Guys Read: Heroes & Villains

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This book of short stories compiles fictional accounts written by various authors. Each story includes a male main character who struggles with good and evil. One story is a fairy tale that involves a thief who turns into a hero by helping Little Red Riding Hood. The thief, known as The Bandit King, is a comical young boy who is a dictator over his own kingdom, but has a change of character when he encounters the strong-willed Hood. Another story is about a boy and his father who are escaping Mexico to come to the United States illegally. This child’s journey is terrifying and readers feel the intense suspense as he narrowly escapes to a better life.

Heroes & Villains has a story for every type of boy reader. From historical fiction based off the true events of an Irish immigrant in America to a comic about siblings who fight off bogeymen, there is a topic for every interest. Slight violence, harmless illegal activities, vulgar language and toilet humor are scattered through the stories. The only criticism is that many of the tales are lengthy. Chapters do not break up each individual writing piece, and some readers could get bored while reading a genre that does not suit their interest. Girls should not be discouraged from reading this book either, even though the series is titled Guys Read. Both females and males will enjoy the characters, action, and humor present throughout this collection.

*Contains mild language and mild violence.