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By The Great Horn Spoon!



Synopsis

For fans of the I Survived series--a rollicking adventure from the California Gold Rush! When Jack's aunt is forced to sell her beloved mansion but is still unable to raise enough money to pay her debts, the twelve-year-old goes to California in search of gold to help her. Joined by his trusty butler, Praiseworthy, Jack finds adventure and trouble at every turn. Will Jack strike gold in San Francisco or come home empty-handed? This new edition features illustrations by Brett Helquist.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,167 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns](#) #1 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #70 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Two tales of trickery and exaggeration by the Newbery Medalist feature adventures in the Old West and during the California Gold Rush. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 4-7
Listeners are in for a treat with this satisfying reading of Sid Fleischman's novel (Little, 1963). Brimming with riveting adventure, the story is set during the Gold Rush. The fast-moving plot follows the high spirited young Jack and his aunt's faithful butler, Praiseworthy, as they set out to strike it rich in order to support the financially strapped and beloved Aunt Arabella. As Jack and the loyal butler travel by sea and land, the pair meet a series of memorable characters such as the daring, crusty sea Captain Swain and the diabolical Cut-Eye Higgins. The individual

personalities of the characters are reflected through the expressive voices rendered by the large cast of 24 readers. Jack and Praiseworthy are the most well-rounded characters. While some of the readers use more expression than others, Willard E. Lape, Jr.'s strong narration is crisp and well-paced. Bouncy folk-style music, appropriate to the historical setting, separates each chapter. This entertaining production is a worthy purchase for libraries with large children's audio collections. --Lynn K. Vanca, Akron-Summit County Public Library, OH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

First rate entertainment and historical delight for kids of all ages. Fleischman weaves a tight, delightful tale of two unlikely gold miners/adventurers who neatly solve dilemmas and grow as characters, all while giving a detailed snapshot of life during the California gold rush. Not a wasted word in this book, kids will nevertheless enjoy a frolicking journey with a feel good ending despite the perils and setbacks the heroes encounter. Highly recommend.

I love this book! I ordered this copy to replace a tattered old copy. This is such a fun story about a boy and his butler going on an adventure to the California Gold Rush. I read it aloud when my older kids were younger. I tried to read it to my youngest daughter but she just took the book to finish it herself. I really love the characters in this book especially Praiseworthy, the butler. He's such a perfectly drawn character and I like to see how he responds to events. As a teacher, I think this book is worthy of any book shelf. Also, it will make a great read aloud to accompany a unit on the gold rush. It does a great, but humorous job, of showing how a gold rush can affect individuals or a community. Basically, it's a fun story that my kids and I love to read.

Great story for young people but I enjoy it as well. I discovered it years ago and decided to have a copy at my house for kids coming up. I had to read it again & looked forward to favorite parts.

This is a good book, my daughter studied it for school. She liked it a lot.

That there Eastern young feller, Jack, stows away with the devoted family butler, Praiseworthy, and sails to California's gold fields in search of fortune. A well-written adventure that captures the difficulty of sailing around South America to get to California, and some of the perils, both natural and human, once the duo arrive there. Nineteenth century San Francisco is also among the

settings. The two meet up with a variety of fellow gold country folks, both on the up-and-up and distinctly underhanded. Brawns and brains both have prominent roles in good ways, as do caring and hard work. Moments of good humor add much, particularly the nicknames given to Jack and Praiseworthy and those of the other 49ers. There are a number of interesting insights on social relationships, particularly the butler's pride and obligations to his position. Strongly recommended for California fourth graders responsible for state study in social studies, but anyone around that age, or older for that matter, is going to enjoy it, too. Its heart-warming ending only makes it all the better.

This is one of my favorite books to read with my 4th graders each year. Fleischman sets up and resolves each chapter beautifully, has created characters that kids care about and every year, there's always a big cheer at the end.

Good book. Arrived quickly. Needed to replace a damaged book at school

Beautifully written, but not appropriate for second language learners. The old phrases and idioms went right over the heads of my 4th graders who English is not their first language.

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