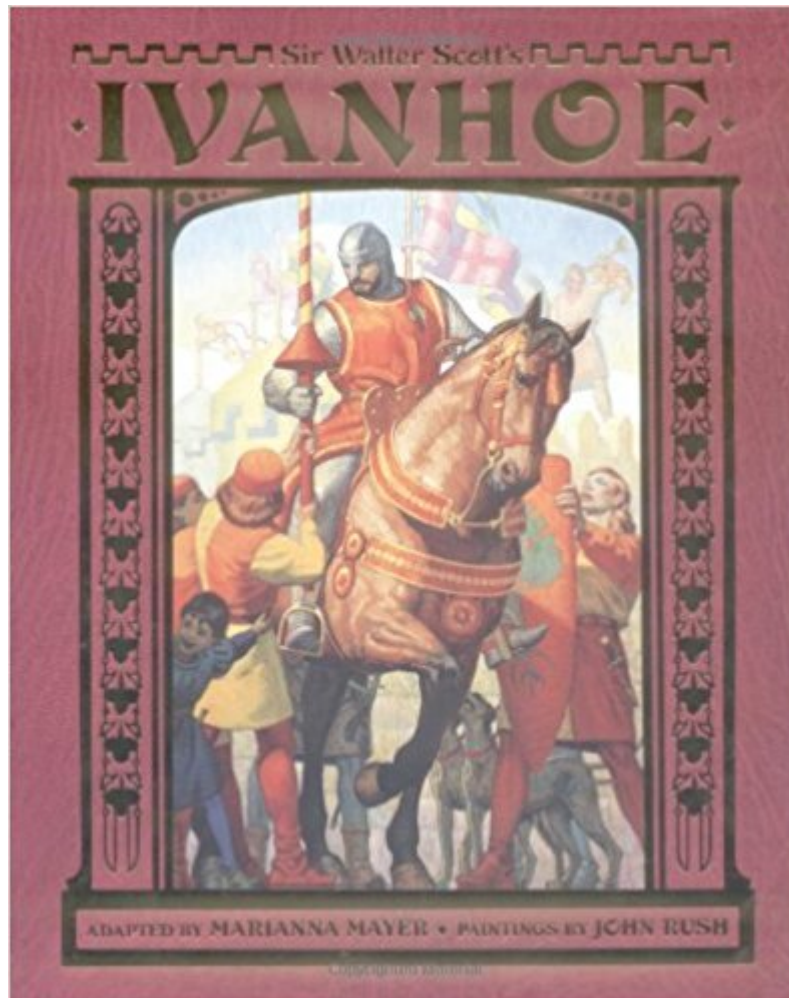




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Ivanhoe



Synopsis

At the dawn of the Middle Ages, a gripping tale of chivalry and suspense emerges. Two distinguished knights -- one Saxon, one Norman -- have returned from the Crusades. Though they fought on the same side, they now have a score to settle. What begins as a joust between two rivals quickly escalates into clanwide mayhem and a fast-paced series of battles for revenge, honor, and love. Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* was one of the first great historical novels of western literature. At last, this extraordinary work has been brought to life as a lavishly illustrated storybook. Marianna Mayer's inspired adaptation combined with magnificent oil paintings by John Rush create an essential introduction to the classic. This exquisitely designed page-turning volume is perfect for anyone with a passion for adventure.

Book Information

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Age Range: 1 - 12 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up--This is an excellent abridgment of the classic by Sir Walter Scott. The story line is very smooth and easy to follow. David Warner's reading is perfect. His British accent is easy to understand and adds to the telling of the story. Music added at the beginning and end of each side provides additional atmosphere. There is enough background information at the beginning of the presentation to allow listeners to follow the plot and the characters. This would be an excellent study tool when reading this work as a school assignment. The addition of a vocabulary list might help listeners with some of the unfamiliar words. The story has enough action and romance to make it a

good listening experience for a wide range of ages, making it a valuable purchase for school and public libraries. Pat Griffith, Schlow Memorial Library, State College, PA Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

The Modern Library is making a killing on TV/feature film tie-ins to classics. Like its recent incarnations of Gulliver's Travels and Emma, this offers a quality hardcover for little more than a paperback price. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

It's been a while since I've read this, but I wanted my own copy so I could revisit it at my leisure. It is a nice classic novel with the use of a lot of old English. If you want to expand your vocabulary with old words that many don't use anymore I would highly recommend it. If you are worried about what kind of content there is, it is clean with no language to really worry about.

Those who have seen the movie will see here how the movie took great liberty with this story by Sir Walter Scott. Lots of history, and an interesting story. Well worth reading this classic novel of England at the time of Richard I, Richard the Lion-hearted. Although they are not central to this story, it is interesting how the various familiar characters from the Robin Hood legend appear here --- Robin of Locksley, Alan-a-Dale, Friar Tuck, and the band of Outlaws. Good story and a classic novel! Rich in mediaeval history and the history of England in the days of Richard Plantagenet, his brother John (ultimately of Magna Carta fame), and the early days after the Norman conquest and battles with the Saxons.

If you enjoy tales of knights, castles, and kings, then you owe a huge debt to Sir Walter Scott. A literary superstar and pop culture phenom in his day, this master of the historical novel was instrumental in reviving the public's interest in medieval times. With the publication of *Ivanhoe* in 1820, Scott created the sword-and-chivalry genre that is now represented by countless books, movies, TV shows, and Renaissance fairs. The story of *Ivanhoe* takes place at the end of the 12th century. While his knights return from a failed crusade to the holy land, King Richard the Lionheart is held captive in Austria. In his absence, his brother Prince John rules England with an oppressive and avaricious hand. The Normans, having conquered England in 1066, continue to treat the native Saxons as second class citizens in their own lands. One powerful Saxon noble, Cedric of Rotherwood, maintains a defiant attitude toward the Norman oppressors. He has even disinherited

his son, Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe, for serving the Norman King Richard. Cedric acts as guardian to Lady Rowena, a beautiful Saxon maiden, whom he hopes to marry off to a Saxon prince. Her heart, however, belongs to Wilfred of Ivanhoe. After an exciting tournament of jousting and melee, a group of Prince John's Norman minions led by Sir Brian de Bois-Guilbert, a fierce Templar Knight, captures Cedric and his retinue for nefarious reasons and holds them captive in the Castle of Torquilstone. To free them from the clutches of the Normans, a ragtag band of fellow Saxons lead a desperate attack on the castle. This is a rich, deep story with dozens of characters and a complex plot. Even Robin Hood and Friar Tuck make supporting appearances. Also included in Cedric's party are two Jews, Isaac of York and his daughter Rebecca, a mysterious beauty who practices the healing arts. The undeserved persecution of the Jews is one of the main themes of the novel, and Scott shows a great deal of sympathy for their plight. Rebecca forms one corner of a love quadrangle with Ivanhoe, Rowena, and Brian de Bois-Guilbert, yet her devotion to the faith of her ancestors places an impenetrable wall between the Jewish maiden and the gentile man she loves. The main problem with *Ivanhoe* is that it peaks in the middle. The siege of Torquilstone is really the highlight of the book, but when it's over there's still half a novel left. The plot of act two has the potential for an equally high level of drama, but gets sidetracked with several chapters of long conversations that just seem to lead circuitously to foregone conclusions. The back half of the book is satisfying, but lacks the drama and excitement of the front. It all leads to an ending which is a bit anticlimactic. Nevertheless, even in its duller moments, Scott's prose is a joy to read. Each sentence is an elegantly crafted exemplar of the English language, and perfectly captures the romantic atmosphere of the middle ages. With so much epic grandeur, a story like this runs the risk of getting bogged down by its own pompous gravity, but Scott never fails to inject a refreshing dose of humor into the proceedings. Though it dabbles in folklore and myth, this is no fantasy novel. The story of *Ivanhoe* is firmly grounded in English history. There are plenty of thick woods, clammy dungeons, and fog-shrouded bogs, but you won't find any dragons, sorcerers, or supernatural apparitions. *Ivanhoe* is a great read for anyone who enjoys historical novels or adventure fiction. Its epic story and remarkable characters are truly unforgettable.

I remember the Classics Illustrated version of this story, which I quickly scanned when I was a 'tween. I also remember the 1952 film version, which I later found out was a bit different from the book version. I also viewed a black/white version in dubbed French while in France, and that was pretty exciting. (In retrospect, it was probably the same movie, on a b/w tv LOL!) However, finally I picked up this Kindle version, and much to my surprise I really enjoyed it. I was thrilled by the

references to the legend of Robin Hood, the descriptions of life at that time and interactions of the various characters. It was serious but fun, exciting without being overwhelming, and I enjoyed the writing style.

I read Ivanhoe when I was in the 9th grade, but I remember thoroughly enjoying it. It had a lot of very intriguing characters, and an interesting plot. TV was very different back then (we're talking early 1960's) so I hadn't been exposed to much material about violence (the Crusades) and religious (Christian vs. Jewish) or racial (Saxon vs. Norman) prejudice. I was intrigued by both the historical era and the cultural differences.

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Ivanhoe

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