

# The Whipping Boy

**Grades 4-6**

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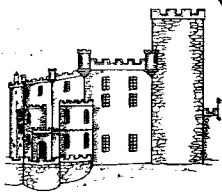
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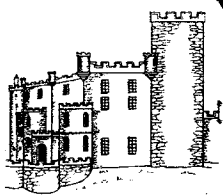
by Sid Fleishman



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## Overall Expectations

Students will:

- be introduced to some characteristics surrounding the lives of royal households and poor common folk in the 18th century.
- be shown some of the characteristics of friendship including that you must be a friend to have a friend and that a friendship can be struck in the unlikeliest of situations and with the unlikeliest of companions.
- study Newbery Award winning literature.

## Synopsis

Prince Horace is a mischievous prince who lives in an 18th century castle. He enjoys pranks and refuses to study the lessons that his tutor prepares. As a result, everyone calls him Prince Brat. He doesn't fear punishment because he has an orphan from the streets of the nearby town to be his whipping boy and take all of his punishments.

One night, the prince declares to Jemmy, the whipping boy, that he wishes to run away and Jemmy is to come along. Jemmy reluctantly accompanies the prince into the dark and foggy forest outside the castle walls. It doesn't take long for the boys to fall into the clutches of two renowned highwaymen, Cutwater and Hold-Your-Nose Billy.

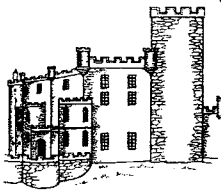
At the outlaws hideout Jemmy tries to implement a series of plans to free the prince and himself, but the prince refuses to play along and betrays Jemmy. Jemmy eventually makes a break for it, and trailed by the prince, makes his way to the town fair. While keeping an eye out for the outlaws, the prince tries several things that he has never been allowed to do in the castle, such as shaking hands and helping to carry a kettle of water. The prince declares that he's never had so much fun.

Eventually, the outlaws find the boys and there is a final confrontation in the sewers beneath the settlement. Here the prince is far more cooperative and Jemmy realizes that he is becoming friends with the lonely prince. The boys are finally returned safely to the castle with the help of some characters that they meet along the way. Jemmy remains at the castle as the prince's friend while the prince promises to take more responsibility for his actions.

## Author Biography

### Sid Fleischman

Sid Fleischman was born on March 16, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York, but he grew up in San Diego. He was influenced by his father's storytelling. After graduating from high school, Mr. Fleischman worked as a magician with various vaudeville and nightclub acts. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Naval Reserve on a destroyer in the Pacific. After the war, Mr. Fleischman turned to writing and published his first novel for adults, The Straw Donkey Case. After formalizing his education at San Diego State College, he worked as a newspaper reporter and magazine associate editor in San Diego. Since 1951, Mr. Fleischman has written full time. His first books were adult mysteries. He also worked as a screenwriter on such movies as Blood Alley and Scalawag.



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## Looking Over The Novel

Before you begin to read the novel, see if you can find the following pieces of information:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Published: \_\_\_\_\_

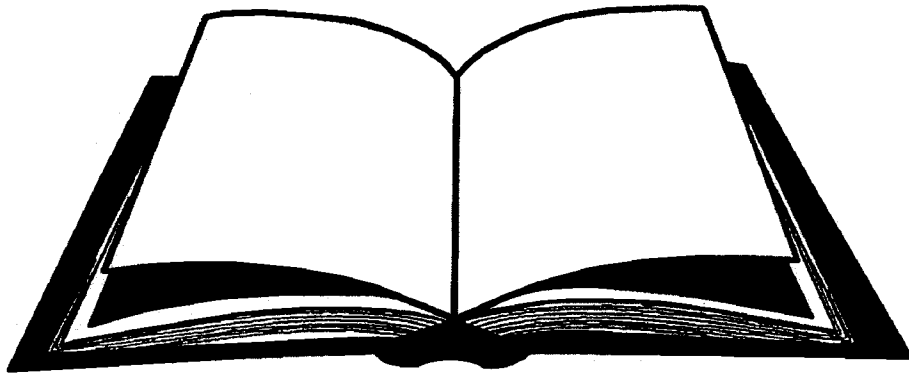
Publishing Company: \_\_\_\_\_

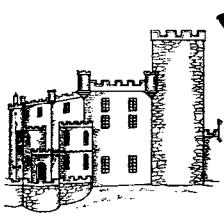
Awards Won: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Chapters: \_\_\_\_\_





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## The Value of Friends

How wonderful it is to have friends! But remember that you have to be a good friend to have friends!

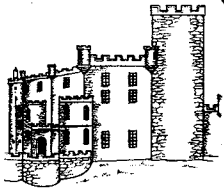
Think about each of the questions. Write down some responses in the shapes below each question. Get a friend to help you!

- a) How **does** having a good friend make you feel?

- b) What kinds of things **does** a friend do?

- c) What does a good friend **not** do?

- d) How do you think it feels **not** to have a good friend?



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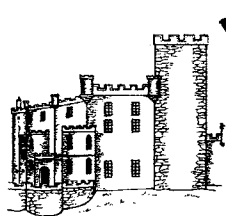


## Map of the Story

The location of the story is in and around a castle.

As you read the story, draw a map in the box of the area in which the two boys traveled.

Include arrows to show the path that the boys took on their adventure. Use the novel to help you draw in the different places accurately. Include a legend if necessary. Then color the map.



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## Chapters One and Two – *In The Castle*

Before you read the chapters:

How would you feel if you were punished instead of the person who did something wrong?

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Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word.

sorry	room	yell	cry	teacher
opposite	lowly	needed	woke	annoyance

1. The King's command traveled to a small chamber ( ) in the drafty north tower.
2. Jemmy roused ( ) from his sleep.
3. The prince lowered his head so as to appear humbled ( ) and contrite ( ).
4. He was feeling a growing exasperation ( ) with his whipping boy.
5. Jemmy was obliged ( ) to be close at hand for the daily lessons.
6. "You're the worst whipping boy I ever had! How come you never bawl ( )?"
7. "Yelp and bellow ( ) next time. Hear?"
8. The tutor ( ), Master Peckwit, was a round-faced man with fat cheeks.
9. "You contrary ( ) rascal!"

Match the following things that people wear with their meanings:

cloak	Slim pants that fasten just below the knees
spectacles	A coat-like piece of clothing without sleeves
breeches	A man-made covering of hair for the head
wig	Eyeglasses