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Ms. Frizzle's Adventures: Medieval Castle

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Cole, Joanna. *Ms. Frizzle's Adventures: Medieval Castle*. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. Scholastic Press, 2002. ISBN 0590108204. \$15.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Emily Fry

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Castles--Juvenile fiction; Civilization, Medieval--Juvenile fiction; Book—Reviews;

Ms. Frizzle's adventures aren't just limited to her magic school bus as Arnold finds out one Saturday morning! Ms. Frizzle sees Arnold going into a model castle shop and decides to follow him in to the store. She then leads Arnold, the store owner, and a seamstress on a merry journey to medieval England. Once there, Ms. Frizzle and Arnold learn all about the parts of a castle, how a castle is run, and even how to defend a castle from siege!

This is a fun book that is filled with historical tidbits that will enthrall children who love history. Each page has a myriad of interesting facts and it takes a while to read all of the little captions on each page. The last page of the book tells the reader that not everything in the book is factual. For example: "A wristwatch cannot take you back in time-no matter how fancy it is." This adds a nice dose of reality to Cole's book about time travel. Ms. Frizzle's adventures in a medieval castle make an excellent book to use if teaching medieval aspects in a classroom. It is also a good addition to any library and will capture the interest of children who love medieval times.