Frankenstein**



## 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



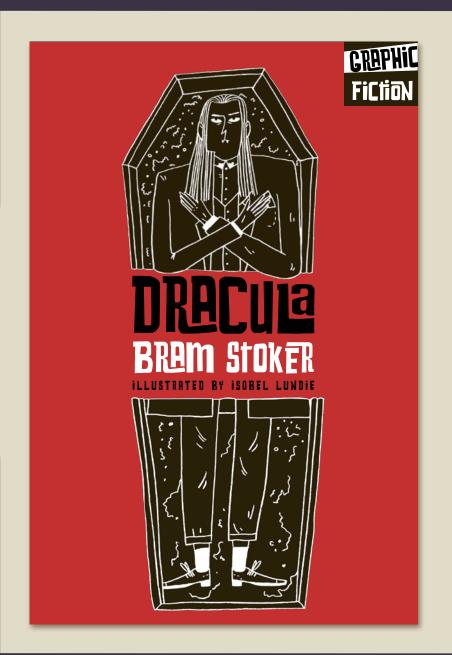






Pub Date	12/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788800
$H \times W$	210 × 140mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Mary Shelley
Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	64рр
Word Count	<b>4316 words</b>
Rights Available	World

## 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





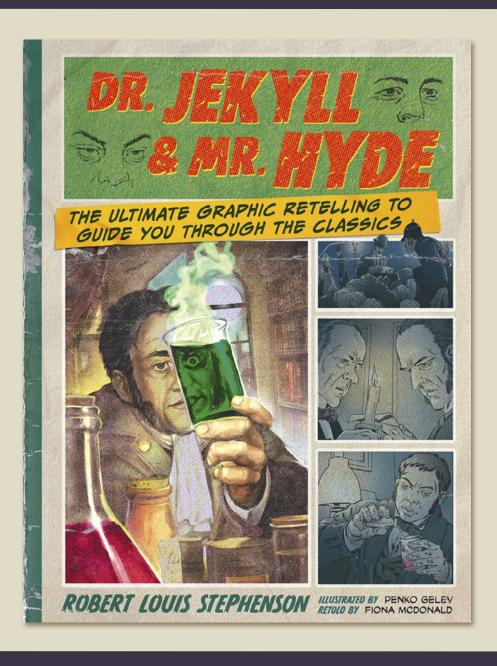






Pub Date	12/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800788817
H×W	210 × 140mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Bram Stoker
Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	64рр
Word Count	3140 words
Translation Files	29/01/2024
Files To Printer	22/04/2024
Freight On	27/06/2024
Board	
Rights Available	World

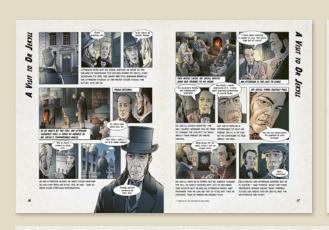
## Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde: Classic Comics



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



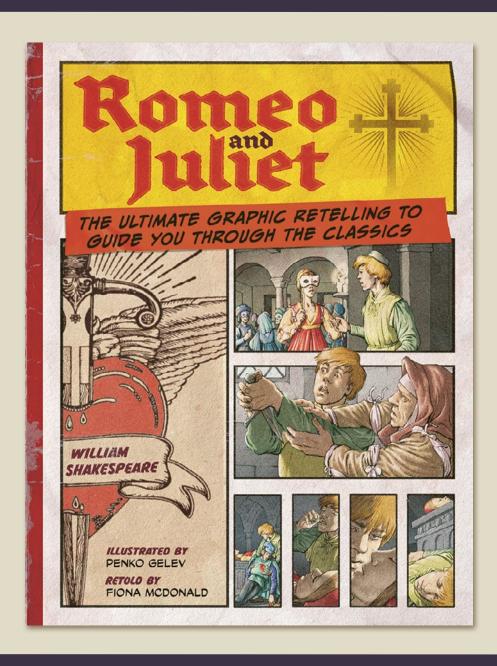






Pub Date	26/09/2024
Pub Price	£7.99
ISBN	9781800789142
$H \times W$	246 × 189mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Fiona
	MacDonald
Illustrator	Penko Gelev
Extent	48pp
Word Count	<b>5715 words</b>
Freight On	17/07/2024
Board	
Rights Available	World

## 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







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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

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

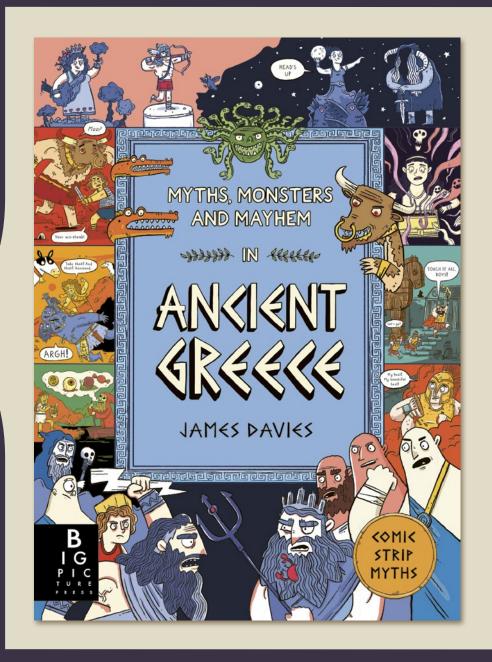
E JULET THANKS HAM AND

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

### Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece



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

- Contents: Pandora's Box; Theseus and the Minotaur; Perseus and Medusa; Orpheus and Eurydice; The Trojan Horse; What are the Greek Myths?; Meet the Greek Gods; How the Myths Explained the World; Mythical Creatures and Deadly Beasts; A Journey through the Greek Underworld
- These myths will be broken up with a series of 'theme' spreads, which will take a broader look at certain aspects of Greek mythology (mythical beasts and monsters, the gods, heroes etc.)

## Myths, Monsters and Mayhem in Ancient Greece





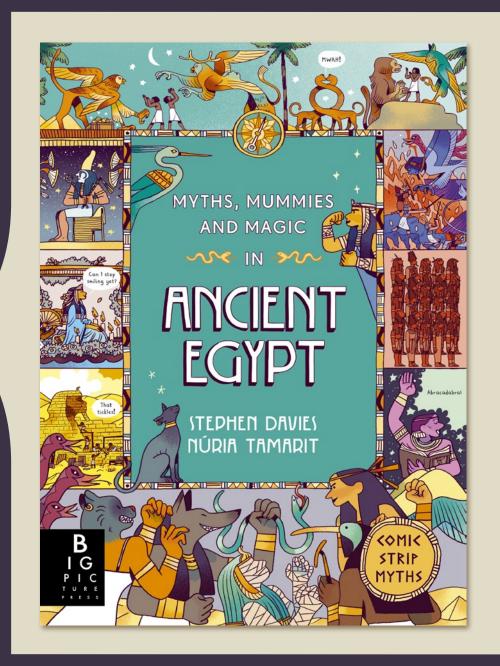






Pub Date	11/04/2024
Pub Price	£10.99
ISBN	9781800787520
H×W	297 × 216mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	<b>James Davies</b>
Illustrator	James Davies
Extent	64pp
Word Count	12000 words
Rights Available	World

### Myths, Mummies and Magic in Ancient Egypt



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

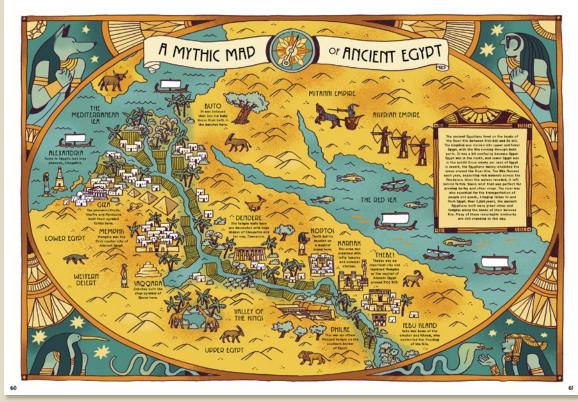
- The myths are be broken up with a series of 'theme' spreads, which take a broader look at certain aspects of Egyptian mythology (mythical beasts and monsters, the pharaohs, gods etc.)
- Striking artwork by renowned illustrator and comic artist Núria Tamarit (75k followers on Instagram)
- Mythology 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



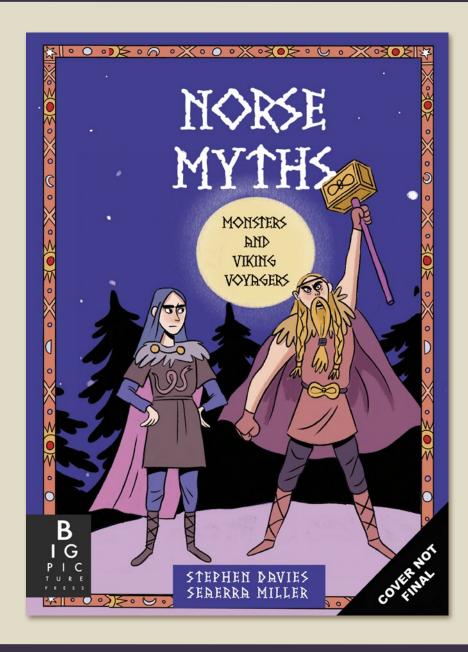






Pub Date	02/01/2025
Pub Price	£10.99
ISBN	9781835870068
$H \times W$	297 × 216mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Núria Tamarit
Extent	64рр
Rights Available	World

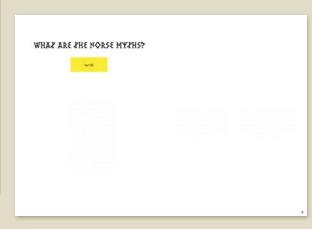
## Norse Myths, Monsters and Viking Voyages

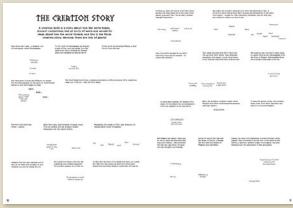


## A vivid comicstrip retelling of the greatest Norse myths.

- 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



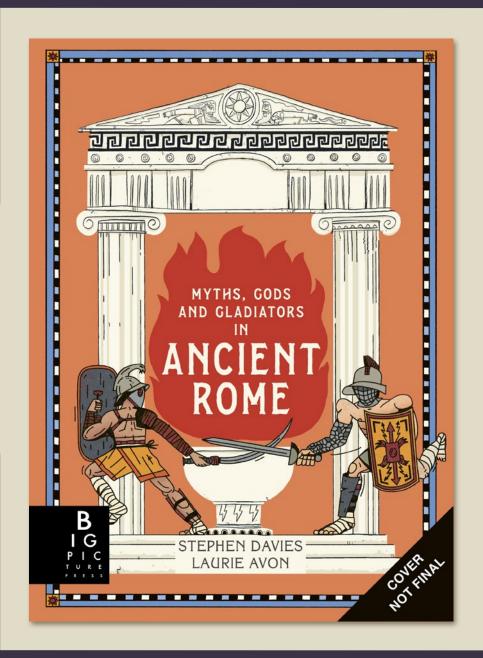






Pub Date	04/09/2025
Pub Price	£14.99
ISBN	9781800786745
$H \times W$	297 × 216mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Seaerra Miller
Extent	64рр
Word Count	12000 words
Files To Printer	10/04/2025
Freight On	14/08/2025
Board	
Rights Available	World

### Myths, Gods and Gladiators in Ancient Rome

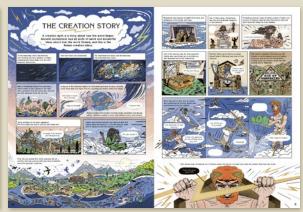


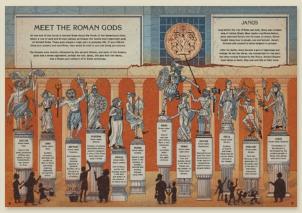
## A historical and humorous comic book retelling of the ancient Roman myths.

- 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

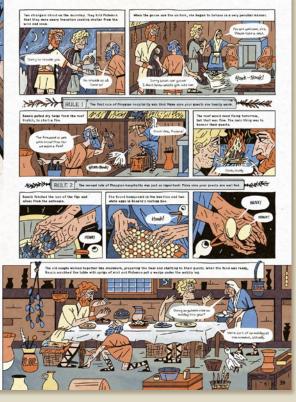
## Myths, Gods and Gladiators in Ancient Rome





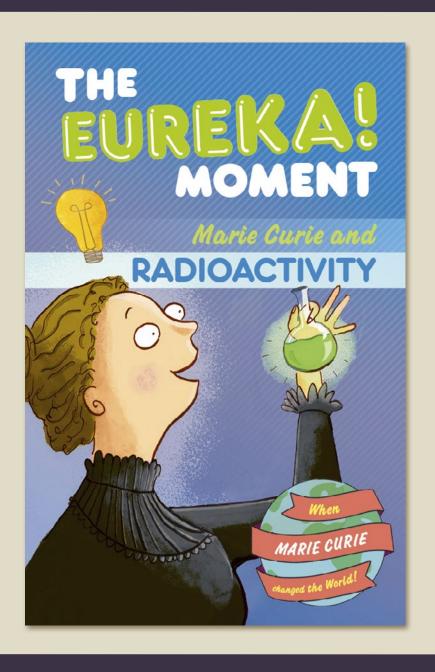






Pub Date	01/01/2026
Pub Price	£14.99
ISBN	9781800788770
H×W	297 × 216mm
Binding	Hardback
Age Range	7-9 years
Author	Stephen Davies
Illustrator	Laurie Avon
Extent	64pp
Word Count	12000 words
Translation Files	30/03/2025
Files To Printer	05/05/2025
Freight On	12/06/2025
Board	
Rights Available	World

## 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





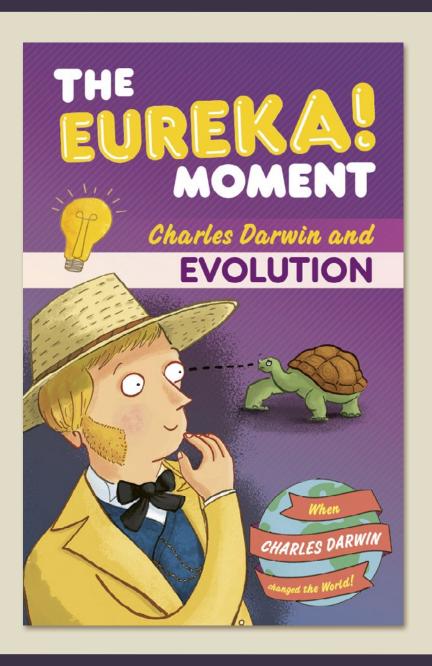






Pub Date	29/02/2024
Pub Price	£5.99
ISBN	9781800788527
$H \times W$	198 × 129mm
Binding	Paperback
Age Range	9-11 years
Author	Ian Graham
Illustrator	Annaliese
	Stoney
Extent	144рр
Word Count	14683 words
Rights Available	World

## **Evolution: The Eureka! Moment**



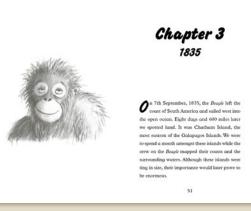
## Explore Charles Darwin's incredible 'Eureka' moment!

- 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**





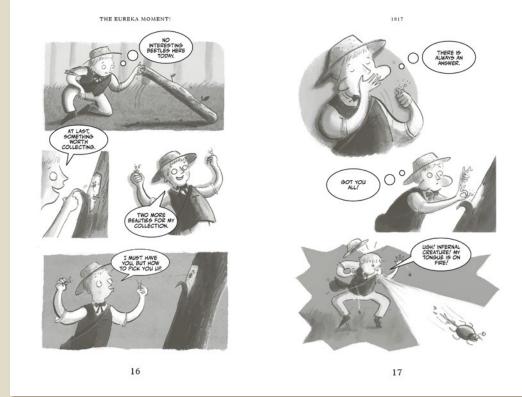


I was troubled by not being able to make sense Evolution before of the birds I had collected on the Galapagos Islands. I gave them to John Gould, a bird expert Darwin at the Zoological Society and said to him, "I am at a loss to know what to make of these little creatures. They appear to me to be different 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

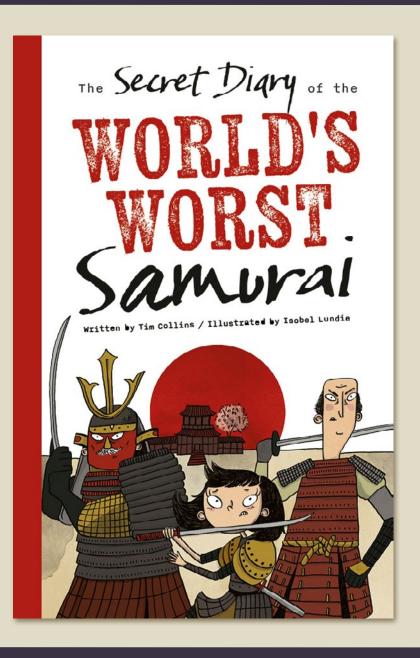
of twelve species."

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

## World's Worst Samurai



# A hilarious, fictional account of the world's unluckiest Samurai warrior!

- A fantastically funny illustrated story that promotes an inspiring, positive female role model.
- Engaging story about perseverance, believing in yourself and overcoming barriers.
- Fascinating facts are interspersed throughout the fictional story, with 'get real' sections educating readers about the real-world contexts and histories of Japan and Samurai warriors.
- Endmatter includes a timeline and historical biographies of famous Samurai warriors to help engage children with the real-world historical context and encourage further research.

## World's Worst Samurai



Yasutaro laughed, and I had to stop myself from throwing my bowl at him. I don't know much about the code of the samurai, but I'm guessing that attacking your own brother during a meal probably isn't part of it.

Mother told me to stop talking nonsense and get on with my chores.

I was expecting Father to say something similar, but he didn't. He froze with his rice bowl in his hand and peered at me in silence. Then he asked why I wanted to be a samurai.

I told him I was from a great sumurai family, and it wasn't fair that Yasutaro got to be one and I didn't.

Father nodded and asked if I had any other reason

I said I was better at fighting than Yasutaro, and if I could be sent to Yoshihiro I would emerge as the true warrior of our family.

Father nodded and asked if I had any

I soid I was better at tactics than Yasutaro, and one day I could become a great commander and lead troops to glorious victories.

Father finished his rice in silence. When his bowl was empty, he said he refused to send me to samurai school.

I tried to keep my anger in, but it was no use. I said it was ridiculous that he wouldn't let me train just because I was a girl.

Father laughed. He said that wasn't the reason, and there were many stories about female samurai who'd commanded armies of thousands. He said the reason he wouldn't send me was because I wasn't thinking like a true samurai should.

Mother repeated her demand for me to get back to my duties, but Father said I could be excused for one day. He told me to take the time to think and then answer the question again

#### F

### GET REAL

legendary figures is how stories were repeated long after they died. As epic account of 12th century battles called The Tale of the Heiko describes a female warrior called Tonoo Gozon. It says she wou fit to confront a demonor a god and "worth a thousand warriors". I would never have believed anyone could move that fast, never mind someone so thin and old.

Yoshihiro said we'd try it the other way around. He handed me the pebble and told me to stop him from grabbing it. I placed it in my palm and took a deep breath. This didn't sound too hard. All I'd have to do was clasp my hand as soon as I saw him move.

I told him to go ahead. His hand moved in a rapid blur, and my fingers slapped into an empty palm.

We tried again. I snapped my fingers shut sooner this time, but they still closed on thin air.

I asked Yoshihiro to give me one more chance. He agreed, and this time I smacked my hand shut even faster.



I gasped. There was something inside my hand.
On just the first day of training Γd beaten his
test. Here was proof that I was destined to be a
great warrior.

I opened my hand. In the centre was a small pebble that had been painted red. For a moment, I wondered how it could have changed colour. Then Yoshihiro opened his own hand to

# Chapter I Japan, 1582





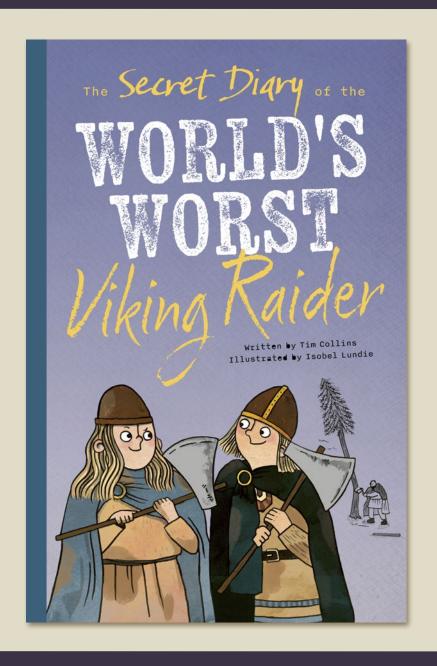
### Day One

Mother thinks I'm practising my writing. I do it every day and she never reads it. So while I kneel here in my silk robe, dabbing my brush onto the paper like an obedient daughter, I'm going to reveal my true destiny.

I, Suki Akiyama, am going to become a samurai warrior. My father is one, and my brother is training to become one. It's in my blood.

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Illustrator	Isobel Lundie
Extent	216pp
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Rights Available	World

## World's Worst Viking Raider



# An illustrated fictional account of the world's unluckiest Viking!

- Humorous, engaging and easy-to-read chapter book about perseverance, courage and overcoming barriers, ideal for history and adventure lovers 7+.
- A fantastically funny fictional story in a factual setting.
- Fascinating facts are interspersed throughout with 'get real' sections educating readers about the real-world contexts and histories of the Viking world.
- Endmatter includes a timeline and historical biographies to help engage readers with this specific time period and encourage further research.

## World's Worst Viking Raider

I raced up to him and announced that I was a fearless raider who wanted to join his crew. Unfortunately, he didn't hear, and kept shouting at his men.

I topped him on the shoulder so I could say it ngain. It turned out not to be a great idea to surprise a grizzled old raider. He shoved me to the muddy floor, drew his sword and pressed it to my throat. It was so sharp that a single burp could have kilder me. I was glad I hadn't esten too much porridge that morning.

I begged him not to kill me, and told him that be could have anything he wanted if he let me live, including my collection of carved Thor and Loki figures.

He nodded, tucked his sword back into its sheath and asked me what I wanted from him I told him I was a fearsome warrior and wanted to join his crew.

Looking back, I can see that might not have been the best time to make the announcement



# GET REAL. One of the treatons the Vikings were so successful as tradem and raidors was their longships. They were narrow enough to travel down enters, and light enough to be reded event the ground on ligat. Some believe they be did disposit heads coved at the local to flighting recipie as they approached.

### Eighth Day

The ruiders moored their ship in the hartour yesterday morning and spent the rest of the day putting up their tents and trading their plundered goods for weapons, clothes, wheat and dried fish, Our village leader, Birger, has said he's happy for them to stay and share ou



#### Ninth Day

Pee found out what the ruiders are planning. A trader has told them about a small village on the east coast of England, which has lots of valuable treasure and hardly anyone capable of defending it. They're going to sail across the sea, take all the valuable stuff from it and come back here.

That sounds perfect. I could go with them, join in with the raid and come right back. The English village is an easy target, and I'll be with some very experienced lighters, so I'll be in no danger. I'll get some excellent raiding experience and I won't be away long. There's no way Mum and Dad can object to that.

Dud and Mum have objected. They think it will be too dangerous, even though I've explained that it won't be. I've warred them that I'm going to keep asking until they agree, but they don't think I actually mean it. They'll find out.



and hacking through wood, flesh, bone and whatever stands in the way of my plunder.

At least I would if I had an axe. Dad won't let me have one in case I cut myself.



### Third Day

Forget what I said. I do have an axe now. Sort of.

I met my best friend Astrid to play at raiding, and she brought one from her dad's workshop. He's the best blacksmith in our village, and he makes amazing shields and weapons.

We went to the forest north of our village and took turns playing with the axe. I pretended I was in a raid and all the trees were terrified locals. I ran towards them, roaring and swinging my axe, then I planted it right into



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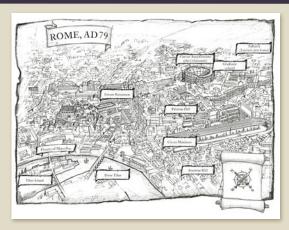
## Gladiator School 1: Blood Oath



## 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 glodiator school, he ddn'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, Lucklijt, he had an excuse to leaver his uncle 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? Sevey: Lackin memment, seconding to the side of the street, where a next versible who was selling piles of fresh red hours was splatning severyone in the scienty with blood, supporting men harmonics to his crases. and inco. He shows the streeties to his crases and and inco. He shows the streeties we had he had for two did corey him to the maderaphes while his insist would corey him to the maderaphes while his insist would to be a several to be a several several to be a selling that he was standing on the street where their old hours. The shape are into the will waitly were selling the same clotha and clay part of silver oil an abunyla-tic street, and the several several several several flex same clotha and clay part of silver oil and hopps.



### 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

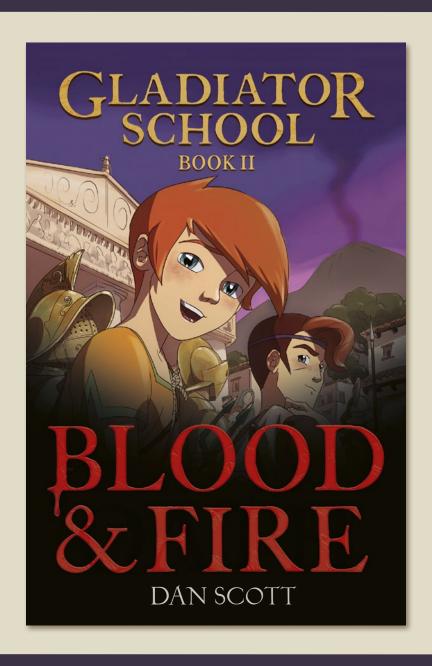
The soldiers had stormed through the villa, overturning furniture, rattling their swords and yelling, 'We arrest you, Quintus Valerius Aquila; in the name of the Emperor, show yourself!'

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

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<sup>\*</sup> atrium: the entrance ball of a Roman villa.

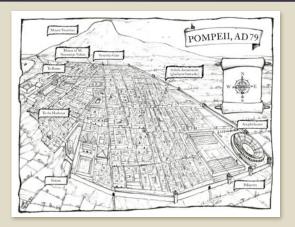
## Gladiator School 2: Blood & Fire



# 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 unlassifier 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 merchants and the pipes and drums of bankers. The noise and "Formattle main modelplan which was developting to fastion meetings."

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, Aldrig 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); eartherwest 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 described the proposed Boars at the forthcoming games in Possporii. As tond of thirty gladiators would be gains, including globs, and Larish and been disusport to learn that be too was among those selected to go, it was a seven-day waren't to Possporii, and the result of the Storfers work spect in the city. Taking the return march into account, and the result of the forther work spect in the city. Taking the store man and the store would be good from Boars for three whole works - time he had been buying to be partial was seen in the proposed from the last distribution of the store of

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.

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1



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