Journey To The West
Journey to the West is one of the Chinese Noble Classics. In ancient China a magical monkey appears, creating chaos everywhere he goes. The only way to put his tricks and talents to good use is to make him protector of Xuanzang, a young and handsome monk determined to travel from China to India in search of precious scriptures. Monkey and his fellow disciples, Piggy and Sandy, have to protect Xuanzang from monsters and demons who think they can live forever just by taking bites out of the monk. Can Xuanzang and his loyal disciples reach India safely and find what they seek? Do they have enough confidence and courage to conquer the demons, both those lurking around them and those within their own hearts? Full of humour and adventure, Journey to the West is a story of self-discovery and the pursuit of excellence. Written by Chinese scholar Wu Cheng'en more than four hundred years ago, it reflects everyone’s pilgrimage toward truth, peace, and beauty. If you enjoy this, you can find three other Real Reads Chinese Classics: Dream of the Red Chamber, The Water Margin, and The Three Kingdoms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Long ago I saw on TV a Chinese series on this story, without subtitles, so I was looking for an English version to read. This gave me the basic story line, but is definately for beginning readers. Has a shortened story line with a play version included and a vocabulary section for the meanings of the words. Great for teaching purposes for 1st through 3rd graders.

I'm a Chinese speaker, but my daughter isn't. She has heard about the monkey king from us and
was interested in hearing the story, so we ordered this book. The translation is slightly awkward, especially the inconsistent translation of names (some are translated by meaning, such as "Piggy" and some are phonetic translations of the Chinese name, such as "Xuan Zeng"). I find myself frequently making changes to the translation or adding explanations to make it more understandable or interesting to my daughter. That being said, I cannot even imagine how difficult it would be to translate this particular story into English and abridge it for young readers, so I'm not sure if there are much better versions out there or not.

I became interested in this book after watching Forbidden Kingdom. The story of the Monkey King is thoughtful and entertaining. The Kindle edition was a no brainer at 99 cents. The translation is fantastic and it reads like it was written with English being its original language. Highly recommend to anyone interested in the Monkey King, and/or Asian history.

Journey to the West has truly stood the test of time. A fun read hundreds of years after it was written.

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