



## Vlad the Impaler: The Real Count Dracula

*Enid A. Goldberg, Norman Itzkowitz*

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Features:

- Engaging biographies of famous and infamous figures in history
- Sophisticated design will attract high-school and middle-school struggling readers, yet on-target reading level makes these books accessible to readers of all levels
- Controlled vocabulary and sentence length make these books highly readable
- Directly Correlated to Social Studies Standards for Middle and High School Students
- Includes etchings, maps, photos, and primary source documents
- Cool, digest-like trim size
- Gripping, dynamic storytelling

## **Vlad the Impaler: The Real Count Dracula Details**

Date : Published August 1st 2007 by Children's Press(CT)

ISBN : 9780531125991

Author : Enid A. Goldberg , Norman Itzkowitz

Format : Hardcover 128 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Biography, Historical, Childrens, Middle Grade

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## From Reader Review Vlad the Impaler: The Real Count Dracula for online ebook

### A.L. Sowards says

I read a different biography of Vlad Dracula (Dracula's Wars: Vlad the Impaler and His Rivals by James Waterson), and wanted a little more about his youth. I didn't want to read an entire second biography, so I searched for Vlad the impaler in my local library's catalog and requested everything they had on him (other than fiction), with the plan that I'd just read a few chapters and plug that gap in my knowledge. I probably should have paid more attention to what I was requesting. I ended up with this book, written for young readers, and a graphic novel. Lesson learned—next time I'll dig a little further to see what I'm getting.

Having said that, this is a good book for the intended audience. Based on my other reading, it seemed accurate (other than saying Constantinople had 20,000 defenders when Mehmet II laid siege to it. I've read in multiple places that it was under 7,000, even adding in the Venetians). I liked the writing style and the book was short, so I went ahead and read the whole thing. I won't rate it because I only read it on accident, but it's probably a good choice for older elementary or middle school kids wanting to know more about the real Vlad Dracula.

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### Becca Purse says

#### Preview:

Have you ever wondered if the tale of Count Dracula has some truth to it? As it turns out, there was a real Count Dracula of sorts, his name was Vlad Dracula. Vlad, also known as Vlad the Impaler, was a ruthless leader whose desire for power led him to take thousands of lives. He claimed power of a city called Wallachia in modern-day Romania. He reigned for only a short time, but the atrocities he committed are still remembered even today.

#### Response:

This was an interesting read. I am a fan of history, so to me I find this genre very interesting. That being said, the tales of Vlad the Impaler are quite disturbing. I think the age range for this book is 14 and older. I think this book would definitely appeal more to teenage boys than to girls.

#### Content Warning:

-Genre: Nonfiction

-Violence: 6/10 A lot of Vlad's violent acts are described, some more so than others. It talks about his burnings, stabbings, and other atrocities that he committed.

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### Valerie McEnroe says

This series is more advanced than the Who Was series, making it a good choice for middle grade kids who are required to read a biography. I wouldn't say this is the best of the series, mainly because Vlad lived during the 1400s in eastern Europe and that's not a region or time period that most kids know much about. I'm an adult and I know virtually nothing about the history of eastern Europe. Vlad lived in the region that is

Romania today.

The draw of this series is that all of the historical figures were wicked. Vlad's last name was Dracula and he was born in Transylvania, but he was not a vampire. He was however bloodthirsty in a metaphorical sense. He was famous for killing thousands of people by impaling them and putting their dead, impaled bodies on display. He is a historical figure in Romania and there are stone statues commemorating him today.

His history is the same as all rulers from the past. Conquest and defend. He was constantly captured, then freed. He made alliances, then broke them. Friends became foes. Foes became friends. The throne was captured. The throne was lost. He spent his entire life caught between two enemy empires. The Roman empire to the west and the Ottoman empire to the east. They were always wheeling and dealing, promising to help Vlad get back on the throne. Just a bunch of mean, self-interested warmongers.

I recommend this series, but this one probably won't hold kid's interest. This one's for the history buffs. The one that all kids will get into is the one about Hitler.

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### **Meagan E. Oltman says**

This book is a quick read if you are looking to learn something about this guy but not read too deep. Great for younger people. I marked it scary because these people were real! And that is truly scary.

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### **Shelli says**

*A Wicked History* series provides a quick yet nice overview of the featured leader, in this case Vlad the Impaler or Vlad Dracula whose ruthless massacring of his enemy's made his name legendary. These books are perfect for any middle/high school classroom or library and are guaranteed to make history exciting for students

\*Additional note: out of the books in this series I felt this one was the least memorable when it came to the material. The author tried to cover to much and the names and countries allied with or opposing the evil Prince of Wallachia became nearly impossible to follow.

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### **Amy says**

I am always on the look out for books that will appeal to the "reluctant" boy reader...and when I came across this series of books at a Scholastic warehouse sale they immediately caught my attention with their "shelf" appeal...the title and topic alone were intriguing. But WOW...this book was way too intense for my taste. It is a biography about the real Count Dracula and while it is written on a middle school reading level, the subject matter is way too graphic and gruesome for me! I'm not sure I would recommend this book to ANYBODY...much less a hormonal, preteen boy...no matter how reluctant a reader he is. Gruesome stuff.

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### **Lars says**

This biography taught me about the life of Vlad The Impaler, or Vlad Dracula. Vlad's father was a man who was part of the dragon knights, a group of soldiers who pledged their trust to help the Holy Roman Empire against the Ottoman Empire. When Vlad's father was captured by the Turks, Ottoman Empire, the only way he would get freedom was by giving his 2 sons and gold to the Turks. The 2 sons, Vlad Dracula and Radu, grew up learning to fight, and learnt how to speak many languages and got a good education. When the Holy Roman Empire accused the father of helping the Turks, they killed him. Vlad then was allowed to rule the fortress that his father was the ruler of, Wallachia. Vlad was still furious about his father's death and wanted revenge, so he called all the boyars and leaders of the town for a feast. When the guests were starting to leave, the guards locked the doors and took everyone in the room hostage. Vlad had them all impaled with large sticks, and most of them didn't die right away. Vlad was known for his cruelty and was chased from being prince many times. He was prince 3 times until a turkish assassin killed. A trait is determination because he kept coming back to the throne.

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### **Mr. Kovach says**

Why do we like reading books about bad guys, even totally evil guys? My guess is that there have been more books written and read about Hitler than almost anybody. Vlad Dracula, the subject of this book, was almost as bad, if only on a smaller scale only because he did not conquer as much territory. Truly evil people, yet fascinating to read about. Maybe it's because after you close a book about these evil men and slip back into your own existence, the people you know, and the life you lead, is SO much better by comparison. In any case, this is an interesting little book that traces the life and misdeeds of another famous devil to history. (Vlad was also, apparently, the inspiration for Bram Stoker to write one of my favorite scary novels ever - Dracula.) I also found it interesting to travel back to the 1400s, when Vlad lived. And I learned that the places that back then were called Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania were eventually combined into the country we know today as Romania. I also learned why Constantinople is one of the most famous and important cities in all of history, especially religious and geopolitical history. (I love how I ALWAYS learn cool things when I read books!)

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### **Sally says**

My child needed to do a book report and wanted it to be different from the others. We found Scholastic's - A Wicked History series and we figured that no one else would think to pick someone like Vlad the Impaler. Is everything 100% accurate? Probably not, considering he was alive in the 1400's and not everything was recorded or recorded accurately. Let's be honest and admit that even things reported nowadays are not always 100% accurate. Is this an interesting story for teens who want to read and learn something different about someone from the past? Yes, it is, but just know that things might be skewed a bit. I do think that this book is for teens and those who are not easily freaked out by Vlad's cruelty. It's the right size for a book report without it being too overwhelming and it gives just the right amount of information.

### **Lizzy says**

While it was a nice outline of Vlad's life, it left a lot out, and found it to be extremely biased towards Vlad being the most evil person ever to live. Even though at the end they did the whole pretend debate as to whether or not he was pure evil. As far as how factual the book is, I really don't know. There were no foot notes, end notes, bibliography list, or even a blurb on who the authors were and why we should believe them. While a work of non-fiction, there was a lot of conjecturing, and not a lot of fact listing. And a huge emphasis on Vlad being super cruel and evil. Which he was, but there were good things about him and his deeds too. As they kind of sort of pointed out in a paragraph at the very end.

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### **Andre says**

i think this book is really cool if you like researching about people like Vlad and I think you will enjoy this I f you like wicked history

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### **Courtney Priestley says**

This is the telling of the story of Vlad the Impaler in the form of a graphic novel. This graphic novel gives the engaging history of of Vlad the Impaler as her stabs his friends and family in the back just to stay in power. He had a terrible blood thirst that made him the most famous vampire in history.

I really enjoyed this graphic novel because it was based on history and told the story of something that really happened. If it was just a graphic novel that was written for kicks and giggles like "The Shadow Hero," I know that I wouldn't have enjoyed it that much, but as it was, I really enjoyed it. Another thing that really helped me enjoy the novel was the fact that the pictures weren't just in there for fluff. The pictures were historically significant and not just an cartoon version of something real. I would recommend this to a young adult who doesn't necessarily like history or has a hard time reading the dry textbook versions of history.

#### Content Warnings:

- ~Gore
- ~Graphic Depictions of History

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### **Madisen says**

This wickedly detailed history covers Vlad Dracula's life events and deeds from the time of his father, Vlad Dracul, up until past his death. There are pictures laced throughout to help set the scene for some of the gruesome details, and added drawings that further illustrate his life. You will learn perhaps why Vlad Dracula came to be known as one of the bloodiest rulers in history, and his possible connection with the timeless tale most of us are familiar with today, Count Dracula.

I actually really enjoyed this book. I love reading historical fiction and being able to study specific groups of people and rulers and their histories fascinates me. I love reading YA historical fiction because it really does play into the story-telling aspect of the historical accounts. It was pretty gruesome though, so I wouldn't

recommend it for the faint hearted or even reading it right before going to bed (like I did). There are some haunting images and descriptions that can stick with you. It was fast and entertaining though. Definitely a good little bit of history and fun to learn about!

Content Warnings:

Graphic Images

Violence and gruesome acts are described

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### **Emily says**

Good. But super gory.

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### **Kevin Summers says**

Probably would get the reading attention of a middle grade boy.

Sample quote: "Exactly how much damage did Vlad Dracula do during his lifetime? He ruled Wallachia for just seven years. It's hard to say how many victims he claimed. By one account, he murdered 100,000 people. ... In fact, the number is probably closer to 40,000."

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