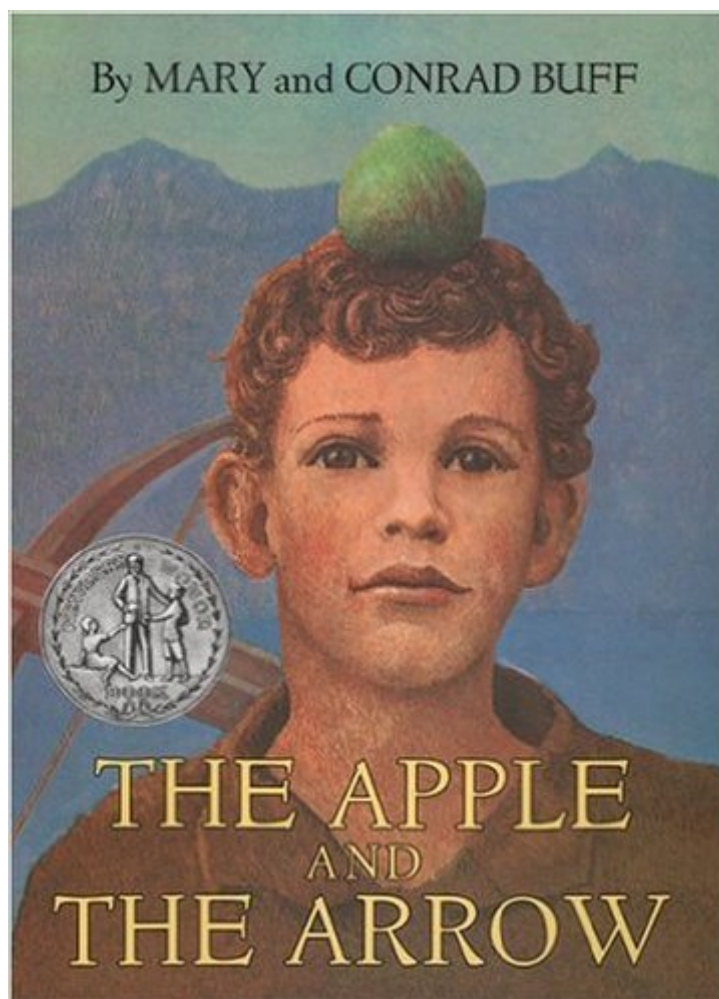


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# The Apple And The Arrow



## Synopsis

The year is 1291, and Walter is the twelve-year-old son of William Tell, the greatest bowman in the land of Uri. Walter lives happily in the remote heights of the Alpine Mountains, caring for his family's goat herd and practicing his marksmanship in the hopes of making his father proud. But as the end of the year approaches, Walter's peaceful life is shaken as his country enters a revolution, and Walter must carry a secret that could threaten the life of the father he loves so dearly. More than seven hundred years have passed since the day Walter stood in the marketplace balancing an apple on his head while the Austrian tyrant Gessler commanded Walter's father, William Tell, to take aim at the apple with his great crossbow. The dramatic tale of William's arrest and escape and the daring revolt of the Swiss against the Austrians has become a legend around the world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (August 27, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618128093

ISBN-13: 978-0618128099

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #66,086 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Children's Books >

Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #855 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

#1161 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Conrad Buff was born in Switzerland in 1886, studied art in his native country and in Germany, then emigrated to the United States in 1904, settling in Los Angeles, where he became a noted landscape artist. Along with his wife Mary, he coauthored/illustrated a number of children's books, among them this Newberry Honor winner, which recounts the legend of the Swiss hero, William Tell. The story is simply told, from the perspective of twelve year old Walter, who has the famous

apple shot off his head. In 1290, the good king Rudolph has died; leader of Germany, Austria, and the cantons of Uri, Schwyz, and Underwalden, he collected taxes yearly but otherwise left the stubborn and independent mountain people of Uri alone. But his son Albrecht rules with a harder hand, and his deputy, Gessler, who is building a permanent castle at Altdorf, is particularly despised. William Tell is part of a group, eleven men from each canton, who plan to revolt in 1291, but events get ahead of him when he and Walter travel to Altdorf. There, Gessler's henchmen have placed a nobleman's feathered cap upon a tall pole and require the men of Uri to bow to it, which William refuses to do, setting in motion the train of events that bring honor to his name even seven hundred years later. This is a thrilling story of "one man's revolt against tyranny", with serious themes of independence and freedom and responsibility. Kids, especially boys, will love it and even parents will learn from it. GRADE : A

I just finished reading this book to my 5-year-old daughter as part of her homeschool curriculum. We were assigned to read portions each day and often she would beg, "Please, just a little more!" I hated to put it down, too. A Newberry winner, the story is well written and powerful. It develops the tale of William Tell from the perspective of his son, Walter, from whose head he shot the infamous apple. What I most appreciate is that the story helps children understand freedom, and why people would risk their lives to fight for it. (William Tell is the legendary hero of the fight for freedom of what is now Switzerland.) When my daughter asked, "Why do people have wars?" I struggled with the right words to answer her question. Then this book showed up on our reading list. "The Apple and the Arrow" managed to explain the concept of fighting for freedom in a page-turning, enjoyable way.

I really liked this book. This book is about a cruel noble named Gessler, a bowman named William Tell and his son Walter. Gessler didn't believe William Tell was as good a bowman as everybody said he was. So Gessler tied Walter to a tree and put an apple on Walter's head. William Tell had to shoot it with his crossbow. I won't tell you any more you'll have to read, The Apple and the Arrow to find out the rest.

This is a short novella about William Tell and his son Walter Tell during the Swiss fight for independence. Historical accuracy aside, it is a thrilling story told simply and well with a good eye for detail and setting. I love the illustrations in this book too.

The Apple and the Arrow is about an eleven-year-old boy named Walter Tell. He awaits the skillful

demonstration of his father William, a Swiss freedom fighter, who will shoot an apple from his head, "Shoot, father, shoot! I am not afraid says Walter". Walter's voice seemed to bring back his father's courage. Walter's father quickly raised the heavy crossbow to his shoulder as muscles rippled on his brown arms. He sighted the apple on his son's head. He pulled back the bowstring...The legend of William Tell survived for more than seven hundred years. The Apple and the Arrow, winner of a 1952 Honor Medal, tells the story through Walter's eyes, as he and his father struggle for the freedom of their family, their village, and their country. I recommend The Apple and the Arrow as a nighttime story for kids of any age. Although it is a little bit on the long side it goes by pretty quickly.

I absolutely loved this story. If you are looking at it as part of the Sonlight Curriculum however, I would encourage you to read it first. I was screening it for my 4 year old and sincerely believe it's totally inappropriate for that age group. At least my sensitive daughter does not need to be afraid that things like that will happen in her own life. It is recommended for ages 9-12 in the description, but for those of you using Sonlight it is in the Kindergarten Curriculum as a read aloud. Anyone else considering it should just be aware that it has some themes that are not appropriate for young children (e.g. killing people). Having said that, it's beautifully written and I couldn't put it down. I appreciated the historical nature of it. Honestly I had no idea who William Tell was (other than the famous apple and arrow part of the story) and it was very informative, assuming that the historical information is accurate. Overall a great book, especially for boys. I look forward to reading it to my children when they are older.

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