



Book Knowledge Organiser – The Secrets of Vesuvius – Caroline Lawrence

Important Information

Plot

Flavia Gemina and her three friends Jonathan, Nubia and Lupus go off to Pompeii for the summer to stay with Flavia's uncle. They are on the brink of solving a murder mystery when Vesuvius erupts and they have to flee for their lives.

Themes

Courage, Fear, History, Detective, Mystery and Natural Disasters

Setting

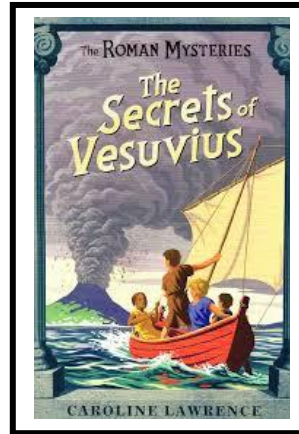
The book is set in Pompeii, a city in southern Italy. The city overlooks the bay of Naples, as well as the volcano Mount Vesuvius, which the Romans believed to be a mountain.

Characters

Flavia Gemina	Flavia is the only daughter of sea captain Marcus Flavius Geminus, and is the wife of the poet Gaius Valerius Flaccus.
Jonathan ben Mordecai	Jonathan ben Mordecai is a member of the the four detectives, and is a friend of Flavia, Nubia, and Lupus. His father is a doctor.
Lupus	Lupus is a tongue-less ex-beggar boy, who is taken in by Jonathan's family.
Nubia	Nubia is a slave girl, who is owned by Flavia's family.

Context

This is the second book in the Roman Mysteries series. Caroline's first book, *The Thieves of Ostia*, was published in 2001. It introduces Flavia Gemina, the daughter of a sea-captain who lives in Rome's port, Ostia. In the course of this first book set in the year of Vesuvius's eruption, Flavia meets three other children from different backgrounds: Nubia, a slave girl from Africa; Jonathan, a Jewish boy; and Lupus, a mute beggar boy. A further sixteen books follow the adventures of these four as they solve mysteries and have adventures in Pompeii, Rome, Greece, Turkey and North Africa.

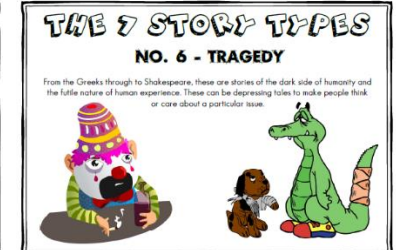
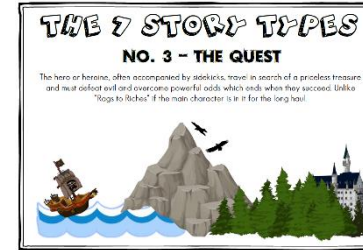


What Can the Book Teach Us?

The story is full of detail about everyday Roman life.

Quotes

"Behold. A sturdy vessel has capsized!" said Nubia.



Name of Book: *The Secrets of Vesuvius*

Date Published: 2001

Author & Illustrator: Caroline Lawrence

Genre: Historical Fiction

Key Vocabulary

scrambled	to move quickly, especially with difficulty, using your hands to help you
behold	to look at or see someone or something
capsized	to turn over in the water
plunged	to move or make somebody/ something move suddenly forwards and/or downwards
hesitated	to be worried about doing something, especially because you are not sure that it is right or appropriate.
vessel	a ship or large boat
wisp	something delicate
strolled	to walk in a leisurely way
tethered	to tie an animal with a rope or chain so as to restrict its movement
eternal	lasting or existing forever; without end
triumphant	having won a battle or contest; victorious
influence	the capacity to have an effect on the character or behaviour
awe-inspiring	having or showing impressive beauty or scale.