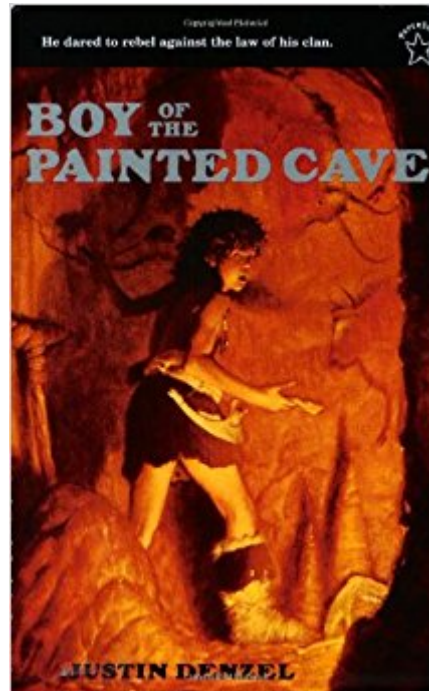




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# The Boy Of The Painted Cave



## Synopsis

Tao is an outcast. Unlike the great hunters of his clan, Tao does not want to kill the wild bears or woolly mammoths of the hunt. Instead he wants only to paint them. But only Chosen Ones can be cave painters. What's more, Volt, the clan leader, violently despises Tao. And when the other clan members discover Tao's secret talent, they cast him out into the wilderness alone. There, he befriends a wild wolf dog named Ram, and the mysterious Graybeard, who teaches him the true secret of the hunt.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (April 16, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698113772

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 69 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,684 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Children's Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Prehistory](#) #79 in [Children's Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art](#) #82 in [Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Strongly reminiscent of Ann Turner's recent *Time of the Bison*, this too is a beautifully written story about an artistic prehistoric boy. Adopted as an infant by the kind old woman Kala, Tao does not know his father. His mother, Kala tells him, gave him his gift for seeing beauty "the thing that makes you different from others." Determined to paint, despite the taboo against it, Tao is gradually cast from the clan. Now on the outside, he begins to view their superstitions skeptically: demons do not dwell in the forbidden slough, after all; and the wolf dog, Ram, despised by the clan, becomes Tao's devoted friend. This is an exciting, fabulously descriptive story set against violent times. Denzel's knowledge of the Stone Age enhances the action; moreover, with his tender, somewhat melancholy

insights into ostracism and loyalty, he transcends the period. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4-8 Set 18,000 years ago in prehistoric France, this is the story of a 14-year-old boy who longs to be a cave painter. This is forbidden, however, because Tao is not a Chosen One—he's a tribal outcast with a crippled foot and no father to claim him. Forced into isolation by the superstitious leader, he befriends a wolf dog, Ram (another taboo), and the shaman, Greybeard, who teaches him to paint. When the tribe discovers this, they pit him against Saxon, the sacred bull. Tao is developed sympathetically, but his handicap is really a plot device to set up the central problem, for he has already overcome its physical drawbacks; it is the taboos and biases of his people over which he must triumph. The emotional connections between Tao and important minor characters are not conveyed strongly enough for readers to become involved and care. The motivations of the shaman are not always clear, and the cynicism he displays toward Tao smacks too much of a modern person sneering at savages, preventing readers from being swept up in the possible mindset of those who could believe in magic. There is no mystical wonderment at creation so beautifully evoked in Ann Turner's *Time of the Bison* (Macmillan, 1987). The taming of the wild dog is not as convincing as in Pryor's *Seth of the Lion People* (Morrow, 1988), which handles similar plot elements with more satisfying results, although both books occasionally use jarring anachronisms in their language. Despite its flaws, this book is interesting enough to introduce middle-graders to historical fiction. The superb cover will attract children, and, while the plot resolution seems a little forced, the exciting high points and the convincing setting will draw readers through. Annette Curtis Klause, Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries, Md. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book was truly phenomenal! A joy to with hold. There were many parts that surprised me. You get to know one character so well or you get to get familiar with the book and then bam there is a twist. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a quick yet extraordinary read. The only part that I did not like was the author used wording from long ago, which was fine I just would have preferred to have something at the bottom of the page telling me what that word meant. But all-in-all I loved this book! Æ

Great historical fiction for my English class while the social studies teacher is teaching the

prehistoric eras. It's short but engaging.

Great book. It was read in my daughter's 6th grade English class.

read this with my 11 year old son. it was a good reading level for a 6th grader that is not in love with reading. however it built confidence in him and he has gone on to read a couple more books with increasing sophistication.

My sons art teacher had a copy of this book checked out from the library to read along side an art project of cave man art. We read it and really, really liked the story. Tao risks everything for the sake of art and is rewarded when the master teaches him his techniques. I learned ancient ways to make oils and various ways to apply them to bring the herds of game to the people.

Good book for early middle schoolers studying early man. Another good book to read in groups would be Dar and the Spearthrower.

This was an intriguing story (a read-aloud in my classroom) that gave my students a taste of how early people lived--taboos, coming of age, difficult family issues, foreigners across the river, wisdom of the old, dealing with handicaps, courageous self-reliance are themes the students caught from this tale.

Just finished this book with a group of 6th graders...boys and girls. They all loved it and continuously read ahead. Good for core curriculum exercises.

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