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GUIDES FOR THE TEACHER

Title	<i>GETORIX: The Eagle and The Bull</i>
Author	Judith Geary Illustrations by Caroline Garrett, by William Martin Johnson (from Ben Hur, 1901) & Thomas Hope (Costumes of the Greeks and Romans, 1812, Dover edition, 1962) Other resources in the book include: maps, diagrams, a glossary & author's notes on the calendar and other aspects of Roman life.
Copyright	2006 (hardcover) ISBN: 193215874X, 2008 (paperback) 9781932158731
Awards	ForeWord Magazine finalist, HCW Book of the Year for Young Adult Fiction “Excellent Resource” – rating in <i>Infotech</i> , the materials selection guide from the Instructional Technology Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Genre	Historical fiction
Setting	Rome, Italy
Time Period	101 B.C.E. (end of the Roman Republic)
Synopsis	<p>Getorix ("almost 15") has a last opportunity to gain his father’s regard and earn welcome into the Otherworld as a hero. He marches beside his father, a defeated Celtic leader, in the Roman triumph parade. Instead of a sacrifice at the Temple, as Getorix expects from his Celtic experience of honoring defeated enemies, Roman guards take them to a dark underground cell. Getorix's father is executed after charging Getorix to face his own death bravely before the Romans. Instead Getorix is taken to the home of a Roman general where he confronts Lucius, the general's son who spared his life. Lucius expects Getorix to be grateful and is puzzled by his continued rebellion.</p> <p>Getorix and Lucius are both misfits in their societies. They are thrown together and -- through their debates and conflicts as well as their common interests -- develop a grudging understanding and regard for each other. Getorix continues to seek to fulfill his father's charge and to pray for guidance, but the gods and his father's spirit are silent.</p> <p>An accidental injury to Lucius forces Getorix to flee for his life into the streets of Rome. The Roman new year is coming and Getorix prays that his father's spirit will give him guidance as the doors between the worlds are open at the new year in Celtic myth. Lucius and Getorix meet again at the New Year's celebration at the Capitoline Temple. Getorix saves Lucius from being trampled by a sacrificial bull. Lucius finally realizes that friendship requires equality. Getorix finds a way to honor his father's spirit and his charge to show courage before the Romans and to embrace his life and his fate.</p>
Most Compelling Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honor, respect, friendship• people from opposing cultures reconciling differing value systems and experience• political power

*Lexile /
AR Level*

Lexile pending
6.4 (13 pts.) (e-mail the author: judithgeary@msn.com)

*Ties with
Curriculum*

- **SS: Setting** is authentically the end of the Roman Republic and includes details of the political leaders and political system, social practices and everyday life. Historical characters include: Gaius Marius, Quintus Lutatius Catulus, Servilia, Lucius Cornelius Sulla and Gaius Julius Caesar (father of "Caesar the Dictator")
- **ELA:** Getorix and Lucius debate historical events such as Brennus' invasion of Rome two centuries earlier and discuss elements of the story of the Odyssey. They debate issues such as the rights of the victor and of every human.
- **ELA:** In constructing dialogue, the author researched origins of words used. Characters speaking the Roman tongue use words of Latin origin, while the Celtic characters use words with French and German origins.
- **ELA:** Vocabulary: A glossary is included.
- **Science:** Technology of the keystone arch, hypocaust concrete, and sophisticated ceramics; the relationship between impure water and disease and how diet and exercise affected health.
- **Art:** Encaustic painting (pigments in wax), frescos, mosaics, sculpture and ceramics, realistic portraiture
- **Math:** Roman numerals; conversion of Roman measurements to modern ((Foot equaled 29.6 centimeters, or 11.62 inches and the mile approximately 5000 feet -- 1000 "paces")
- **P.E.:** Wrestling, foot races, tennis

*Learning
Activities*

Discussion questions:

- 1) Why do you think Getorix considers "the ordeal of sacrifice would be his man-making"?
- 2) Lucius and Getorix view Getorix's situation very differently. How does Lucius believe Getorix should feel about being a slave in a Roman household? Why?
- 3) Keltus and Brosch have acclimated themselves to their new Roman life. What about Getorix makes it so difficult for him to accept his fate?
- 4) When Lucius finds Brosch crying in his mother's sitting room, "[h]e raised his hand to touch her face and stopped. She was a slave. He could touch her as freely as he could his cat, but he didn't." (122) Why didn't he?
- 5) In Chapter XIV, Lucius unwarily leaves a knife on the hearth as he and Getorix explore the kitchen. (155) Why does Getorix replace the blade into the wooden block.
- 6) Getorix defies Lucius and rebels against Roman captivity; yet, he takes great risks to save Lucius whenever he is in danger. Why?
- 7) In Chapter XX, Getorix has come full circle and finds himself at the Tullianum where his lone journey began. What has he learned from his experiences with the Romans? 8) Lutatius Catulus speaks of the responsibilities of power. What message is Lutatius Catulus providing to today's world leaders?

Powerful Passages: Find examples of quotes from the novel that are particularly meaningful to you. These may be considered "sayings" or "proverbs." Discuss why these passages caught your attention. What do you think the author intended? What special meaning do these passages have for you? Some examples include:

- "Respect is earned. ...Not merely demanded." -- Getorix (p. 35)

- “I am a free person—so I was born, and so I intend to die.” --Getorix(p.62)
- Getorix spat in the straw. “I will learn nothing from that Roman toad!”
“Then you will be the poorer for it. The man who refuses to learn from his enemy remains a fool.” Keltus ... “Let’s just say there’s much you can teach him ... and we never teach but that we learn more about ourselves.” -- Getorix and Keltus (p.109)
- "My father says the victors write the histories." (Lucius)
“I say it’s the other way around. Those who write histories give themselves the victories.” (Getorix) (p. 152)

Become an Expert: The novel is full of things we might be unfamiliar with in our lives in the United States today. Choose a topic inspired by the story, become an expert, and present your research to the class -- either as individuals or in groups. (Technology, such as PowerPoint may be used to assist effective communication.)

To make the presentation more interesting, present "in character" -- a character inspired by the novel or the setting or time period, or as a current character such as an archaeologist.

- Celtic & Roman Festivals
- Celtic & Roman Bathing Customs
- Celtic & Roman Clothing & Footwear
- Celtic & Roman Gods & Goddesses
- Pottery, foods, architecture ...
- Religion and how it affected everyday life
- Slavery and how it affected everyday life
- Technology and how it affected everyday life

See the accompanying curriculum for examples from the novel and suggested directions for research.

Dramatic Presentations: Students can write dramatizations based on the action of the story or do dramatic readings of dialogue scenes. Costumes can be student-created and based on research of the time and place of the story (and may be a separate project.) Background and setting may be student created and/or may involve digital images projected on a screen.

Sensitive issues with suggested ways to present them

- Lucius uses a "drug" to control his asthma (tincture of ephedra was in use) and offers it to Getorix -- who refuses. This could be an opportunity to discuss abuse of prescription drugs and the appropriate response.
- The historical character Sulla is reported to have been attracted to boys. While this issue is never confronted directly, enough ambiguous references occur to give the teacher an opening to discuss the issue if he/she feels that students are in need of such a discussion.

Other Resources

- www.judithgeary.com
- Horton, Sandra, *BluePrint for Novel Study*, (c) Sandra Horton 2008.
- Horton, Sandra & Judith Geary, *Getorix's World*, 2008. See following pages