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Detectives In Togas



Synopsis

In these two delightful history-mysteries, seven boys in Ancient Rome solve strange crimes . . . thanks to some help from their cranky teacher, a little bit of logic, and a lot of amusing misadventure. Yes, Rufus wrote Caius Is A Dumbbell on his tablet at school, but no, he did not break into the schoolroom, did not tie up his teacher, and certainly did not paint his slur about Caius on the Temple of Minerva (even if it is in Rufus's own handwriting). Rufus is doomed unless his six classmates can find out who is really responsible. Every hour seems to bring a new, confusing clue . . . until the boys finally stumble upon someone who is not what he appears to be.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An original and humorous mystery story . . . tied neatly into a plot that has continuous suspense. . . . The boys are real in their mischief and eager deducing, and the historical details are so naturally a part of the story that the whole has a liveliness that the pictures suggest."--The Horn Book

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was fun and helpful for me. It did not seem to have enough historical content for me to use it as reading book for my 5th/6th grade history class. It did give a good picture of what education was like at the time as well as what life was like for the Patricians. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed reading it.

There were twists and turns, humor, and an easily understandable sequence of events. I took it too my classroom for my students to read during their silent reading time. In the future I will consider it for extra credit reading with a book report.

I highly recommend this book and the next, *Mystery of the Roman Ransom* by H. Winterfeld. We are homeschoolers who love an adventurous book about historical fiction and this one fits those requirements for our family book reading entertainment with a five star rating!!

I read this book in junior high school, and loved it then. I remembered it when offered it to me based on another purchase I made, one of those "if you bought A, you may like B" offers. So I bought it and I enjoyed it a lot now, 40+ years later. It's a wonderful book for kids, it's characters are fun, the Roman setting is interesting. I enjoyed it so much, I bought the sequel. I have really enjoyed re-discovering the books I loved when I was a teenager through . It's a wonderful service.

The reason I gave 5 stars to this book was because it is in Rome, which I like, and that it has a lot of humour. I would have never guessed that it would end like... I shouldn't tell you or it will spoil the book. It is a very suspenseful book the beginning is a bit slow but besides that it is sooo fun. I hope you like this book. Autumn, age 11

Six boys are searching for clues that will set their friend free from prison. Rufus was captured under the suspicion of writing "Caius is a dumbbell" on the temple wall. Now, his friends are searching for clues that will prove his innocence. The question is: Who is responsible for reporting the crime and who is the vandal besides Rufus? Find out in this interesting, well written book. The story takes place in ancient Rome. The main characters are Caius, Rufus, Antonius, Mucius, Flavius, Julius, and Publius. They are the boys that attend the Xanthos School. It all begins when the boys arrive at school one morning to find that their teacher has been assaulted. They try to figure out who could have been responsible when another problem occurs. Rufus is sent to prison under suspicion of vandalism and dishonor towards the Emperor. They are convinced that Rufus was not responsible, so they set out to find who is. Their antics include a chase scene and the recollection of an exciting dinner at Tellus's house. This book by Henry Winterfeld is very well written and fun to read. It's hard to put down. In my opinion, everyone who likes mysteries should read this book.

We got this as a "read aloud" book for our 5 and 7 year old. The chapters are a great length to read

at bedtime, and the kids are always asking for more!

This book is one of my family's favorites. We have used it both in school when studying the Romans and as a fun read-aloud. We love the humor of the book, and some of my reluctant readers like the short chapters that end suspensefully so that they want to keep reading. Although my daughters love it, too, I think it would especially appeal to boys since it has 5 schoolboys as its main characters.

Great book. Taught to my sixth grade students. They loved it.

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