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Storie Italiane - Italian Stories: A Parallel Text Easy Reader (Italian Edition)



Synopsis

Introduce your children to everyday life and traditions of Italy with five entertaining stories that take place in five different Italian cities. Each story will let the reader discover or rediscover popular sites like the Trevi fountain in Rome, and will engage little ones with tales that will transport them to fascinating places. Challenge young readers using the location map at the end of the book, and foster a new interest in travel, geography, and all things Italian. Every story is written both in Italian and English for easy comprehension. Perfect for bedtime reading or for Italian language classes.

Ages: 5+

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Over the summer, I've been trying to learn Italian. I took four semesters of college Italian nearly 30 years ago, and I still remember a fair amount of vocabulary. So rather than dust off my old textbooks, I am using a reading-in-context approach to develop my proficiency. This little book of stories, presented both in Italian and in English, was a great choice for this purpose. The stories themselves are crafted to appeal to children, but I am a teacher, so the youthful themes actually appealed to me. I also liked how each of the stories taught me a little bit about Italian geography, culture, and history. The Italian texts and English texts are not direct translations of each other, however. This threw me off for awhile, but once I'd read each story several times in Italian and developed a more solid grasp of the vocabulary and grammar, I no longer needed to reference the English text, so it didn't matter any longer than the two texts weren't a perfect match. I can see this

would be a very useful volume for parents or teachers to use with bilingual children (or children who are learning one language or the other). Author Jessica Kosinski's storylines and characters are interesting and well-developed, Julie Leiman Weaver's illustrations are colorful and provide some extra 'context' to aid in word recognition, and most of the vocabulary seems to be what native-born English-speaking children entering school would have in their mental lexicons, though there are a few low-frequency words sprinkled in, to stretch readers' meaning vocabulary knowledge. With regard to the Italian vocabulary used by translator Claudia Cerulli, that also seemed to me to be based on what is likely the oral language foundation of children in the early elementary grades, with a few harder words here and there.

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