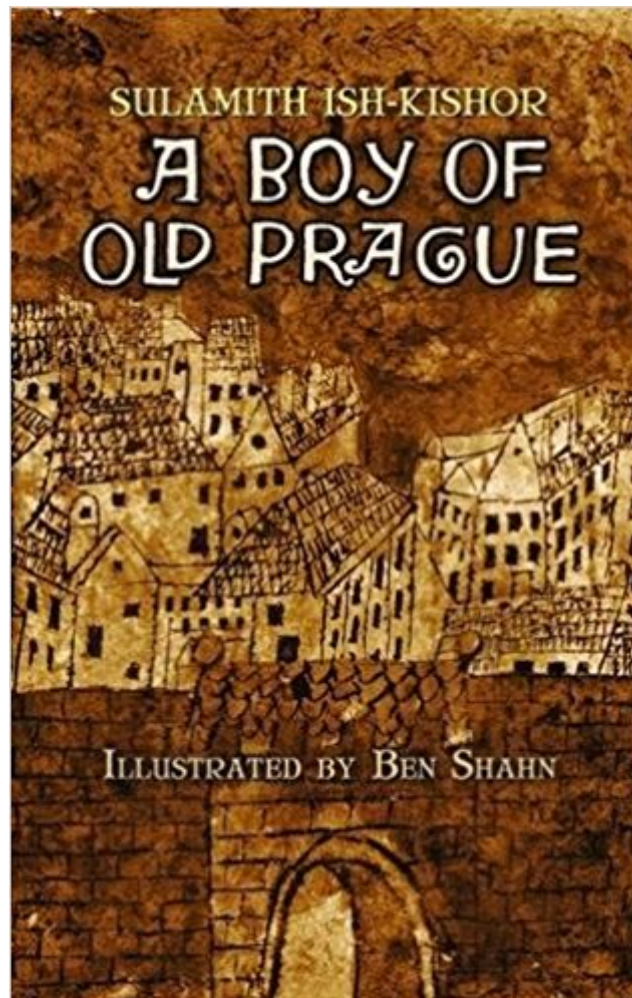




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A Boy Of Old Prague (Dover Children's Classics)



Synopsis

To feed his starving family, a young serf steals a chicken from his master's kitchen. Caught, his death sentence is commuted to servitude in the Jewish ghetto. The youth, Tomáš, trembles at the thought of being bound to a mortal enemy. Once settled among a moneylender's family, however, he discovers greater friendship and kindness than he has ever known. But can Tomáš protect his new friends from the injustices of his old world? Especially appropriate for 9- to 12-year-olds, this fable of tolerance vividly portrays Jewish ghetto life in sixteenth-century Prague. Twenty distinctive illustrations by famed artist Ben Shahn illuminate the text. This new edition reintroduces a moving tale—one that's been out of print for 25 years—to children and adults. Educators, Jewish study groups, and other educational organizations will find it an excellent addition to their reading lists; general readers will find it inspirational as well. A preface by Margot Stern Strom is included.

Book Information

Series: Dover Children's Classics

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (November 24, 2008)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #485,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance #3093 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

Customer Reviews

Quick read, good to show that first impressions of people are not always accurate.

This is a wonderful book. I read it years ago and I am so happy that it is still in print. This teaches that the Jews have been persecuted for a long time.

This was my favorite book in the world for a time when I was a tween, so I am thrilled to see that it's to be reissued this year... this is one book that fully deserves a second life. The author's exquisite prose (reminescent of Isaac Bashevis Singer) transported me to a world so vivid (and often cruel) that life in a Prague ghetto in the Middle Ages felt more real to me than life in suburbia in the 20th century! The tale gets a bit bleak at times, but then, life for Jews and for serfs at that time was not exactly a cakewalk. Even difficult themes are handled tastefully in this powerful little novella. I could not recommend this book more highly-- and for teachers interested in World Religions-Social Studies-English cross-curricular collaborations, a study of this book would be eyeopening for middle or high school students trying to make sense of medieval social hierarchies and antisemitism on a personal level. Just keep in mind that less mature readers might be frightened by the grim undertones... but give it a try. You and your students, or children, are sure to like it!

A boy of old Prague is set in the sixteenth century in Prague. The story is told by Tomas, a Gentile boy, who is bonded to a old man who is Jewish. There is alot of injustice and prejudice practiced against the Jews of Prague, who are restricted to a ghetto. Tomas - from a poor farming family, discovers that what is said about the Jewish people are not true and is witness to terrible actions carried out against the people living in the ghetto by the Gentiles. The illustrations by Ben Shahn are dark and brooding. Read it if you can find it!

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