



Anglo-Saxon Boy

Books Reviewed:

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Editor's Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

In this companion title to [Viking Boy](#) [4] Tony Bradman tells the story behind the Battle of Hastings through the eyes of fifteen-year-old Magnus, whose father is Harold Godwinson, lord of the Southern Saxons and future king of England, destined to die in battle against Duke William of Normandy.

The history of the Anglo-Saxon period is complicated and bloodthirsty and the reader follows all the twists and turns through the eyes and experiences of Magnus who acts as his father's go-between, reporting the treacheries of his Uncle Tostig, Earl of Northumbria. Magnus undertakes long journeys, becomes embroiled in family feuds, takes part in battles and gradually learns the full extent of his father's ruthlessness and ambition.

This fast-paced historical adventure presents a compelling portrayal of the story behind the Battle of Hastings. There is a great deal of historical detail to take in but it is interspersed with action and intrigue and Magnus, who did exist, develops as a character and a warrior. There are quotes from Old Norse and Old English epics to add authenticity and Sam Hart's illustrations include maps, symbols, weapons and full page dramatic scenes. This insight into the history of the period should be very useful in KS2 classrooms and there is enough entertaining story to keep interested 9+ readers engaged.

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