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Blood Ninja



Synopsis

Could Taro, a fisherman's son, be destined for greatness? In the course of a day, Taro's entire life changes: His father is murdered before his eyes, and Taro is taken by a mysterious ninja on a perilous journey toward safety. Someone wants Taro dead, but who—and why? With his best friend, Hiro, and their ninja guide, Shusaku, Taro gets caught in the crossfire of a bitter conflict between rival lords for control of imperial Japan. As Taro trains to become a ninja himself, he's less and less sure that he wants to be one. But when his real identity is revealed, it becomes impossible for Taro to turn his back on his fate.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Series: Blood Ninja

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (August 31, 2010)

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Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #778,544 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Martial Arts #77 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #188 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Martial Arts

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up "Taro wants to be a samurai, but as this story opens, ninjas attack his house and decapitate his father, and he is run through with a ninja sword. All is not lost—he is saved by a good ninja who had to bite him and turn him vampire. Yes, that's right; all the ninjas are vampires. This addition to the dead and undead outpouring is cleverly set in the 16th century at the height of the warring daimyos of the Tokugawa period in Japan. The author makes a good argument for the logic of ninjas being vampires—they only come out at night, they move with stealthlike speed, and they seem to be invincible. In this case, they are vital in determining who will be eventual Shogun as well.

Taro and his friend Haro are taken on an adventure with the good ninja, Shusaku, where they learn of and must thwart a plot to have Taro killed because of his true identity. The female characters take a backseat to the nonstop action, and the gruesome details of all the killings and the cool weaponry will mark this as a great "guy book" to counter all the female frenzy around Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight" series (Little, Brown).â "Jake Pettit, Thompson Valley High School, Loveland, CO
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Lake deftly blends sixteenth-century Japanese samurai history with vampire mythology to concoct a gory and fast-paced adventure that will grab readers. Overwhelming interest in manga often extends to interest in Japanese history, and Lake's focus on swordplay will carry along those who don't relish the historical element. Teenage Taro, a misfit among the peasants of his fishing village, finds himself pursued by a ninja mysteriously intent on killing him; is saved by a "good" ninja, who turns him into a vampire; and becomes a ninja himself. There's plenty of decapitation and seppuku, light romance, and unsuspected royal lineage, but the main premise "that all ninjas are vampires" drives the story and works surprisingly well. Plucky female characters with martial-arts skills may not be historically accurate but are lots of fun. Lake has clearly studied Japanese history and mythology, and he offers a tangible appreciation of the culture. The cliff-hanger ending will leave readers clamoring for a sequel. Grades 7-11. --Debbie Carton --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

I purchased Blood Ninja not expecting much (a ninja vampire story-how silly)but hoping to get some seventh graders interested in our Japan unit. I enjoyed the story so much that I purchased Blood Ninja II right away! The characters are very human and the story includes information about Japan, the feudal society, the code of the samurai, and ninja legends that I can refer to in class. Four students have already read it and recommended it to friends. Any book that can get 7th grade boys to read is a hit-but the fact that I could refer to this during class was even better!

Great Read

A fast paced book with interesting characters and loads of action. An interesting take on ninjas and the added twist of the supernatural was quite entertaining

Book has arrived. Thank you!!!!

I love this book it is perfect!!!!!!! Very fun scary and so much more I was on the edge of my seat the whole time

love it

Does a great job with story and characters. Keeps readers interested with what's going on. Multiple scenarios happen to keep you on your toes.

Great action always kept me going easily one of the greatest books I've ever read there was no dead points either

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