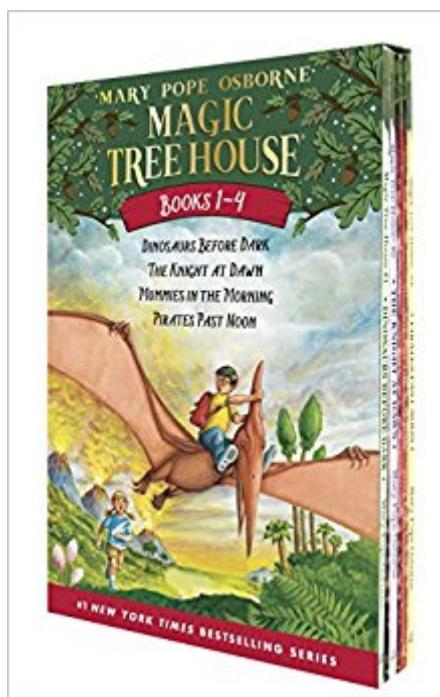


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Magic Tree House Boxed Set, Books 1-4: Dinosaurs Before Dark, The Knight At Dawn, Mummies In The Morning, And Pirates Past Noon



Synopsis

The #1 bestselling chapter book series of all time celebrates 25 years with new covers and a new, easy-to-use numbering system! Meet Jack and Annie! Jack and his younger sister, Annie, are just regular kids. But when they discover a tree house in the woods, something magical happens. Jack and Annie are whisked back in time to the Age of Dinosaurs, a medieval castle, ancient pyramids, and treasure-seeking pirates. Every visit to the magic tree house leads to adventure! Books in this set include: Dinosaurs Before Dark (#1), The Knight at Dawn (#2), Mummies in the Morning (#3), and Pirates Past Noon (#4). Did you know that there's a Magic Tree House book for every kid? Magic Tree House: Adventures with Jack and Annie, perfect for readers who are just beginning chapter books Merlin Missions: More challenging adventures for the experienced reader Super Edition: A longer and more dangerous adventure Fact Trackers: Nonfiction companions to your favorite Magic Tree House adventures Have more fun with Jack and Annie at [MagicTreeHouse.com!](http://MagicTreeHouse.com)

Book Information

Series: Magic Tree House

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; Slip edition (May 29, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375813659

ISBN-13: 978-0375813658

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 7.8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 1,118 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #260 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies #14 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic #18 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Read by the author5 hours, 40 mintues5 CD's Just in time for the holidays enjoy eight "Magic Tree House chapter books in a special CD gift set. As an added bonus, listen to an interview with the author and reader, Mary Pope Osborne. These eight stories, currently available as two retail

volumes on cassette with a combines price of \$36.00, are being offered now along with the interview in a 5-CD set at a special price of \$30.00. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

MARY POPE OSBORNE is the author of the New York Times number one bestselling Magic Tree House series as well as coauthor of the Magic Tree House Fact Tracker series, along with her husband, Will, and her sister Natalie Pope Boyce. SAL MURDOCCA has illustrated over 200 children's trade and textbooks. He currently teaches children's illustration at Parsons School of Design in New York City.

These books are okay. They are easy for my first and second graders to read, who are just transitioning into chapter books. The characters are easy to keep track of, and there are both a boy and a girl, so it is gender neutral. I also like that the stories teach us something, and can be used with the corresponding nonfiction "fact tracker" series to learn about all sorts of interesting creatures and/or historical events. That being said, I do have a few qualms. First of all, I strongly agree with the reviewers that criticized the author/editor for letting these books be published with so many grammatical errors! Children learn by example, and reading incomplete sentences, misspelled words, proper nouns that are not capitalized, and loosely structured paragraphs makes it hard to teach proper mechanics. These books could have been phenomenal if not for the poor grammar!.....I myself debated on whether or not to use these for a while, and then decided that that I could use the errors as a jumping off point to teach some basic rules of grammar. Each day I put a couple of selections out of the book on the board, and asked the kids to fix it. We worked on ways to improve the writing, but honestly, it was a lot of extra work! I would have rather had the grammar be correct in the beginning, and then I would have been able to use the book as an example of good sentence structure. Also, I may be old fashioned (even though I'm young), but I do not like some of the ways that the characters respond to each other, such as by saying, "Oh, don't be stupid" and things like that. I know kids talk to each other this way, but I want to build an atmosphere of mutual respect, and some things just kind of hit me as bad examples, even if I am being a bit too picky. Honestly, I would say that I my kiddos and I enjoyed the companion Fact Tracker books a lot more than the actual Magic Tree House ones. The grammar isn't perfect, but it is a lot better, and the paragraphs are more clearly defined, so I didn't feel the need to 'correct' it for them. Since the books are nonfiction, they also fit nicely into science and history lessons, and you don't need to read the Magic Tree House books first! In addition, I would recommend the Boxcar Children

series--although these may seem a little daunting for some beginning readers to read all on their own. The chapters are a little longer and there are more words on a page, but the adventures are just an interesting, the grammar is correct, and the characters are good role models. I only wish that there were 'fact tracker' books to go along with THAT set! In conclusion, like many other reviewers have said, these are "great books, but poorly written." I have heard that the books farther on in the series are better, and I hope that this is true...but I don't know if we will continue on to find out.

Bought these for my 8 year old daughter and she loves them! I'm even into them that sometimes we read them together. They're chapter books but I like that the chapters are short. And I like that there are a few pictures on some of the pages. For 4 books the price is a good deal. I will definitely be purchasing the other sets. I highly recommend them.

My first grade boy loves these books! We started reading this series at the end of Kindergarten but by halfway through first grade, he was reading them to me! They combine historical facts with fiction story. Great learning tools! This set I bought for a friend's birthday party.

This is an all time favorite of me and my adult son who grew up reading the tree house collection. This time I bought it for my young nephew who loves books. He finished these so quickly as he was so addicted to these stories. Hopefully his mom will buy more of these for him.

This is a very nice book set, I like how you are able to order multiple books. My daughter just turned 8 and this is what she wanted for her birthday, so we got her a couple sets of these. It will be nice to continue to build on her collection going forward. She has already read two or three of these books!

This series was recommended for my 6 and 7 year old by more than one person via facebook. We have only read the first because we are now reading Charlotte's Web but this kids quite enjoyed the first and are looking forward to more.

My almost 9 year-old daughter just tears through these. The stories keep her on the edge of her chair! The only problem is making her put it down and go to sleep! (Which I secretly love because I love when she loves to read!)

When I was little, these books were some of my first chapter books. I remember them as being huge

at the time, but not dauntingly so. I do remember being proud and bragging that the first one was the biggest book I'd ever read. Now I'm older, and am ready to pass these stories on to the next generation. As a child, reading a chapter felt like an accomplishment, not because it was long or difficult, but because it was a *chapter.* Looking at the books now, the chapters are short -- only about two or three pages on average. I think the longest chapter in the first four books is something like six or eight pages, though that might be later on. The font is large, but not overwhelmingly so. It's small enough to give it a "grown up" feeling, while still being large enough for young eyes to focus on and track easily. There are pictures every couple pages, as well. Again, spread out enough to give a feeling of reading a "real" book, like an adult, while still acknowledging that the readers are still very much children. The stories are fast paced, which is perfect for keeping the attention of early readers, especially when you're bridging them from picture books to chapter books. In the first ten pages of the first book, Jack and Annie are introduced and given basic characterization (Jack is the older brother and an academic, his younger sister Annie is the adventurer). The children discover a tree house full of books, and accidentally end up in pre-historic times with dinosaurs outside the window. They explore the area, take notes, and meet the big baddy, all within the first sprint of pages. Throughout the books, Jack has his handy dandy notebook that he fills with notes on his adventures. In the first book, he takes basic notes on each dinosaur or strange event that happens. This helps set up a foundation for learning *how* to take notes, and why they are useful. In the beginning, Jack's notes are short and simplistic. "Friendly" and "Eats grass" being good examples. Later on, his notes become slightly more complex, though it takes several books for this to occur. Even then, it's not a sudden jump -- it's gradual. In later books (I think starting in book two, but not really coming into play until book four) Jack actually refers back to the notes he's taken so far and uses them to put together the pieces to a puzzle. Jack also makes a habit of carrying the book they wished on in his backpack every time they go on an adventure. Any time the children encounter a new word, something new or strange, they open up the book in question and look up information. Rather than saying "They flipped through the book until they found what they were looking for," the author makes a point of saying *how* they found it. For example, showing Jack and Annie looking through the table of contents, or searching under "K" for knight. The author doesn't write a sermon on how to take notes or look up information -- remember, the stories are fast paced. Instead, she shows glimpses of the children doing this overtime until a clear pattern emerges on how to do these things. The stories are based around the children going someplace far away from home and encountering strange and new things they had never seen or heard about before, expanding their knowledge. There's also a high level of risk involved. When they go to Pompeii, for example, they

need to get back to the tree house before the volcano explodes. These two elements paired with the fast pace of the stories provide a grand feeling of adventure, which is exactly what you want when trying to get kids hooked on reading books. In addition to being fun, they also do a good job of sneaking in basic study skills, all while providing a basic foundation for learning about whatever time and place the children go to in whichever book. In The first one, for example, they learn about dinosaurs. Definitely a well rounded series and a great starter set for transitioning kids into chapter books. Even if the books are a bit beyond your child's reading level at the moment, read the books to them anyway. Odds are that they will get hooked on the story, and when they are able to read them on their own, they'll already have a head start. If nothing else, they will still be learning while you read to them, even if they don't follow along with their eyes. There's no way to lose.

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