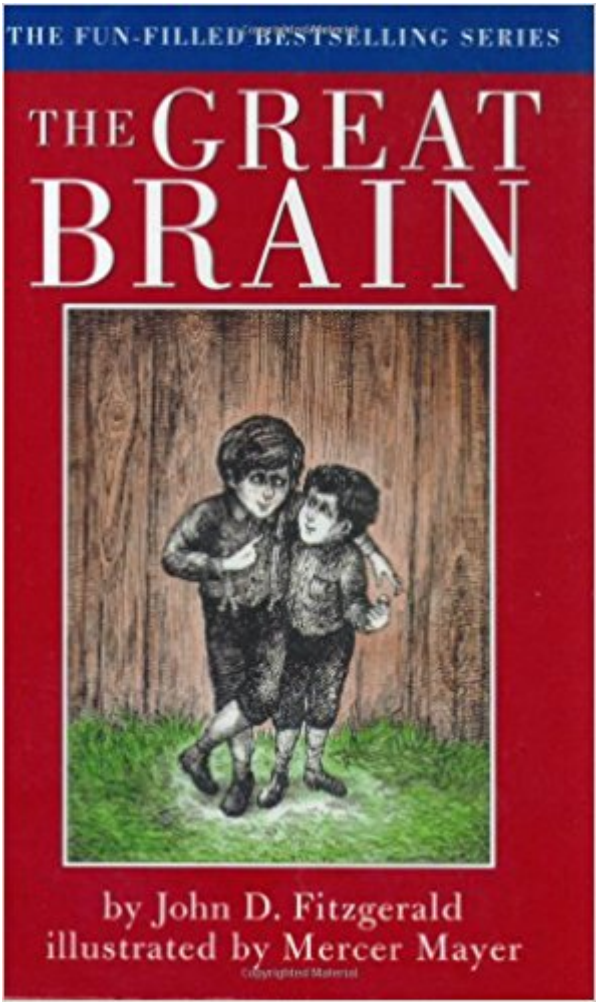
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# The Great Brain




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## Synopsis

J. D. idolizes his older brother Tom, a.k.a. The Great Brain, a silver-tongued con artist with a genius for making a profit. No matter what the situation, The Great Brain will always find a way to turn it to his advantage--usually, his financial advantage. As boys growing up at the beginning of the 1900s, J. D. and Tom have plenty of scope for their adventures. And while J. D.'s ingenuity may not equal his conniving brother's, as a narrator he is endearingly sympathetic and wildly entertaining. First published in the late 1960s and early 1970s, this classic series has been popular ever since. Now the first three books are again available in hardcover, complete with their original illustrations. Join the amazing Great Brain and his befuddled brother as they continue to captivate generations of young readers.

## Book Information

Series: The Great Brain
Hardcover: 192 pages
Publisher: Dial Books (January 1, 2000)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0803725906
ISBN-13: 978-0803725904
Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.7 x 8.6 inches
Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 262 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #127,666 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #198 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Humorous #1890 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure

## Customer Reviews

* "A funny, fast-moving, endearing book that [readers] will lap up!"--Kirkus Reviews, starred review

The Great Brain is Tom D. Fitzgerald, aged ten. The story is told by J.D., a sometimes confounded but always admiring younger brother. Such people as Mr. Standish, the mean schoolmaster, regret the day they came up against The Great Brain. But others, like the Jensen kids lost in Skeleton Cave, Basil, the Greek kid, or Andy, who has lost his leg and his friends, know that Tom's great brain never fails to find a way home. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great stories. Think of it like "little house on the prairie" but for rambunctious boys. Funny and fast reads for youth or adults and one of the best early reader books to get boys interested in reading but understand these stories are about a kid that gets in trouble a lot for schemes to raise money in settled western town.

This is a WONDERFUL old series that EVERY parent should read with their kids, especially sons. I’m on book two doing a chapter or so a night with my 6 and 10 year olds. They are absolutely fascinated by "How people lived way back then."

Growing up LDS in Utah this book was a fun treasure. I have read the entire series including "Papa Married a Mormon".I’m now reading them to my grandchildren. Truly delightful.

My oldest son and I read these together many years ago. (When he was in 3rd grade.) Now my grandsons are reading them and loving them, too. A fun and adventure filled series.

This series is simply fabulous. All of them are wonderful studies in characterization. I used books from this series several times for just that purpose when I taught sixth grade language arts.Moreover, it’s terrific historical fiction. Fitzgerald uses several incidents which illustrate just how different 1890’s lifestyles were from today, but he does so with humor. As a result, it really begins to interest kids in learning more about history. The Magic Water Closet is a prime example, as is The Taming of Britches Dotty. One illustrates the difference in living conditions; the other what behavioral expectations were for girls in that time period.There is also one final lesson which can be learned from Fitzgerald’s books. For all that Tom is a swindler and junior size con artist, he is also a character who chooses his own path and is unswayed by peer pressure. Tom is an outsider, in a sense, set apart from the other kids in town by his self-styled great brain. Similarly gifted children often downplay their talents in order to be accepted by other children. Tom’s example is that of a child who does not feel the need to represent himself as less than he is. He has confidence in himself and in his abilities and feels no need to sell himself short in order to make friends. Children can definitely learn from this.Although most of the characters are male, I loved the series myself and have never had a female student who did not connect with J.D. and T.D. By all means, please introduce these books to your children (and please, please, publishers, keep them in print!)

Great book series. Iread them when I was in Junior High, and am re-reading them again as an adult.

I have been reading these books ever since I first discovered them as a fourth grader some twenty three years ago. They have brought great joy to me and have been a wonderful tool to use with my own students (I teach ESL privately).The fourth book of the series has always been my favorite. Lively characters, funny schemes and the same voice that Great Brain fans have fallen in love with.

I read these books as a kid, and now I'm reading them to my own kids! Read the whole series - it's a trip back to a whole different era. It was a time when your family name meant something, and it teaches some values that never go out of style, and others that leave you wondering if we should bring them back.

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