



Magic Tree House: #1-4

Mary Pope Osborne , Salvatore Murdocca (Illustrator)

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Magic Tree House Boxed Set, Books 1-4: Dinosaurs Before Dark, The Knight at Dawn, Mummies in the Morning, and Pirates Past Noon

Magic Tree House: #1-4 Details

Date : Published May 29th 2001 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published July 24th 1996)

ISBN : 0090129015962

Author : Mary Pope Osborne , Salvatore Murdocca (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 80 pages

Genre : Childrens, Fantasy, Fiction, Adventure, Historical, Historical Fiction, Magic, Juvenile, Kids, Science Fiction, Time Travel, Chapter Books

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From Reader Review Magic Tree House: #1-4 for online ebook

Marybeth says

These books introduce a variety of historical time periods in creative, clever ways. The endearing main characters speak to both adventurous and studious types! Jack demonstrates the love of books that allows him to solve problems while his sister Annie epitomizes the somewhat reckless but always curious sidekick that gets the two of them into their adventures.

I could see using these books before, during or after a study of dinosaurs, medieval times, ancient Egypt or piracy. Although the stories are engaging enough on their own, some background knowledge about the time period would allow students to make strong academic connections. The books also offer resources to complement each book.

Amy says

We got this series based on a friend's recommendation and it was spot on. My son DOES love it, but I don't. It's trite and the writing isn't particularly good. I love the concept and theme, but the application just isn't a winner for me. The issues:

--Grammar and syntax aren't up to snuff. I know they are books for kids, but still.

--The kids never change. We're already 10 books in and by book 2 we know that Annie is impulsive and Jack is thoughtful. When Annie's choices get them in trouble, nothing is learned. She's just as rash the next time. And Jack says wait, let's think about this... but never does.

--Jack takes a bunch of notes about really mundane facts. Why can't he take notes about something useful to develop that researcher/scientist angle?

--Morgan le Fay is from Camelot but speaks as if she is from the 21st century.

--Everyone (even the Japanese and Inuit) speak English.

--It seems like Osborne tries to add a lot of drama to areas that don't need them ("Then everything was still. Absolutely still." Really? Again? Got it, it's still.) and then sort of speeds over areas that may actually be dramatic (like sharks and thin ice, etc).

In summary, it's not literature. Everything is glossed over: character development, sentence structure, climax building, plot intrigue, thought-provoking situations... It's no Roald Dahl or CS Lewis or JK Rowling or...

But it is for him, aged 6 1/2, and that's why we got them. He doesn't pick up on any of these annoyances. Unfortunately, we're reading them to him, so we have to make it through all 40-something, repetitive stories. Then we can get back to the good stuff.

Julie says

Grace (6) likes some of these books, but Lily (4) loves them. She has already read 4 and is currently reading another one. She can't get enough. Of course, she can't read them by herself yet, but even with just a few pictures she has loved having these books read to her at night. She begs for more chapters. I gave it 3 out of 5 stars because it's not that well written and all the books pretty much follow the exact same formula. The only

thing that changes is the location. Good for kids, but kind of boring for parents.

Heidi says

I'd probably give these 4 stars, but my reluctant reader LOVES them. These are the first chapter books that he has been excited about. A brother and sister stick together through all kinds of adventures and learn about different times and places (dinosaurs, mummies, the amazon, egypt, etc.). It takes us two 25-30 minute readings to finish a book together. There is usually a picture in each chapter, which is kind of fun too.

sh(e)reader says

My youngest (1st grade) is showing an interest in reading. This series always gets good reviews as a good "chapter" book starter. My older kids have read a few of them here and there but they never totally clicked (nothing much clicks with my boys). But #5 seems to be liking this reading stuff (yea!). We read the first three books together, then we decided he could read them on his own. He's basically been reading a book a day. I will usually still grab the book and quickly read it myself (it takes 10-15 minutes, and I find I actually don't mind reading these little stories) and then we "discuss" them (I do want to make sure he understands and can remember what he read. Comprehension has always been a problem with my boys).

These are great little books for kids. Every one has 10 chapters. They build on each other (which also introduces youngsters to the idea of a book series ... #5 has been reading these out of order which drives me CrAZy). Each book introduces the reader to a different time or location. Mostly easy words, although every book has a few challenges (they are almost always given pronunciation and explanations as part of the story though) so they are good learning tools as well as interesting reads.

I won't be putting all the Magic Tree House books I'm reading here *Ü*, but DID want to mention I have been reading them myself, along with my 1st grader.

Chris says

I read this one to the kids at bedtime. They thoroughly enjoyed it and frequently asked me to read it to them. I can't say for sure how many nights it took, but probably a couple nights per story, and there are four stories in this collection. The book is intermixed with nice little illustrations which the kids also enjoyed. On that note, my kids are ages 6, 4, and 2 and they all seemed to like it equally. The protagonists are a boy and a girl, so I wouldn't say that the book is geared toward either gender.

The one thing I didn't care for was some of the writing. It was filled with one word sentences, fragments, and other poor grammar. If it was a child reading it, I think it would give the wrong impression of proper writing, for one that is learning the proper methods. This wasn't an issue necessarily in my case, since I was reading them aloud to the kids.

I mostly put three stars because the kids like them, but dropped some because of the writing, but then also dropped a star because they wouldn't really be for me.

Kimberly Gill says

These books are about Jack and Annie, a brother and sister that discover a magical tree house that is filled with books. The first book, *Dinosaur Before Dark*, brings Jack and Annie to prehistoric times. In each book, the characters go through a magical journal to different places around the world.

The MGH books are great for early chapter book readers. They are interesting and engaging for this age group. For more advanced readers, the *Merlin Missions* are MGH books but are longer. These books are perfect for when students are looking for bigger books.

Melissa says

These books are a great read for the blooming reader. They are full of events in time from a historical fiction point of view. In the first book the reader are placed in Frog Creek Pennsylvania with two young children who find a tree house that transports them into a place in that are in the books. These books are engaging and detailed for the young child. They mix excitement and love of learning through the adventures of Jack and Anne.

Natalie says

I absolutely loved reading this series when I was growing up. This series was actually what got me to be the avid reader that I am today. I stopped reading the series after Christmas in Camelot since I started getting interested in expanding my library. Today I had a hard time deciding what to read and then remembered the series. When I found out that Mrs. Osbourne has written over 40 books for this series I decided I would read the series again and keep reading it until the day she finishes it. Even though I'm almost 21 years old I still love this series and it brings back a lot of my childhood memories :)

Nehemiah Jacques says

I think book number 1 and 2 were pretty good. Number 3 and 4 were ok.

Maya Orama says

This book was about this boy name Jack and this girl. Name Annie and then Jack and Annie was waking in the forest. And then Annie said look a tree house and then Jack climb up to and then Jack saw a thral Tavares and then and then Annie climb up the magic tree house and then Annie was going on the tragic and then Jack pick up a timer and then Jack. ow saw a lot of diner savers and then Jack ran because Annie all mossy fell Downey and then Jack saw a diner core and then Jack was around the tree and then Jack was safe home.

Renee says

Eh... my 7yo daughter said she liked this but I found them very basic and predictable.

Lauren says

We're reading the Magic Treehouse with Leif. It's *perfect* for him. At three/four, he's ready for stories with more plot/story, but still wants pictures. These chapters are short, and have a good arc to them, and there are pictures throughout the book. When we have a little time we read one or two chapters, but we can make it through a book in an evening if he wants to. At his age, we change a few lines (eg "I'm going to kill you" to "I'm going to hurt you") but for the most part they're exactly on target. We suspect he'll want to reread the series when he can read for himself, but for now these are great for bedtime reading.

Judy Fisher says

I read these books to my kids when they were little (a long time ago). Kept going as they learned to read and would then read them to me. I always enjoyed the stories as much as my boys did.

Nikki Sojkowski says

So this will be a review of every Magic Tree House book EVER. I LOVED this series growing up. My life practically revolved around going to the library to get the next book! I stopped reading after #34 where they were coming out new and I had to wait forever for the library to get them and I was growing up and reading new things. I slowly forgot about this beloved series and was on to bigger and better things (Magic Tree house wasn't exactly a challenging read for any 5th-9th grader lol but the other day I tripped over a box in my basement. What was in the box? My old magic tree house books! I had the box set 1-4 and a couple other random numbers thrown in there.

I can't really remember what it was that had me so captivated by the books but I think it was because Jack and Annie were so different. Jack stuck to facts, was a total nerd, and needed to loosen up and have some fun. Annie needed to grow up a bit, she was funny, a tiny bit annoying and rushed into things sometimes, but the brother and sister pair balanced each other out. The books were cute, hilarious, factual, and made learning easy. Definitely something everyone should read in their childhood!!
