



2010

Dracula's Dark World

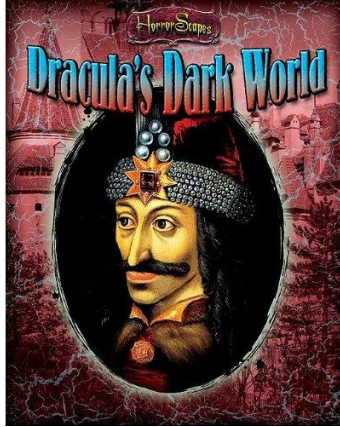
Laurien Clay

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Burgan, Michael. *Dracula's Dark World*. Illustrated by Kim Jones. Bearport Publishing, 2011. ISBN 9781936087969. \$25.27. 32 p.

Reviewer: Laurien Clay

Reading level: Primary, intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Informative; Biographies;

Subject: Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia, 1430 or 31-1476 or 7--Juvenile literature;

Wallachia--Kings and rulers--Biography--Juvenile literature; Wallachia--History--15th century--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Vlad Dracula was the bloodthirsty prince of Wallachia who had a fetish for the impalement of any of his enemies--or anyone who displeased him. Having first been imprisoned by a Turkish sultan with his brother in his youth, he eventually became free and spent the rest of his life fighting to keep his throne---leaving not only a trail of bodies in his wake, but a legend that eventually immortalized him as the inspiration for Bram's Count Dracula.

Michael Burgan, author of over 200 other nonfiction children's books, along with Kim Jones more than vividly recreate Vlad Dracula's world and acts of violence. The simple language, while it conveys the accuracy of its information, is more than made up for with the expectedly graphic nature of the computer-generated illustrations and real photographs. This blood-soaked tale, while well-told, however may be slightly confusing as it does not tell it chronologically. In spite of this, the book's other features, such as a glossary, index, bibliography, and sources for further information make learning about Vlad more comprehensible, making it a useful history-teaching tool for parents in the home or teachers in the classroom, especially around the holiday of Halloween.

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