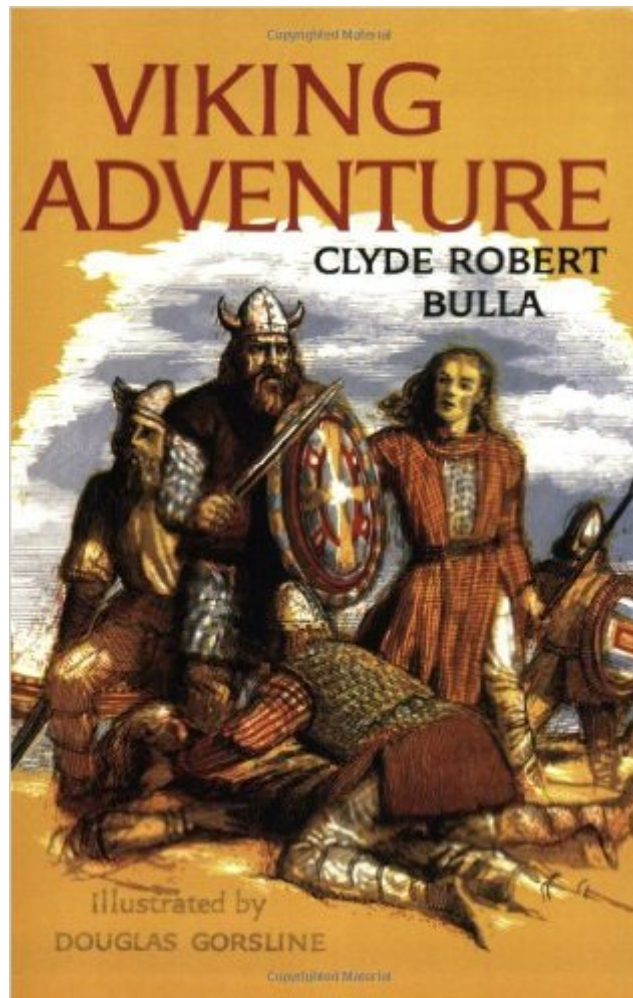


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Viking Adventure



Synopsis

Sigurd, a Viking boy, cannot see the value of learning to read and write. All he can think of is adventure. But then he has an adventure that he cannot help but tell. And to do that, he decides, he must learn to write. A fine story for young readers.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #209,120 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Ancient Civilizations

Customer Reviews

My children and I love Clyde Bulla books, but I am getting rid of this one. It is written well, but the content is not appropriate for younger children. It starts well, following a typical Viking boy, Sugurd, as he trains in warfare with his father. It is set about 100 years after Leif Erikson sailed to Wineland. Sigurd sails with a crew to Wineland. It's at this point that the content grows a bit too gruesome. (The descriptions are not especially gruesome, but the events are.) I'm about to mention the ending, so don't continue to read this if you don't want to know how it ends. The captain of the ship, who is good friends with Sigurd, is murdered by one of the other leaders, Halfred. Sigurd tells Halfred that he knows about the murder, so Halfred tries to kill Sigurd. One of Sigurd's friends helps him stow away in a barrel to get away from Halfred. Shortly thereafter, the ship crashes and everyone (including Sigurd's good friend) is killed at sea. Sigurd is the only one left alive to tell of what has happened. My 7 year old son was reading this to my 5 year old daughter as we were studying Vikings. They were quite upset with the ending, asking, "Gorm didn't really die, did he? Why did Halfred kill him?" and so on. If my 10 year old was reading this book, I wouldn't have as much of an issue with the content; however, this is written at a 2nd grade reading level, and the end is just a bit much for that age in my opinion.

I did not read this book, which was originally published the year that I was born, until I read it to my own children in the last few years. The copy that I have now was one that my mother ordered and read herself back in 1968 and which somehow ended up on my childrens' bookshelf. I originally read it to my 8 year old daughter (who is now 10), who loved it so much, that we read it again and again as bedtime reading (reading one chapter per night). It seems that in our day, the books that are heavily marketed to our children, and which they are enticed to buy, are those that have flashy covers and are populated by cartoon characters. "Viking Adventure" is a wonderful story populated by realistic people in a portrayal of realistic Viking life. It is the story of a young boy named Sigurd, who is the son of a one-time Viking adventurer. Reading it puts one in a completely believable, recognizable, yet historical world in which the tale of Sigurd being raised by his father so that he will be prepared for manhood, is recounted. It tells of Sigurd's own adventures sailing to a legendary place called Wineland, which we know as North America. Sigurd's adventure is full of danger, treachery, friendship and survival. Viking Adventure is well-written children's literature, that my 8 year old son and I now read repeatedly at bedtime. Unlike much of current children's fiction, Viking Adventure is one of those books that was a good read in 1965, still is a good read in 2005, and will still be a good read when I read it, someday, to my grandchildren

Sigurd's brave Viking father has trained him since toddlerhood to be a strong, bold adventurer. Sigurd's one desire is to fulfill his father's dream and sail to Wineland, that beautiful country discovered by Lief Erikson a hundred years before - not to learn reading and writing from an old bard. But who will take a thirteen year old boy on such a voyage? What dangers lurk in the unknown seas? And what will he learn through it all? An interesting story with nice pencil illustrations, this book is loved by all of my younger siblings (5-11). Despite some character deaths, they say it isn't too sad, though they are usually sensitive to such things. The theme about the importance of reading and writing was carried well. The history is excellent and well-written.

I read this to my six year old daughter while we were studying Leif Erickson. It was a perfect combination of excellent story line and historical background. My daughter loved it and wanted to keep reading every time it was time to stop. I enjoyed it as much as she did. I think Bulla is one of the best children's writers out there and we seek his books out at every opportunity. Since the main character in this book is a young boy, I assume boys will love it even more than we did.

This classic book is outstanding reading for children just beginning with chapter books. There are

1-3 black and white illustrations per chapter. The book conveys a lot of information about the Vikings, but the violence is not graphically described. The writing is definitely aimed at the elementary set, so it may not be enjoyed by more capable readers. However, for an early chapter book, it is outstanding. Here are the first three paragraphs:"Long ago the land of Norway was a Viking land. The sea about it was a Viking sea."There were a bold, brave people, the Vikings. The sea was their road to adventure, and they loved it. But they loved the land, as well."Olaf the Strong loved both sea and land. Once he had sailed in Viking ships. He had fought in far places. Then a wound had put an end to his fighting days. He had come home to his farm in the south of Norway."I would recommend this book for children reading simple chapter books or as a read-aloud for younger children, especially for those who are learning about the Vikings.

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