



Castle: How It Works

David Macaulay, Sheila Keenan

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Take a tour of a medieval castle.

Every part of the castle has a function. Walls keep the enemy out. Towers protect the lord and the soldiers. From the moat and portcullis to the great hall and dungeon, see how a castle works as an enemy army tries to storm the walls.

Castle: How It Works is a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Children's Book of 2012

Castle: How It Works Details

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Author : David Macaulay , Sheila Keenan

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Genre : Nonfiction, History, Childrens, Picture Books, Historical, Medieval

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From Reader Review Castle: How It Works for online ebook

Christina Fisher says

Castles, because they are rarely lived in anymore and provide such grandeur to behold when inside, provide a very captivating book for kids of all ages. The author, David Macaulay, gives great insight using cutaways of castles (the inside and outside of them) so that kids can see what they are truly like and what the purposes were of their different features. The illustrations are realistic and show the castle being used, so that readers will know what life was like inside a castle. The drawbridge picture really stands out!

Michael Fitzgerald says

Surprisingly informative - a great introduction to the subject.

Janessa says

Yay! A book my science-minded 8-year-old wants to read! It is hard to find a book that will keep him in his seat. But when our daily reading time was over today, he stayed put and kept turning pages. I love that this book has a higher reading level, without an overwhelming amount of text. Maccauley does an excellent job of assembling intriguing facts and infusing them with the perfect amount of story-telling. For example, he begins the book with the idea that a castle is meant to keep people out, which completely intrigued my young reader. He also uses second-person point-of-view to pull the reader in. It is perfect for our bright, but active, little guy. I can't wait for Macaulay's "Eye" and "Toilet" readers to come out next month!

Kara says

This book is constructed to educate children as to the importance of castles and what they are used for. It explains that castles were served primarily as military purpose that held lords and kings. Interesting book that will keep children engaged and eager to learn about this specific time in history.

Cynthia Egbert says

If you have a child who has any interest in castles, knights, kings and queens, or history, this one is a terrific read. The illustrations really make things clear and the author outlines all of the most important parts of the castle, even the "bathrooms".

Maren says

Very good nonfiction series for kids.

Stephanie Pieck says

Bravo to an author who manages to make medieval history and engineering both engaging and fun to learn about. My favorite fact: "The priest is one of the few people in the castle who can read." I was also intrigued by the way rainwater was collected on the chapel roof. And at last, I have a clear understanding of a portcullis. I hope National Braille Press, the organization that produced the print/Braille version of this book, produces the author's volume on the cathedral.

Jeanne Adamek says

An absolutely wonderful book to read to or with children that are interested in the past and castles. David Macaulay has a phenomenal way of explaining without talking down to a child. The illustrations are fantastic, very scrupulous done so that the child can follow with the pictures as well as with the words.

For me, it was the pleasure I got while looking in the bright eyes of my eight year old grandson as we were reading this together.

This book was recommended by my Goodreads friend Lorraine, who actually sent me a copy. Thanks, Lorri-just remembering his eyes as we were reading makes life a bit brighter.

RECOMMENDED

Gps says

very informative in the David Macauley style; plenty of information to keep the young reader interested, and the illustrations add tremendously.

also, no glossing in this non fiction book, e.g. infected pig is ready to be catapulted into the castle.

book will challenge the adult reader b/c there will be plenty of questions.

although focused on the early/beginner reader, the text may be too difficult, and the print is too small.

but, enjoy, high quality work, by an excellent writer.

John says

I like this book because castles are my favorite thing in the whole-wide history and I like them because murder holes, but I don't know what murder holes and I would give murder holes four stars.

Cathy Knight says

Categories/Genres for this class fulfilled by this book: Non-fiction, easy-reader

Copyright date: 2012

Estimate of age level of interest: K-3

Estimate of reading level: Dewey: 728.8; Int Lvl: K-3; Rd Lvl: 3.1

Brief description:

Identify at least 2 characteristics of this genre and subgenre and discuss how they appear in your book. One characteristic of this genre is reduced vocabulary. The sentences are short and the vocabulary is simple. The illustrations clearly support the text with great detail.

In what ways and how well does the book as a whole serve its intended audience?

This book is about castles which is a favorite topic for young children, especially boys. The author uses humor and detail to make the story enjoyable - as simple as explaining about the bathroom and using hay as toilet paper! Using thick slices of stale bread for plates! He writes the story from the viewpoint of a friend or a foe and how the castle is meant for both. There is a wonderful glossary in the back of the words to know, and a reference and index typical for non-fiction.

Awards:

None for this book but the author has won several, including having many of his books made into PBS specials.

Reviews

Horn Book Guide, 10/01/15

Jenna says

Twin Text: The Castle Behind Thorns by Merrie Haskell

I chose these texts to go together because of the obvious castle tie in that is in both of the books. I like the fact that the non-fiction book gives you a somewhat tour of a castle during their prime time of existing, while the fiction book talks about forging a castle back up to try and escape it. I feel as if David Macaulay's book would give an insight about castles that the reader probably didn't know before picking up their fiction book that just so happens to involve escaping from a castle.

Cara says

A book about castles and how they work geared toward children. My son greatly enjoyed the pictures as it

isn't quite reading yet.

The sentences were so short, they were almost choppy sometimes. Though I know it's for child readers with a little experience under their belts.

It was cool to learn about the outside of the castle and its fortifications and it's inner workings. I don't think it necessary to include information about a guy crapping, picture included, as well as 'murder holes', IMO. This is for younger readers after all.

Jordan Brown says

Castle: How It Works

Author: David Macaulay

Reading Level: ages 6-10

Macaulay, David (2012) *Castle: How It Works* London: Macmillan

This book is a non-fiction look at how life was like inside a medieval castle. Also, the book focuses on the exterior and interior of the castle, and it's many defensive components. I have a particular taste for all things medieval, so this book really catches my interest.

First off, it's very informative and breaks down the infrastructure of a castle down brilliantly. The companion illustrations help bring the detail to life. The illustrations are colorful and distinct; however, they are fuzzy and unfocused. It would be interesting to have young children compare how they live their lives today in contrast to people in the middle ages.

There is a bit of violence depicted, but it's nothing graphic. The point of that section of the book is to showcase the many defensive marvels that are built into medieval castles.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this book!

Sheila says

Very educational, and I would imagine it would be well received by its young intended audience. All aspects of life in the castle are covered, including the things that would interest kids, such as invaders and how they might attack the castle using a catapult to throw a dead flaming pig over the wall (with lovely illustration to boot) as well as details of life in the castle including where you went to the bathroom, where your poop went (with illustrations of the chute built into the wall, with the guys standing several floors below with their pitchforks to shovel it all out), and even what you would use for toilet paper (straw). Such was life in the castle!
