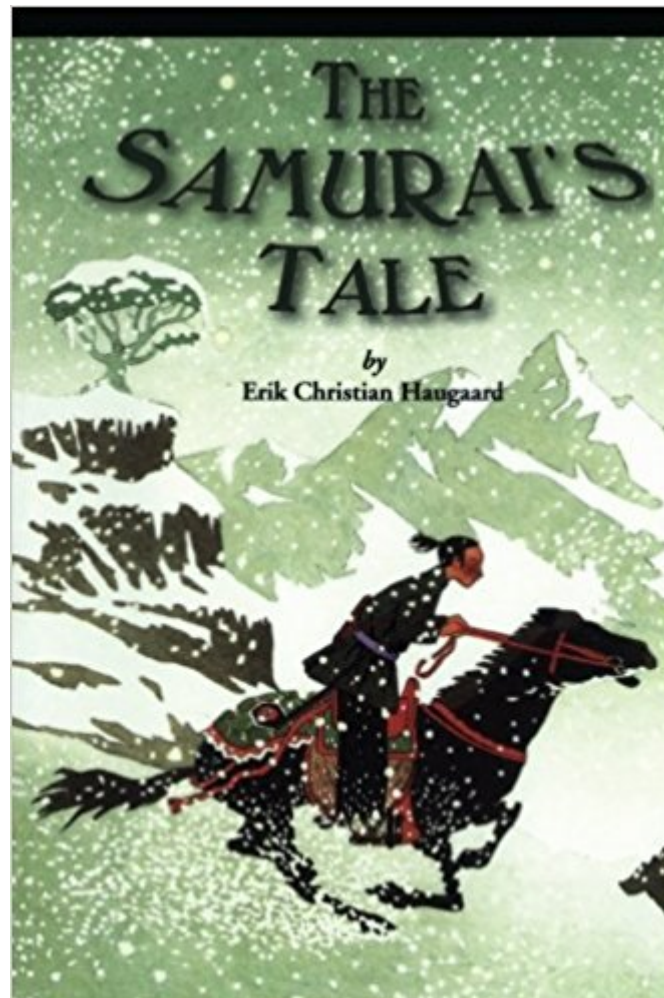




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The Samurai's Tale



Synopsis

When the powerful Lord Takeda's soldiers sweep across the countryside, killing and plundering, they spare the boy Taro's life and take him along with them. Taro becomes a servant in the household of the noble Lord Akiyama, where he meets Togan, a cook, who teaches Taro and makes his new life bearable. But when Togan is murdered, Taro's life takes a new direction: He will become a samurai, and redeem the family legacy that has been stolen from him.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

"A riveting tale for teens who like adventure infused with an ancient historical flavor." Booklist, ALA
"To enter THE SAMURAI'S TALE is to immerse oneself completely in sixteenth-century Japan, when powerful warlords struggled for supremacy. Seldom does a historical novel evoke the mood, color, and soul of an era as skillfully as this one does. . . . THE SAMURAI'S TALE, poetic yet unflinching, is excellent." Boston Herald --This text refers to the Video Game edition.

Erik Haugaard was born in Denmark and has traveled extensively in the United States, Italy, Spain, and Japan. Called "a writer gifted in the art of the storyteller" by the BOSTON GLOBE, he is internationally known for his accomplishments as a playwright, poet, and translator. He has won critical acclaim for his books for young readers, including A BOY'S WILL, THE UNTOLD TALE, and

CROMWELL'S BOY.

Very interesting historical fiction set in medieval Japan. It reminds me of Disney's *Sword in the Stone* story a little bit, but maybe more intense in some ways and without the supernatural elements. Haugaard has an active writing voice that does well in transmitting the reader to the location. Some parts of this book are hard to read--mostly because Haugaard is effective at conveying emotion at some of the key points of the story line. I also liked the cover art, and it is worth noting that the active pace suggested by the cover translates well in the story itself. As historical fiction, it is also in the *bildungsroman* genre in which the protagonist becomes--through sad circumstances--a protege to a prominent samurai family. Like a squire to a knight, the protagonist trains to become a samurai, but it is not a direct path. This is an interesting story with some twists and turns that vaguely remind me of some of the social motifs from Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper* as well as Disney's *Sword in the Stone*. Some good discussion points can come from this book about humility, perseverance, and diplomacy.

This story was great. Somewhat reminiscent of "*The Samurai Banner of Furin Kazan*". Though this story is written by a western born author who did study in Kofu about the Takeda Clan for 1 year. This focuses more on the Rise of a young boy Taro who is taken in as a servant of a Takeda Lord and eventually works his way up to becoming samurai after while. As opposed to *Furin Kazan* which is about a deformed military strategist. But both books do tell a great deal about what life was like for the samurai of the warring states era.

This is a fantastic book for young children to read, especially young boys. It is written from the perspective of the boy whose mother and father has been killed in a coup in feudal Japan. No longer a privileged son of the overlord, he is now the slave of his new master. How he lives and survives is very interesting reading.

I bought this book as a gift, but ended up reading it myself before I passed it along. It was charming.

This book came quickly and in good condition. I have just started the story and find it written well and making me curious about the culture of Japan in this time era.

great book, great learning

good

Great book

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