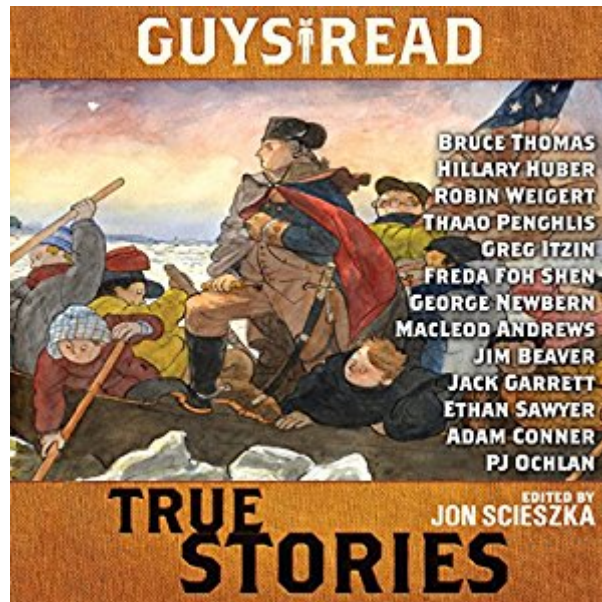


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# Guys Read: True Stories



## Synopsis

Visiting the dentist - in ancient Egypt Spending a night in the jungle - with giant tarantulas Wrestling with a grizzly bear - and living to tell the tale The fifth installment in the Guys Read Library of Great Reading features 10 stories that are 100% amazing, 100% adventurous, 100% unbelievable - and 100% true. A star-studded group of award-winning nonfiction authors and journalists provides something for every listener, all aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Compiled and edited by real-life literature legend Jon Scieszka, Guys Read: True Stories is a mind-blowing collection of essays, biographies, travelogues, and more, all proving that the truth is most definitely out there. The full list of narrators includes: Bruce Thomas, Hillary Huber, Robin Weigert, Thaa Penghilis, Greg Itzin, Freda Foh Shen, George Newbern, MacLeod Andrews, and Jim Beaver.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours and 56 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: September 16, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00N2XBRMM

Best Sellers Rank: #48 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science & Nature #272 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Biographies & History #272 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Nonfiction

## Customer Reviews

Maybe ok for older boys but felt it was inappropriate for my 7 year old. Seemed to focus on disturbing graphic accounts of historical adventures - drinking urine and blood, eating intestines. Didn't get told far into it. Debating tossing it or waiting until he is older.

I give it five stars chiefly due to it being an anthology. The variety of styles is fun and easy to read, and I learned some stuff, too. Yep, I'm, well, not a kid, but I learned some stuff. For me, a good story that teaches me something is all I'm really looking for in a book. I bet your kid would like this, too, even if she's not a boy.

This collection of ten non-fiction essays/stories covers quite a spectrum and will have something to appeal to just about everyone. The collection starts with an amazing tale of survival when a ship was wrecked off the coast of Africa during the early 1800s. We also get the story of a man who survived a bear attack from nearly the same period and memories of a small river canoer and growing up as the youngest sister with six older brothers in 1970s South Vietnam. One of my favorite sections was actually a series of humorous poems about various scientific principles. After each one, there was a paragraph that summarized the facts the poem was talking about. While a couple of stories made me uncomfortable, they are exactly the kind of things that boys would love. The details of the shipwrecked men's survival and some of the details of the history of dentistry were not excessively crude, but still enough to make my skin tingle a little. But as I said, most guys will love it. I'm not usually a non-fiction reader, but I absolutely enjoyed this book. Filled with entertaining and fascinating stories, I can see it being a book anyone will race through. NOTE: I won an ARC of this book in a contest. No review was promised in exchange.

This is full of interesting out-of-the-back-pages of history stories. My 5th grade students loved hearing these read aloud. Middle School students and older will appreciate reading the book on their own.

I love this book, but it needs a new title. Dudes drool, we know that "but both guys AND gals can, and will, enjoy these stories. How about instead of GUYS READ: TRUE STORIES, we call it WE ALL READ: TRUE & FUN STORIES. There is something for everyone here: regular form story; cartoons; and even poetry. I LOVE that everything here is a true story. This book is marketed to grades three through seven, but it feels so good to learn something as an adult, too. The mix of styles is a great way to keep the brain engaged. I do have one criticism: that history of dentistry was painful. Ouch! At least this is geared to kids and not too graphic, but still! Beeswax stuffed into a split tooth || shiver at the thought. But that's not a real downer: I actually learned something, it was entertaining, and the author did a great job of making it relatable and readable. This collection is a testament to Jon Scieszka. Not only are his shelves breaking under the weight of all his awards, but he's a teacher, too. He knows kids. He knows learning. Scieszka brought in the best of the bunch, and every story shows off the respective author's individually mastered skills. Parents: buy with confidence, knowing this is high-quality, educational, and "fun! If you are not a parent, you'll love this, too. Thanks to Walden Pond Press for sharing this book with me to review.

I guess the "common core" endorsement should have been my first red flag, but I kept an open mind. With a few notable exceptions (Scieszka's illustrated story being the only one I can think of at the moment) these stories range from the mundane to the grotesque and in fact these seem to be the consistent themes throughout. Hoping for true stories of courage, resourcefulness (aside from drinking one's own urine in the Sahara), and overcoming odds by reliance on positive human qualities to inspire my young reader, I was sorely disappointed. I have no idea why George Washington is on the cover because there is no story about him or crossing the Delaware River to raid the Hessians in this book, that I could find. But this too is consistent with the sinister joy of destroying bait and switch banality that has been the consistent vice of every piece of common core approved material I have ever come across. If this is the kind of thing that is supposed to replace classic literature in our classroom then the whole thing is truly worse than I thought. I will not keep this book on my shelf, even next to deteriorating pulp-pop paperbacks I find on the street, and regret my choice to buy it. Stick to the classics.

My son always loved anything written by Jon Scieszka, so when I bought this for "his" son I was hoping that he would love it. He does :) Highly recommended thick book but stories are short enough to not overwhelm a casual reading moment.

my 12 yr old loved this book. He's not a huge fan of nonfiction but needed to fulfill a school requirement. He LOVED this book. We will definitely buy more books from this excellent series.

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