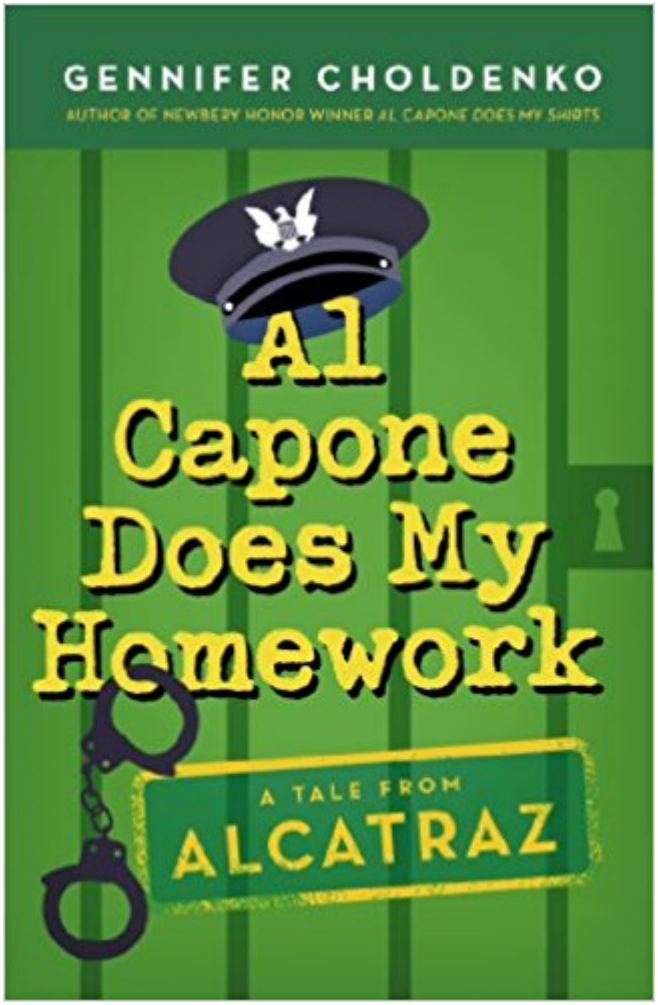
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Al Capone Does My Homework



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Synopsis

Alcatraz Island in the 1930s isn’t the most normal place to grow up, but it’s home for Moose Flanagan, his autistic sister, Natalie, and all the families of the guards. When Moose’s dad gets promoted to Associate Warden, despite being an unlikely candidate, it’s a big deal. But the cons have a point system for targeting prison employees, and his dad is now in serious danger. After a fire starts in the Flanagan’s apartment, Natalie is blamed, and Moose bands with the other kids to track down the possible arsonist. Then Moose gets a cryptic note from the notorious Al Capone himself. Is Capone trying to protect Moose’s dad too? If Moose can’t figure out what Capone’s note means, it may be too late.The last heart-pounding installment in the New York Times bestselling, Newbery Honor-winning Alcatraz trilogy is not to be missed!"Superlative historical fiction." -- School Library Journal (starred review for Al Capone Shines My Shoes)

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0570 (What’s this?)
Series: Al Capone
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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #55,059 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #110 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #336 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings
Age Range: 10 - 13 years
Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6-8-This conclusion to the trilogy picks up four months after Al Capone Shines My Shoes (Dial, 2009). Moose still feels the burden of looking out for his loved ones: protecting his father, newly promoted to Associate Warden; and caring for sister, whose latest challenge is learning to make eye

contact with people. One night when he is babysitting Natalie, a fire breaks out in the family's apartment. Moose fears it's his fault because he fell asleep, and the resentful Trixle family blames Natalie. Moose and the Alcatraz kids (Piper, Annie, Jimmy, and Theresa) band together to find out what really caused the fire. Adding to the mystery, island residents are suddenly receiving anonymous gifts. Multiple reveals keep the pages turning quickly. Choldenko is unsurpassed at interweaving plot with historical detail, drawing a touching parallel between Natalie and first-term President Franklin Roosevelt. She uses Capone's celebrity status as a foil to Moose's father, which helps the 13-year-old appreciate his father's understated strengths. The trilogy ends on an uplifting note for Moose and Natalie. Choldenko hints that Natalie's math skills could lead to a meaningful life for her and Moose won't always have the weight of the world on his shoulders. His dad reassures him: "All you can do is try to inspire each person to be their best self." While the book ably stands alone, it delivers a satisfying conclusion to readers who've grown fond of this cast of characters.-M. Kozikowski, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NYÃ Â (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Starred Review In this final installment in CholdenkoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Alcatraz series, Moose Flanagan has a mystery to solve. His father has been promoted to associate warden of the infamous island prison, drawing negative attention from cons and guards alike. When their family apartment is burned down, gossip points to MooseÃ¢â ¬â„¢s older sister, Natalie, and it falls to Moose to discover the truth. With baseballs, bottle caps, and carrier-cockroaches, he and the other island kids take on gambling debts, missing knives, a murder plot, a counterfeit ring, even pixie secretsÃ¢â ¬â •any of which might or might not be related to the fire. Choldenko supports all of this with the strength of her generous narrative, weaving in resonant emotional elements like the complicated family dynamic circling NatalieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s autism and MooseÃ¢â ¬â„¢s budding romance with Piper. (Or is it Annie?) Especially noteworthy is the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sensitive ability to humanize heroes and villains alike, grounding the tense action in palpable reality. With rich characterization, tender drama, and sleuthworthy clues, this poignant mystery makes for a thoroughly satisfying conclusion to the landmark historical trilogy. A detailed authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s note highlights elements of truth uncovered in her research that made their way into the story. Grades 5-8. --Thom Barthelmess --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Ms Choldenko is an amazing writer. So glad my students have read her books. Outstanding

characterization and dialogue. She brilliantly creates a realistic setting. Engaging storyline. Impossible not to love this and the other two books in the series.

I started reading this series on the recommendation of a nine year old super reader. She was right; the first two Al Capone books were five star winners. This one didn't live up to my expectations. In the afterword, the author says she had planned to write Al Capone Is My Librarian, but that one didn't work out, and so she wrote this instead. To me, it feels like her deadline was upon her, and she just threw this together. All of the old characters are there--Moose, Natalie, Annie, Jimmy, Piper, and Theresa, but the feeling is different. Moose's apartment catches fire while he is babysitting Natalie. When some of the residents try to pin the fire on Natalie, Moose and the gang set out to find out who really set the fire. They try various tricks to investigate. However, in the end they don't discover anything, and the mystery is solved when the official report comes out and says _____ did it. However, there is no explanation of who investigated for the official report. How they found out _____ did it, or why _____ did it. Also, Natalie partially overcomes her autism in a very medically unlikely way that was hard to swallow. The atmosphere of this book was just completely different. The prison and the convicts are just in the background, instead of being a vital part of the story. Perhaps this is nitpicky, but the language used by the characters in not from the 1930s. Kids in the 30s were not saying, "that's so lame." Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed reading this book up until the end when it all just didn't come together in a satisfactory conclusion.

I'm so sad this is the last one that has been written for this series. I really hope another one comes out soon!!!

My 14 year old daughter loves all the Al Capone books!

I'm sure everyone would like this book. All of these books in this series are great. I hope everyone who reads this gets all these books and doesn't stop reading them until they are complete!

Al Capone Does My Homework keeps up the suspense of what characters Moose, Natalie, Piper - the warden's daughter, and others are up to now, a bit older. All three books which include Al Capone Does My Shirts and Al Capone Shines My Shoes are great for upper elementary (gr.3) through adulthood. Choldenko has done an amazing job of research and writing to make this great historical fiction with humor and suspense. Readers will learn much about real life for families that

worked and lived on Alcatraz Island. All three books are fabulous at keeping kids interested in the story and they can earn AR pointsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦a great bonus for students.

My fifth and fourth grade students love these books

My daughter (age 12) loves the book. She has enjoyed the series by Gennifer Choldenko. We were able to meet the authorat a Young Author's Fair sponsored by a local school. She was very entertaining. She really brings her stories to life.

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