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Our Island Story



Synopsis

Our Island Story is the "history" of England up to Queen Victoria's Death. Marshall used these stories to tell her children about their homeland, Great Britain. To add to the excitement, she mixed in a bit of myth as well as a few legends.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

" I was given H.E. Marshall' s" Our Island Story" at Christmas 1936 and I' ve still got that copy. It was a direct inspiration for me in my career as a historian." -- Antonia Fraser
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Surprisingly little is known about the life of Henrietta Elizabeth Marshall. She is thought to have been born in 1867, but the date of her death is unknown. She concealed her gender using the initials H.E. in her writing. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

We have spent the Fall semester studying Ancient Rome & Ancient Britain and this book was recommended as a supplement. It is amazing - very well written. Engaging my boys - aged 10 and 13, not to mention myself. We are reading a few chapters per week in addition to our history studies. Add this to your library - it is a great read on it's own! Beautiful illustrations as well. I made sure to order a hardcover so that it will stand the test of time. This fills in the blanks when reading about Ancient Britain - who is Vortigern and who were the Picts? What is the difference between the names Britain and Great Britain? Where did the name Britain come from anyway???

Lots more - we

have only read about the first 10 chapters..... Will update as we get further into the story. This is a must have for anyone truly interested in British history.

Over the years my family purchased more than thirty Naxos Junior Classics. The stories were wonderful to listen to in the car on the way to school and other long rides. Both the kids and the adults in my family loved the Naxos classics and learned so much over the years. Our Island Story is a reading of the famous classic by H.E. Marshall, published in 1905. The author's intention was to write a storybook, rather than an accurate history of England. However, these stories contain far more fiction than fact. They are biased and judgmental, and I didn't care for the content. I do recommend the other excellent Naxos titles available. I hope your family will enjoy them as much as we did!

Our family was introduced to the writings of H.E. Marshall via the Ambleside Online homeschooling curriculum. H.E. Marshall's narrative style of writing is comparative to the late headmaster of Calvert School, V.M. Hillyer who penned "A Child's History of the World, A Child's Geography of the World and A Child's History of Art." In "Our Island Story" Marshall retells the history of Britain in a narrative story format beginning with the legend of "Albion and Brutus" and ending with "Queen Victoria's Reign." The book has beautiful artwork by A.S. Forrest sprinkled throughout which enhances the story. Our child's favorite stories are "The Coming of Hengist and Horsa", "The Coming of Arthur", "The Founding of the Round Table", "How King Alfred Learned to Read", and "King Alfred in the Cowherd's Cottage." After reading the stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table our child requested "The Sword in the Stone" by T.H. White for our read aloud time. H.E. Marshall has written several other books which are an excellent follow up to "Our Island Story" including "Our Empire Story", "Scotland's Story" and "This Country of Ours."

What a delightful and engaging story of the history of Britain! Perfect for elementary aged children and even older. My children beg to have this book read to them. Marshall definitely makes the key characters in British history come alive with her tales. The adults and children both have enjoyed this book in my house. I was compelled to especially review this edition by Phoenix Press. This is the edition you want! Full color illustrations and very high quality. The pages are nice, thick and glossy. Even after our many readings in this book the binding is still very tight and no pages are bent. I've looked around at other editions, and this one is definitely my favorite.

We have been reading through this history book for several years and love it, but our version was a pretty poor paperback reprint. I love this version of it! The color pictures make an immeasurable difference and the text is wonderfully clear (as in we experienced several pages in our old version where the text was so blurred we couldn't read it). So glad this is available in this format now!

Just so you know, in the Yesterday's Classics edition, the illustrations are not in color. I thought it wouldn't matter, but after I received the book I saw the illustrations in color online and they are sooo much more lovely! I'm returning this one for an edition with color illustrations (the one from Phoenix Press). Aside from this, the YC edition is fine -- nice font size, easy to read.

This book is an excellent historical work about Britain and it is written for young children. It starts in the fog of ancient myths and ends with the Boer War. If a person wishes to get a very simple, very readable, and very enjoyable book about British history, than this is the scroll to buy.

Simplistic, but a fair overview of English/British history for someone in a hurry; I used it to check basic background while reading a novel about King Edward II, and it was effective for that. The book was obviously written for children.

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