



Bullheaded Black Remembers Alexander: The Story of Alexander the Great's Invasion of the Middle East

J.L. Taylor

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This is a very special book for PRETEENS. It is the story of Alexander the Great's conquest of most of the known world, but it is told by his black stallion who loves "Alex" for his championship of racial equality and religious freedom in the Middle East. The author also wrote Watersheds of World History. See the reviews on amazon.com.

Bullheaded Black Remembers Alexander: The Story of Alexander the Great's Invasion of the Middle East Details

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Author : J.L. Taylor

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From Reader Review Bullheaded Black Remembers Alexander: The Story of Alexander the Great's Invasion of the Middle East for online ebook

Laesar says

I received this book free of charge from the author. It was explained to me that it was written for the young adult market.

I really enjoyed this book. It is the story of Alexander the Great from the viewpoint of his horse Bucephalus/Bullheaded Black. Bucephalus is telling the story to Pegasus.

The story is told from a very naive/innocent point of view and is very well written. The characters and plot are strong and if you didn't know a lot about Alexander's War before you would only benefit from reading this. The over riding message in this book is that it doesn't matter what colour, religion, etc. that you are we should all except each other for what we are.

The only let down for the book is there was no mention of Alexander's homosexual relationship with Hephaesation. This relationship was a significant part in Alexander's life and it was usual thing for Greek/Macedonian's to have lovers of both sexes.

Samantha says

In this book, Alexander the Great's horse, Bucephalus/Bullheaded Black tells Pegasus all about his master Alexander. There is a great display of historical knowledge on the author's part. I really enjoyed hearing the story of Alexander right from the horse's mouth. A great read for anyone who is interested in the expeditions of Alexander the Great. I wish I could have had this as reading material in any of my history classes. A wonderful source of learning. An extraordinary way to get children interested in history. =)

Luckngrace says

What a wonderful way to learn history! J.L.Taylor uses Alexander the Great's horse, Bucelus (also known as bullheaded black) to teach us mythology from Pegasus, philosophy from Aristotle and the history of Alex's campaigns all over Europe, Africa and the Middle East and going into Asia. We learn how areas and religions got their names while we tour the Ancient Wonders of the World. I'm not a fan of travel books, but this simple book tells me things in ways that stick. If I had to complain, it would be that each chapter needs to be fleshed out with more character development and more details of each event. The book is short and simple enough for YA and some children to understand. My favorite fun fact was learning that Alex didn't die in battle, but rather from a mixture of malaria and a night of hard drinking. My thanks to the author for providing my copy of his book with congratulations on his fine work.

Katrina says

First Read Win. This book was very well written. It kept my interest even though it was intended to be for the young adult market. I loved how it was told in the animal of the horses point of view instead of the horse. I am not really a person who is interested in history, but from this book I hope to come across more history books that are this good and interesting.

Apryl says

I think this book should be required reading for social studies in elementary schools. It is written in medias res and contrasted the theological viewpoint of Pegasus and the democratic viewpoint of Bullhead Black (from Alexander's ideals). It was such a cute idea. I love how the ideas can be simplified down and explained so that anyone can comprehend them using the viewpoint of the horses. I really like how the book encourages the reader to keep their mind open to other races, cultures, and beliefs. This is a great read to promote tolerance in younger children whose minds and worldviews are being molded.

One of my favorite lines was, "...the written word is valuable and it is ancient and it is powerful, but that doesn't make a book completely true. Let no person and no book ever close your mind to reality."

This book was a great, easy to digest overview of Alexander the Great's life. I really hope that it makes its way into school systems.

Marcia Noren says

J.L. Taylor's "Bullheaded Black Remembers Alexander" enchants as it educates, covering a broad spectrum of topics that expand well beyond the life of Alexander the Great and Middle Eastern history.

As the book opens, Bullheaded Black (Bucephalus) discovers that he has sprouted wings and ascended to meet with Pegasus, whose stubbornly set worldview is understandably confined to the realm of orthodox Greek mythology. The debates that take place between these two equines are highly informative, as the black stallion gradually provokes the interest of Pegasus, and is invited to relate the life story of his master, Alexander the Great, throughout the chapters that follow.

Readers are introduced to the philosophical positions and personality of Aristotle, Alexander's teacher. "Ari's" influential force as a father figure remains ever-present, as "Alex" the student evolves into the conqueror whose decisive acts and egalitarian ideals alter the course of world history. Ethical questions arise, as Alexander grows increasingly powerful. His intentions are examined by his close friends, Hephaestion and Ptolemy, and by the enormous army following Alexander's lead across continents divided by opposing cultures.

Viewed from above in the company of Pegasus, the earth's geography comes clearly into focus. Sighting Asia Minor, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Persia, Bullheaded Black's memories of Alexander's glorious triumphs become triggered. In descriptive narrative that flows in exquisite detail, the stallion searches for his master's current whereabouts, fully expecting to be reunited with him. This element provides an emotional pull that engages the heartstrings, and will resonate for young adult readers and adults, alike.

I highly recommend this book in lieu of a dry text, to anyone who seeks to painlessly learn the complex history of this period, laced with Greek mythology, philosophy and geography. J.L. Taylor is a fine storyteller who generously shares a wealth of information within the pages of his excellent text.

Lee Harmon says

This didn't have the focus on ancient beliefs that I was anticipating, but it addresses runaway religion in a roundabout way. Alexander the Great's loyal horse, Bullheaded Black, dies in the war against India, and from a winged vantage point up in heaven narrates his version of Alexander's dreams and victories. We hear straight from the horse's mouth what Alexander was thinking and what was behind his great drive for conquest.

Alexander's personal tutor, Aristotle, teaches him an appreciation for natural sciences and inquisitive learning. Alexander loves the writings of Homer and its wonderful stories of heroes and gods, but Aristotle cautions against unwarranted belief. "The written word is valuable and it is ancient and it is powerful, but that doesn't make a book completely true. Let no book and no person ever close your mind to reality, not even the epics, not even Homer."

Yet Alexander was born a warrior. Horses are not real big on war, but B.B. reigns in his criticism, instead focusing on the positive side of world domination. Alexander becomes a proponent of religious tolerance, much to the frustration of his comrades. Much of the story centers around his personal quest to understand his anointed place among men and gods ... and which gods. Is he really the son of Zeus? In Egypt, he seeks out the oracle of Siwah, and though he's closed-mouthed about what he learned there, he returns from this personal pilgrimage even more confident of his destiny. It turns out he is not only the son of Zeus, but of Amon and of Ra. Says Alexander within earshot of his horse, "It seems the principal gods are one. God is one. It matters not the name."

Cynthia says

I read this at the request of the author to get my opinion on its applicability as far as introducing world history to middle school students. While the reading is on a level that they should easily be able to read, I'm not sure how much of this book is really historical.

Almost the entire first half of the book involved a discussion between Bullheaded Black and Pegasus which focused mostly on the Greek gods so my initial thought was that it would be a great introduction into Greek Mythology (a unit our 7th graders do in English).

The second half of the book does focus on Alexander's Invasion into the Middle East, but I was bothered by the lack of detail of the actual events. The lack of detail might be just what is needed to hook a middle school student on history as it will not be overwhelming.

All told, the book introduces both Greek Mythology and history at a level that will not overwhelm the average middle school student.

Tori Tee says

This book was provided as a complimentary and signed copy from the author, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to review another piece of writing by this talented author.

The story is told by Bullheaded Black, the horse of Alexander the Great, or Alex as the horse calls him. It covers the basic history of the life and triumphs of Alexander from a young boy and even includes some overarching history to help the reader grasp the overall history of the era and the other ancient peoples involved in the tale.

I have always been taught to be honest, and that is exactly what I will do, I felt this style of writing, at times, oversimplified the history. Now, I think I find that less appealing as I am an avid reader of history books of a much more detailed level, however, for the target audience, I feel it was pitched quite well. The history covered is interestingly put to the reader and is well described in context, which I think helps you absorb more of the history.

It was quite slow to get going, and never really gained a great pace, however I would find this very useful as a classroom text to introduce this era of history to any child over about 7 years old as it is at a level that they could understand. Also, the novelty of using the horse to tell the story is something that I feel would appeal to the intended audience, perhaps a little more than it did to me!

Overall, this is a good book for younger children and teenagers to learn about history in a fun and interesting way. It is written in a very different style to the author's other works I have read, which only goes to show his versatility in writing for the adult and children's market! Despite the apparently low rating, 3 stars means I liked it, and I would recommend it to younger readers, and to my teaching friends who are looking for some interesting historical fiction to assist their own knowledge, and to engage the children in a fantastic era of history.

Mysterium says

As a life-long student of history, anything that covers the subject will grab my attention. As a man with attention deficit disorder, the litmus test of quality for the historical work is established when once I am grabbed, will I allow it to take hold for more than a nano-second? This wonderful book has me firmly in its grip.

Written for middle school age folks and younger adults, it is an amazing way of telling the story of Alexander the Great and his contributions to the world in shaping its history. Effects that are still felt and seen today. Ironically, with the "Arab Spring" that is happening, this book is very timely and ties in the consequences of the past with present day struggles and hopes.

I will admit that I was skeptical at first when I saw that the story line was told from the perspective of Alexander's trusted horse. At face value, this can be a set up for disaster in getting the seriousness of the story and theme across to the intended audience. Youth are a tough shell to crack at times, especially if there is learning (gasp!!) involved. Mr. Taylor not only has a firm grip on the reins, he has an amazing gift for telling it straight from the horse's mouth. This book surpassed all of my expectations, and I am confident that it will be a success with all of the students that read it. Learning doesn't have to be stuffy. This book makes it

entertaining, real, accessible, and a true joy.

Mr. Taylor pulls the reader right into the story and takes you along on the adventure. He has a way of making the reader care and feel true emotion for the characters. I will admit that I was a wee bit teary eyed during the end of the book. Very beautiful story telling indeed!!

Taylor knows his subject very well and is an impassioned storyteller. Though his target audience is youth, I know adults will enjoy this work and will find not only entertainment in reading it, but will come away with a better appreciation for world history as well. I do not stay up late into the night reading especially when I have early morning appointments, but I did with this fine book.

I dare say that it will change and improve your appreciation for Alexander the Great and his amazing contributions to the world. Once you link the past with the present and become energized for what the future can be, your heart will be warmed.

Please join his discussion of the book on Goodreads to answer any questions that you may have and to expand your appreciation for the book and the subject.

Lea Ann says

As a sixth-grade social studies teacher I was asked to read and review this book and weigh-in on its use in a classroom. This book tells the history of Alexander the Great from the point of view of his horse, Bucephalus or Bullheaded Black. I was intrigued by the idea of the horse telling the story and when I mentioned this to my students, they were interested as well. After reading this book, I believe it is a good resource for middle age readers or readers like myself who are reluctant to read a biography laden with military history. The book ties together a lot of the content I teach (ancient river valley civilizations) in a fairly entertaining way. I appreciated the timeline provided in the back of the book, the author's bio was humorous, and I did learn some facts to share with my classes. This book will find a welcome home on my classroom bookshelf.

Kathryn says

[Minor Character trait Spoilers]

Full Disclosure: I received this novel from the author to read and review.

I haven't fact-checked the history in this novel, as there is much, but it is jam-packed with the historic timeline of Alexander the Great. The dialogue is obviously invented (it IS a horse speaking) but it flows the story along nicely. I enjoyed the scenes with Aristotle very much. It does seem to be a bit above the age level I assumed the book was for and I think it's because of the detailed "textbook-style" format of the historic information. Like, a horse explaining calculus, it works and draws the information to the interest of the age-group, but still seems a bit high. It's recommended a student read the novel in small chunks if the historic information is the focus of reading it, otherwise it may be "glazed over" and still incite the curiosity of regions and battles.

I take issue with one line, in a nit-picky feminist way. On p114 they're talking about conquering Egypt and use the line "Egypt would be his if he wanted her". We're basically invoking a rape trope here as we

anthropomorphise a country into a woman that we take by force, occupying her whether "she" wants to be occupied or not. I think these types of notions are easily avoided and should be, especially when writing for younger minds. They may not put the connections together but it still seeds the idea as acceptable.

I think the introductory ideal of "freedom of race and religion" is well supported in the story before Alex and Heph go to war, though not necessarily by Alex. During the war we see more of Alex saying "Let's all praise Zeus" and lamenting his actions of selling people into slavery. It is nicely "resurrected" when Alex appreciates the funeral rituals and religious views of the Egyptians.

I LOVE the relationship with Heph and the constant reminding of Heph's views. It adds an extra level to the "religious freedoms" idea in the novel that is largely omitted in real life. Since I've already spoiled the novel for you, Heph seems an atheist and holds disdain for mythologies and "suffering in the name of religion" yet Alex, a religious man, remains close friends with him.

Overall I think it was a great book. I really enjoyed reading it. The timeline at the end with major dates and events really cool. I do recommend it for high school age kids. Well done.

Jennise Conley says

As a social studies education major and founder of an education nonprofit, I was asked to read this book to see if it could be a good resource to use in the classroom. My answer is an absolute YES! This is a great book about the relationship between Alexander the Great and his horse. I wish I had this book when I taught world history!

Without a doubt middle school students can read this book, as well as high school students. I actually think a college course would really enjoy picking apart the story and the historical significance behind the events in the story. Moreover, this is an honors or gifted course must have.

In my experience, world history textbooks prescribed a script that limits the creativity in students and creative lessons from teachers. Teachers are normally constrained to stick to the four corners of a certain textbook. But most importantly for any textbook, new or old, is that it does not foster a student's love of reading. This book has the ability to foster the love of reading. It also educates students on the historical components of Alexander the Great while providing opportunity for discussion and analysis of the very important building blocks of social, emotional, and character education.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who teaches and/or loves the history and the times of Alexander the Great.

Angela says

This book, Bullheaded Black Remembers Alexander: The Story of Alexander the Great's Invasion of the Middle East was sent to me by the American author, J.L. Taylor, with the view that I would review it following reading. As I have an interest in history and books for children and young adults, having taught children from 4 - 16 years, I was delighted to receive this one.

Bullheaded Black, as the author calls him, was Alexander the Great's horse. Other sources may call him Bucephalus, but whatever the name used, this horse was undoubtedly loved by his master. So much so, that when Bullheaded Black was killed during the war that Alexander waged in India, his master built a splendid tomb for his horse.

The story of Alexander's teenage years and those following are told by Bullheaded Black. He is way above the world, explaining his master's life and ideas to Pegasus, before making his way to Hades. When I first started to read this, I had reservations about the effectiveness of this method of imparting the story, but very quickly was drawn into the book. We learn about the influence of Aristotle on Alexander, about his mother's ideas of his parentage and many more details which made Alexander the amazing man he was. We also read about some of his ideas - "the union of civilized nations, international trade, peace...experiments with democracy" and his support for racial equality and religious harmony within the regions he conquered.

I enjoyed J.L. Taylor's story. It is well written and flowed beautifully. It taught me a lot I had not known about the life and world of Alexander the Great and the provision of an extensive timeline at the end of the book helped to give the facts perspective in world history.

I think this would be a very useful book for teachers to use, or for anyone, child or adult, who wishes to find out more about this period of history.

Kitty Austin says

Book Title: "Bullheaded Black Remembers, Alexander"

Author: J.L. Taylor

Published By: Trafford Publishing, Inc.

Age Recommended: 14 +

Reviewed By: Kitty Bullard

Raven Rating: 5

Review: Roman history has always been interesting and exciting for me, though I have to say, J.L. Taylor has succeeded in making me enjoy it all the more. His tale incorporates one of the most beloved Greek Myths, Pegasus the winged horse; as he shares an adventure and much interesting conversation with Bullheaded Black.

Bullheaded Black is the horse that once belonged to Alexander the Great. Now having ended his time on Earth he has ascended to the Heavens where he and Pegasus being to argue over religion, racism, and just about everything else, while bringing to life the amazing past of our ancestors and how it all began.

I found this book both interesting and intriguing. If you like history, especially Roman history you may definitely enjoy this book.

Read more: <http://www.greatmindsthinkaloud.probo...>
