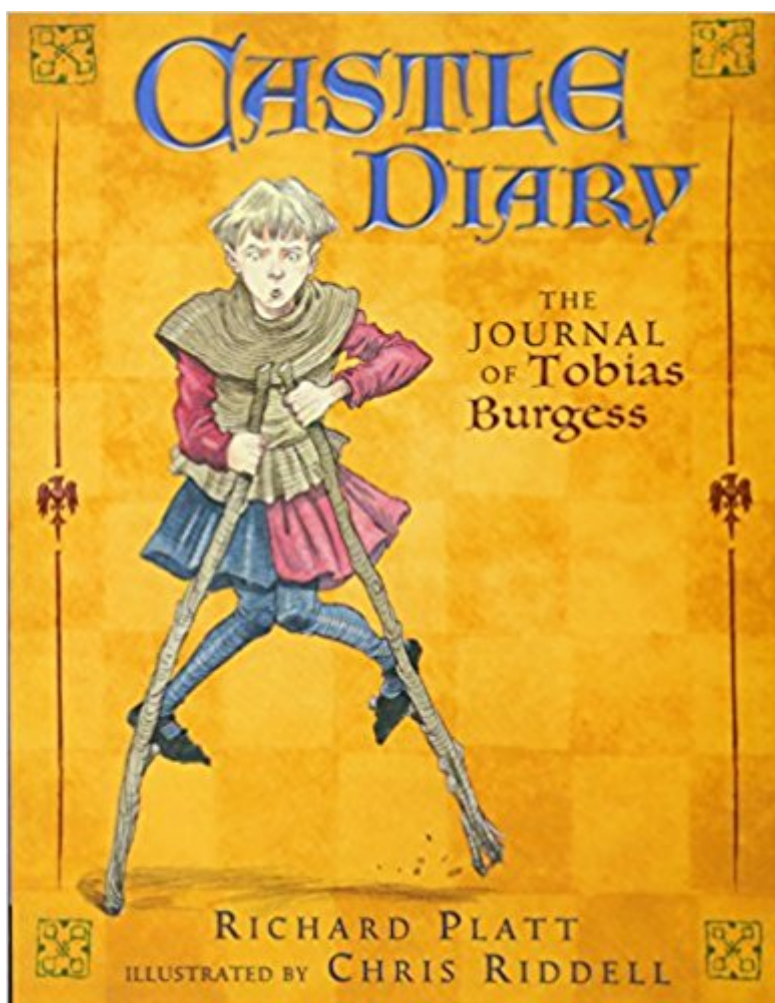


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# Castle Diary: The Journal Of Tobias Burgess



## Synopsis

"Not many, if any, children's books on the Middle Ages and castles contain the wealth of information found in this fresh, appealing offering." - SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (starred review) What was it really like to live in a castle? Step back to the Middle Ages with CASTLE DIARY: THE JOURNAL OF TOBIAS BURGESS. Eleven-year-old Toby's vivid diary entries offer an insider's view of day-to-day castle life, including tips on etiquette (where do you spit at a feast?) and exciting descriptions of hunting, jousting, and harvesting. Complete with glossary, index, and detailed endnotes, this is a rich look at medieval life that informs as much as it entertains.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0960 (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763621641

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.4 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #65,759 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Medieval #42 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #55 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

The author of Stephen Biesty's Cross-Sections: Castle uses a different approach to cover much of the same material in this fictive journal of an 11-year-old boy in the 13th century. Adopting a faux-medieval style sufficiently different from modern English to evoke a historical setting, but sufficiently familiar to set readers at ease Platt describes a year in the life of Tobias Burgess, a typical English page; he waits on patrons, learns lessons (Latin and the Scriptures, archery, horseback riding, and sword fighting), fights and plays with fellow pages. Tobias's wry observations focus as much on castle events as on his own role within them the winter hunt (Tobias misses the

kill, and what's more, gets lost on the way back to the castle), the springtime tournament (anxiously awaited, but a huge bore in the actual event), a summer visit from a high-ranked earl, etc. Riddell's (The Swan's Stories) abundant, adeptly detailed pen-and-watercolor illustrations are obviously not intended to pass for Tobias's work. Populating the pages of this oversize volume with spot art, full-bleed and double-page spreads, his humorously dour characters are an inspired accompaniment to Tobias's less-than-glorious narrative. An informative and amusing introduction to the medieval world. Ages 9-13. (Sept.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4-8-In this oversized, wonderfully illustrated diary, Tobias Burgess, an 11-year-old page, describes daily life in a castle during the course of a year. Although the number of incidents he describes (a jousting tournament, a friend being knighted, his own illness that results in bloodletting by a "physician," and others) seems a bit forced in order to capture as much about life in a medieval castle as possible, readers will enjoy the child's language and descriptions. The large format allows for numerous, detailed ink-and-watercolor illustrations. An outstanding section in the back presents additional information and drawings. Not many, if any, children's books on the Middle Ages and castles contain the wealth of information found in this fresh, appealing offering. Betsy Barnett, Eads School District, CO Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

These diary books by Richard Platt are absolutely wonderful! I can't praise them highly enough as great works of historical fiction for young children. My five year old son can't get enough of this book. He loves it so much that I recently purchased the Pirate Diary for him. I didn't pay attention to editions or dimensions. I just purchased it. Well, it was tiny, about 5x6 compared to the large and lavish 10x13 first edition Castle Diary that we own. Also, instead of full page, full color illustrations there were black and white sketches here and there. So, I checked out the Castle Diary book again on Amazon and the same thing has been done. Look carefully at what you're ordering. The first editions are very large and gorgeously illustrated in full color with the text interspersed throughout. The editions available now are much smaller. They are mainly text with a few black and white sketches. I am so saddened by what they have done to these books. In their original form, they are five star books for sure. I can only give four stars to the newer editions, however. The writing is the same but they have lost their picture book charm which made them accessible to younger kids. Even for older kids, however, a picture is worth a thousand words and would surely be greatly appreciated. In short, I

would rather own a used first edition of these books than a brand new copy of the modified version. I just wanted to point out the difference to prospective buyers.

Tons of information about thirteenth-century life is packed into this story about a young castle page. Tobias is a normal kid who, thanks to his father's moderate standing in society, gets to experience the excitement and complexity of living and working in a castle. His diary, while full of facts, is written from his unfiltered eleven-year-old perspective, and so is readable and amusing. Castle Diary is a fun romp through an important element of the Middle Ages.

This is a fun book for kids to get a great idea of what life may have been like in medieval times. My son is in 3rd grade and really enjoyed both the format (a diary being different than most stories we read) and the story. We homeschool using Classical Conversations and this book fit in great with Cycle 2. My son is an advanced reader and was able to read this on his own, but that might not be the case for every third grader.

This was a nice story.

I liked it, then I loaned it to some of the middle school kids and they LOVED it. Very readable, good illustrations, and highly informative. I recommend it!

My son had to read this for his fifth grade class and I'm glad because I enjoyed reading it myself. It's a very clever diary that gives lots of information on medieval castle living.

A quick , fun read.

Our home school likes this book

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