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The Raucous Royals: Test Your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Rumors are True

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Beccia, Carlyn. *The Raucous Royals : Test Your Royal Wits : Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Rumors are True*. Illustrated by Carlyn Beccia. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008. ISBN 9780618891306. \$17.00. 64 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Informational books; Biographies;

Subject: Kings and rulers--Miscellaneous--Juvenile literature; Nobility--Biography--Juvenile literature; History--Errors, invention, etc.--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Was the rumor that Napoleon Bonaparte was really short true? Was Henry VIII so fat that he needed to be carried around by his servants? Was Prince Dracula a real vampire? From her research, Beccia reveals the truth and myths about many other royals who are still gossiped about today. Along with revealing the truth or dispelling lies, this book includes facts about each royal and about the time period they lived in. Also, Beccia explains how some rumors were started by enemies to the crown, members of the court, or even members of the royal's family. Along with the facts and explanations, Beccia provides quizzes, codes, charts, and guessing games to test the readers' knowledge on several of the royal rumors. At the end of the book, Beccia explains how students can create research papers based upon a historical rumor by explaining what steps they need to take in completing their reports.

Beccia uses digital art in creating her illustrations. The pictures are colorful, engaging, and humorous, and they are supplemented by humor in the text. The target audience for this book is junior high ages, yet there are sections that are more adult in content. If a junior high student is having problems with writing a history report, this would be a good book for them to read to get them interested in European history.

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