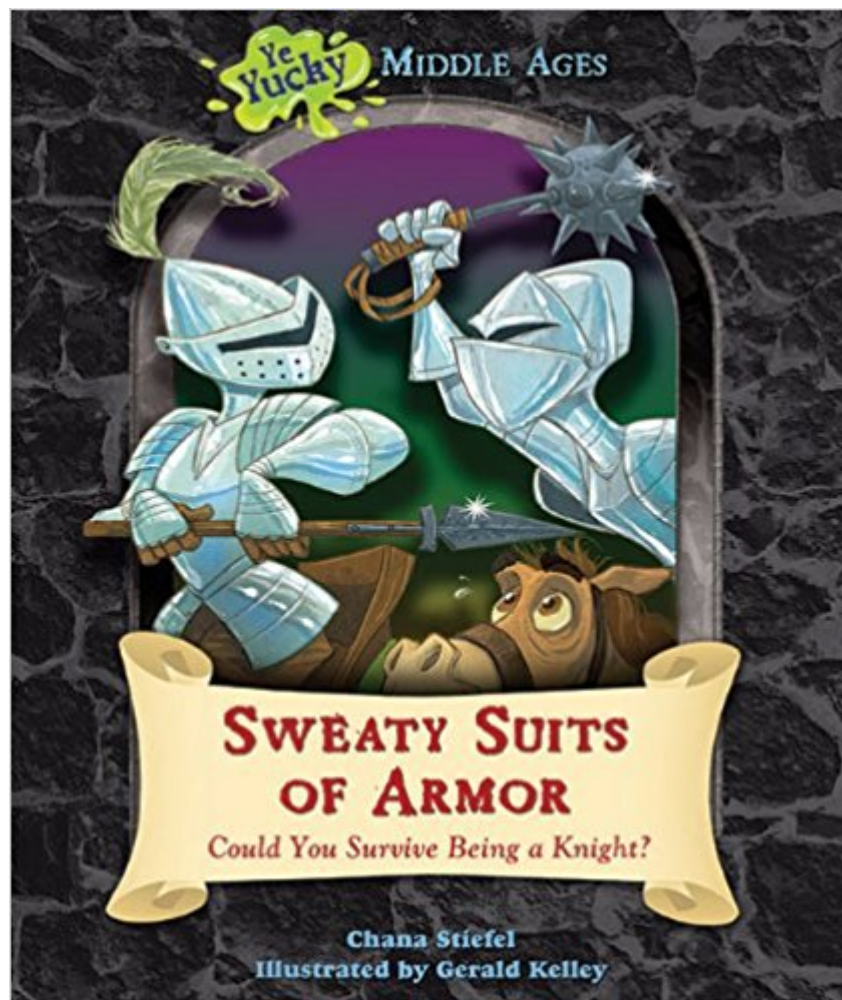




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Sweaty Suits Of Armor: Could You Survive Being A Knight? (Ye Yucky Middle Ages (Paperback))



Synopsis

Swords . . . sieges . . . heavy armor suits. Life was risky business for a knight. Charge back in time to find out what real life was like for knights of the Middle Ages in this reluctant reader book.

Book Information

Series: Ye Yucky Middle Ages (Paperback)

Paperback: 48 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Great series of books. Funny, gross, and full of facts. Thanks.

Many children are reluctant to choose non-fiction books. Series such as Chana Stiefel's *Ye Yucky Middle Ages* may reverse this trend. In exchange for an interview and honest review, Chana graciously sent a copy of this book. I was immediately intrigued by the titles and the book covers. This chapter book series is well organized. The contents page spells out the topics being covered. Additional resources include a glossary of words to know and lists for additional print and Internet resources. A red font distinguishes words that are defined in the glossary. Colorful graphics and whimsical illustrations create a kid-friendly tone. Despite its short length, this book is filled with an abundance of facts about the Middle Ages and knights. Chana doesn't waste any time dispelling the glamorous myths associated with knighthood. She boldly states, "Knighthood was often sweaty, dirty, and bloody." (Page 6) After making that assertion, she provides rich details that support the harsh realities of the years of mandatory training and the hazards associated with becoming a knight. Included are topics that sometimes are overlooked such as the exorbitant expense of the

equipment and the fact that not everyone who went through the mandated training became a knight. Chana adeptly compares and contrasts life today with life during the Middle Ages. These comparisons help modern readers to gain a better perspective. For example, a suit of armor weighed approximately 44 to 65 pounds while today's American soldier carries 60-70 pounds of gear. Any middle level reader seeking information regarding medieval knights will find this book an excellent resource.

Does your son ever wish to be doing anything other than going to school 5-days a week? Make him a Knight's Page! He'll be running errands, serving food, and sleeping in doorways every single day! After that 7-year gig, he can become a Squire at 14 and start polishing armor in a sand & vinegar-filled barrel and scooping out the horse stables. He won't ever miss those pesky spelling tests again with that much daily fun! I read this to my 9, 7, and 5-year-old sons and they all raced to the bus the next morning. :) Seriously, though, this book pours a hefty dose of reality over any preconceived notions of 'Camelot.' It removes a lot of the glory out of being a knight and replaces it with the gory and gross. This is not such a bad thing, though. With all of the romanticized portrayals on TV and film, (Monty Python notwithstanding), this book will show boys that armored war isn't all it's cracked up to be. A description of a melee (all the rage of the Middle Age!) states: "The scene was total chaos: lances jabbing, clubs swinging, horses colliding." If your boy isn't intrigued by page 8, he will be when he reads about the knight-training process (and you thought your work clothes were expensive), the suit of armor (it probably smelled awful), or the weapons of war ("Run away!"). The author really pushes the envelope of gross, which is just what my boys LOVE. The artist also amplifies (and/or defuses) that envelope with hysterical cartoon-like drawings full of characters. I'm a huge Looney Tunes fan and these are on par with Chuck Jones' best extremes. Although the rainbow splatters all around were overkill. We can handle gross, but the yellow ones were too frequent and too suggestive. I think I liked this book as much as my boys did. The best part is that now when we play knights, we look for weaknesses in armor (You've got chainmail! Really?) and taunt each other with personal hygiene jabs.

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