



Viking Adventure

Clyde Robert Bulla , Douglas Gorsline (Illustrator)

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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.

Viking Adventure Details

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From Reader Review Viking Adventure for online ebook

Sam Wojtaszek says

Adventure is right! There are some very serious morals in this tale along with death of well loved characters that made your eyes grow big with surprise. We also figured out that Wineland is North America, and found on the globe where Norway, Iceland and Greenland are and how far those are from the shores of North America. Great story with a heavy-hearted ending.

Charsia says

This was a really exciting book! so much adventure, so much excitement! My brother really liked this book two. I recommend reading this book if you are 8 or older!

Joann10 says

The kids are really enjoying this book to go along with our unit on the Vikings.

Mike says

Read this aloud to Logan... it's got a child protagonist, and some interesting period detail- but also some howling anachronisms... sparsely but aptly illustrated... light on the violence. It was a good read-aloud for my kindergartener, the narrative was lengthy but not overly complex, so we could stop to summarize the plot and make predictions. We also looked at a world map and traced the Viking's route from Norway to Vinland, which Logan correctly deduced was "Canada" on the map. Definitely a kid's book, but a useful and interesting one.

Kristine Hansen says

I really enjoyed reading this one with my daughter. As advertised in the title, there was a great deal of adventure, with plenty of Vikings. :)

Seriously, it was a fun book, and never got boring. Lots of intrigue and some very interesting themes presented, deep characterization and a lot of intrigue. My daughter was very sad that it ended and immediately asked if there was more. Sadly there isn't and we'll have to get our Viking fix elsewhere.

I'll have to admit, I was a little sad when it was over as well.

Highly recommended. If you're homeschooiling and your child has this book assigned to read, do yourself a favor and enjoy it yourself as well.

Laura says

This was a fun easy read aloud (or read to yourself Chapter book) that fit in really well with the unit on Vikings we just completed. The book was really intense, but it was a lot more interesting to my kids than the other viking stories we read because the main character was a child. I think my kids are going to remember this one!

Lisa says

A chapter book for young readers, this is the story of the Viking boy, Sigurd, who has heard of the legendary Leif the Lucky and his famous voyage to Vinland 100 years earlier, and wants to follow in his footsteps.

Trace says

Luke's Review:

This is book about a young 13 year old Viking who went out on an adventure to a far away land. He learns a lesson from a cousin. It was really exciting to read.

Hannah says

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.

Update January 2015: Just finished reading this book to my seven year old brother. He enjoyed it all the way through, but he's crying on our mother's shoulder because of the grief in the ending.

Simon Wojtaszek says

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that made your eyes grow big with surprise. We also figured out that Wineland is North America, and found on the globe where Norway, Iceland and Greenland are and how far those are from the shores of North America. Great story with a heavy-hearted ending.

Joy says

I've long loved Bulla's American history stories. This story started in Norway but, of course, led to America (Leif E).

Andy Craig says

One of the first books I can remember reading. The name escaped me for years but a couple of the scenes stayed with me, and finally, one day, I tracked it down online. Delighted to have it in my collection.

Heather says

I read this out loud to the boys (ages 13, 13, 10, and 7). We all enjoyed it and it was interesting. In retrospect I could have assigned this to the 3 older boys to read and they would have been done with it much faster. The oldest two said it was a little 'babyish' for them. It's a nice discovery of the New World type book, but perhaps not a 'must read'.

Darlene says

I read this book aloud to my daughters.

We enjoyed this book. We have read other Bulla books, and we have not been disappointed yet.

This is a great historical fiction novel to read while studying the Vikings. Sigurd leaves his family behind to sail on a journey to Vineland (what the Vikings called North America).

This book has it all: friendship, treachery, danger, and survival. Tied all together, it is a great adventure!

Penny says

This is the story of a Viking boy who starts out on an adventure his father was never able to complete, a journey to find "Wineland," which no one seemed to believe existed. While the story was a little predictable, I thought it still had enough life to it to be engaging. At one point I thought to myself, "Oh-no, (this) is going to happen next!" And then when that thing happened (no spoilers), as much as I wasn't shocked, it was still a dramatic moment.

The style of the story was in such a way that I could almost imagine an author listening to Sigurd tell the story, and then they simply wrote it down and added things like direct quotes. The flow of the story was such that I can easily put it into a storytelling frame of mind, which made the story enjoyable. I think I would have preferred it in more of a storytelling format, but this was okay too.

One of the things I really loved about the book was the description of actual historic ideas, even if the description of the boat itself didn't sit fantastically with me. I've never read about a Viking ship with a below deck area, nor with sleeping quarters for the captain. However, they do talk about the boats with the shields mounted at the edge, and the use of men to row when the winds were low.

On a side note, after having seen the show Vikings, I couldn't help but overlay the voices, accents, and inflections of some of the characters over some of the phrases that were said. The style of writing paralleled with the show so well that it seemed an almost intuitive leap in my mind. I guess that was part of what made the story for me.
