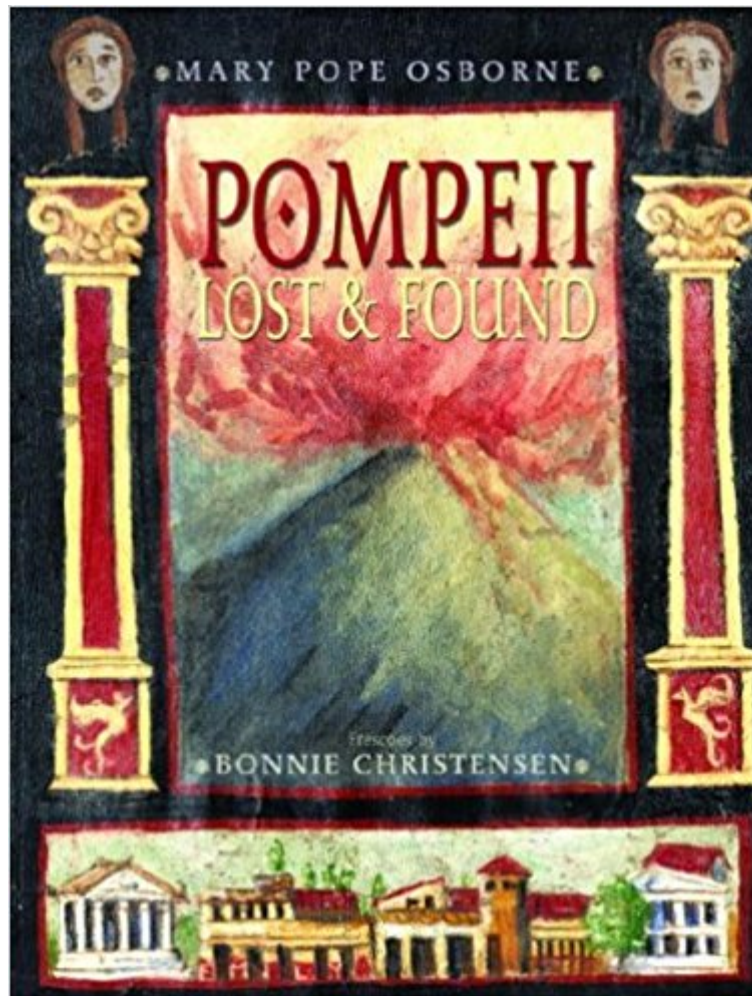




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Pompeii: Lost And Found



Synopsis

The famous eruption of Mount Vesuvius that snuffed out life in Pompeii and buried the town has long been a fascinating moment in history for children. This book presents that dramatic story with Mary Pope Osborne's brief text and with stunning frescoes created by Bonnie Christensen, using the same colors, style, and technique as the ancient frescoes unearthed at Pompeii. In addition to the destruction of Pompeii and the rediscovery of the ruins nearly 1,700 years later, the book shows what daily life was like in this prosperous Roman town in the year 79 A.D.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 980L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (January 10, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375828893

ISBN-13: 978-0375828898

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.3 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #941,990 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Archaeology #382 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe #445 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > Customs, Traditions, Anthropology

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 3-5 After brief accounts of the events of 79 A.D. and the first archaeological investigations of the city that lay beneath the fields surrounding Mt. Vesuvius, Osborne's straightforward text focuses on the life at Pompeii at the time of the volcano's eruption. Discussions of daily activities include mention of the many types of buildings unearthed, such as private homes, bakeries, baths, and markets, as well as the activities enjoyed by the free citizens of Pompeii—concerts, plays, and gladiator fights. A large illustration, flanked on the right by two boxes containing text and a smaller picture, occupies most of each spread. Christensen's distinctive, haunting frescoes are reminiscent of the art found throughout the site. Some illustrations

are copies of original artwork, while others offer glimpses into what the city may have looked like prior to the volcano's eruption, detail objects found on location, and offer readers information on dress, decoration, and architecture. The illustrations are framed with decorative patterns typical of the period and the colors used reflect those found at Pompeii, including the distinctive, earthen red of some of its most familiar frescoes. While Osborne's text does not go into great detail, it will serve as an enticing introduction to this legendary city frozen in time. Students ready for more information will be fascinated by James M. Deem's *Bodies from the Ash* (Houghton, 2005), illustrated with outstanding color photos.

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Gr. 2-4, younger for reading aloud. Christensen's striking, original frescoes illustrate this lively introduction to Pompeii. Osborne begins by imagining what the Roman city's residents were doing just before Mount Vesuvius' ash buried the city. Later spreads chronicle archaeological discoveries and discuss how scientists form a picture of daily life from the objects, buildings, and artworks recovered from the magnificently preserved site. The theatrical account of the ancient citizens' response to the disaster will bring children right into the history, as will the clear, succinct descriptions of how the people of Pompeii ate, bathed, shopped, and amused themselves. Christensen's unusual frescoes, with their cracked, rough-hewn surfaces and blurred figures in Roman costume, extend the sense of antiquity while making the details of ancient life (and the terror of the event) tangible. In a lovely closing, two images reinforce connections to history by juxtaposing the same street scene, shown first with a Roman Empire mother and child, then with a contemporary mother and son. A note about frescoes and a quiz close. Gillian Engberg

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I bought this book for my 9-year-old son. They had been talking about Pompeii in science class, and he wanted to read more about it. He really enjoyed the book! It was easy for him to read, and it left him wanting to read more.

good for book report

was surprised to find that it is a children's book, but it will be of some use in another way

Just perfect!

my child loved it

Great for it's age group. Wonderful details about the city before the disaster as well as what was found in modern times. Gives a nice sense of the people and the culture. Fun to read and fascinating to discuss.

Mary Pope Osborne is the author responsible for the Magic Tree House series of tedious children's books. Just words on paper does not a children's book make. However...In this book, she steps away from writing bland dialog and preaching lectures on wholesome New-Age living to create an enjoyable book. Bonnie Christensen's exceptional artwork is satisfying and delicious. This is a must-have. Don't turn up your nose just because the author's other work is uninteresting; give it a try. It's a nice surprise. This is a good presentation of what happened in Pompeii when Vesuvius erupted. Nice large book -- great illustrations.

This is a nicely-illustrated (fresco painting style pictures) picture book depicting the history of the town of Pompeii and its destruction via volcanic eruption. The book is large size with pictures each page, medium amount of text, thus appealing and not overwhelming to early elementary students. I used it with a 2nd grader, who was easily able to read it independently. The content was realistic without being overly explicit to those kids who may be sensitive to content regarding death of people and animals. It does not gloss over the fact that many died, but does it considerately, I thought. The whole book is framed by describing the archeological discovery of the town, which helps the children understand it occurred far in the past, and it was real (not just a fictional storybook).

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