



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Upper primary/lower secondary
(ages 8+)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English and HASS
- **General capabilities:** Language, Literature, Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social Capability, Ethical Understanding

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Investigate historical, geographic, civic and economic concepts and ideas
- Develop critical and creative thinking
- Analyse how language and writing evoke mood, tone, tension and characterisation
- Encourage creative and imaginative writing

THEMES

- History – European
- Relationships
- Society
- Personal and social ethics

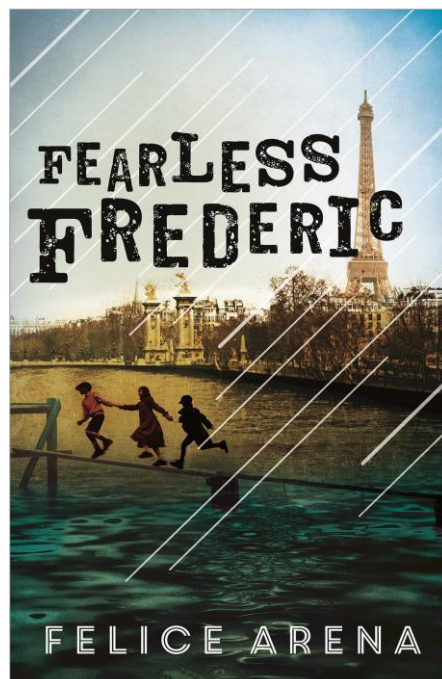
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Fearless Frederic

Felice Arena

PLOT SUMMARY

A story of friendship and heart-racing adventure – a perfect follow up to the acclaimed *The Boy and the Spy*.

When the river rises and the city of Paris begins to disappear under water, Frederic decides to help those who can't help themselves. But as his heroic acts escalate, so does the danger. Frederic will have to battle an escaped zoo animal and fight off pickpockets and looters but, as the waters subside, can he find justice for his father and discover what courage really means?

A thrilling story set in Paris at the time of the great flood in 1910.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Felice Arena is one of Australia's best-loved children's writers. He is the author and creator of many popular and award-winning children's books for all ages, including *The Boy and the Spy*, *Whippersnapper*, the bestselling Specky Magee books and the popular Andy Roid series.

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

My first introduction to France was when I was in high school. I took Year 10 French, and I loved it, mostly because of my teacher, Mr Franzoni, who was so enthusiastic and engaging. He made France, especially Paris, sound like the most magical place on earth. I promised myself that one day I would visit the City of Lights.

A few years later, I was working as an actor on a popular TV show. I couldn't believe my luck when I was invited to do a photo shoot in Paris for a teen magazine. Along with other young actors and models we raced around all the major landmarks of the city with the photographer. But all I wanted to do was to break away and explore the amazing city that I was only getting glimpses of.

Since then I've been fortunate enough to visit Paris six times, but I still haven't seen it all. In July 2016, the city was experiencing major flooding – the River Seine had risen higher than it had for years. I overheard locals make reference to another flood in Paris's history – they called it 'the Great Flood'.

When I looked it up, incredible black-and-white photographs of the flood of 1910 came up on the screen. The images of Parisians shuffling along gangplanks or rowing boats down famous boulevards are so evocative, so poignant.

But the flood didn't come rushing down the river. The water rose up from the ground, from the sewers and the drains until the city was covered.

I started wondering, what would it have been like to wake up to discover your home was underwater? What were the shelters like in 1910? How did people help one another when faced with a catastrophe? Who were the heroes and the villains?

I wondered, if I were a kid in the shelters, how would I feel? Would I make friends while I was there? Would I want to help others in need? Little by little my story about Fearless Frederic started taking shape.

I read books and old newspapers from the time (yeah, my high school French was really put to the test), and I watched films and looked up images from this incredible period in Paris's history – the Belle Epoque, the 'beautiful era'. I spoke to locals and visited the landmarks where Frederic's adventure was to play out.

The streets and major monuments I mention in the book are real, although I did take creative liberty with businesses like the boxing hall, horse stables and the book and toy stores. There's a little nod to *The Boy and the Spy* in there too – see if you can find it!

I had so much fun researching this book. I had to find out what police uniforms looked like back then, and what kinds of people were likely to have bought kites, and how the streets looked and sounded packed with horse-driven carts, bikes and early automobiles. I needed to do a lot of research on French desserts (yum), but I also needed to learn how the sewer system worked (ew!).

One of the things I enjoyed most about writing this story was Thierry's love of books. One of my all-time favourite stories is *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* by the legendary French author Victor Hugo. There was no way I could ignore French literature when writing a book set in Paris. France has given the world some of the greatest writers of all time, and in a very small way Thierry was my homage to them.

At the heart of this adventure are courage and friendship. Bravery isn't always about being physical. Following your heart and being true to yourself and your friends can sometimes take more courage than going into battle against an entire team of *savate* boxers.

And the things that make you different from your friends can sometimes be the very features that bind you to them. Frederic, Thierry and Claire are all very different, but somehow I get the feeling they will be friends forever. Don't you?

WRITING STYLE

- What is the writing style the author has used? Consider how and when information is revealed, and the use of the intimate-third-person perspective. Discuss what tense is used and what the effect is for the reader. What is another way this story could have been told? Compare and contrast to another book you have read.
- How does the book's title relate to its content? What does it refer to?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Researching historical information

- Read the note from the author at the end of the book. Where in the story can you see that the author has researched using the historical methods and evidence? And what does the piece of historical evidence in the book show you?



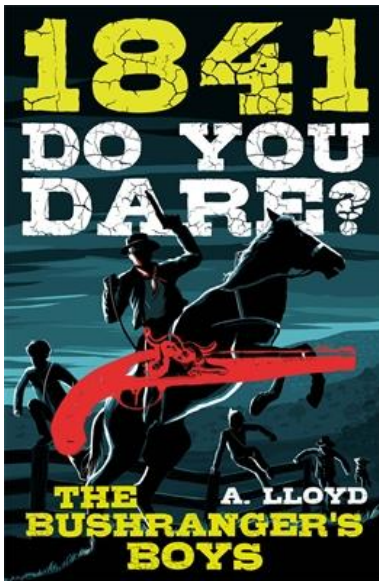
- Look up images of the great flood of Paris. Compare and contrast these images with the recent floods, and floods in Australia.
- Look up more interesting information about this period of history. Include information from one website, one online newspaper and one book.
- Research some of the French literature mentioned in the book. What are the parallels in this story with one of the stories mentioned?
- Does your family have a story of being displaced by disaster? Or a story of a flood? What story would you write based on that true story?
- Do you have an adoption story in your family? Or were you adopted? What is your idea of 'family'? How has the idea of 'family' changed over time?
- Have you wondered why and how people become homeless? How might the story of Claire compare with the story of the young pickpocket?

Storytelling

- Write a short story about Claire's journey to England and her life when she gets there. Or Thierry's life once his book is published.
- The young pickpocket's story is incomplete in this novel. Write a story about what you think happened to him. Where did he go after the flood?
- Choose an incident in the story and write it from a different perspective – choosing a character mentioned in the story.
- What does the cover tell you about the tone and content of the book?
- Is there an ethical dilemma in the book? What is it and what would you have done?
- Write a reflective piece about an adventure you have had or would like to have with your friends.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Do You Dare: The Bushranger's Boys
by A Lloyd

Do you dare . . .
Confront a bully?
Steal to protect someone?
Hide a bushranger?
It's an adventure in Australian history.
Do You Dare?

An exciting, action-packed adventure set in 1841.



Do You Dare: Eureka Boys
by P Matthews

Do you dare . . .
Join a rebellion?
Stand up to a bully?
Risk your life for a friend?
It's an adventure in Australian history.
Do You Dare?

An exciting, action-packed adventure set in 1854.



The Boy and the Spy
by Felice Arena

Leap into the adventure of a lifetime . . .

Things have never been easy for Antonio, but now it seems like the war will never end. So when Antonio is caught up in the dangerous world of freedom fighters and spies, will it change his life or destroy him?

A thrilling story set on the island of Sicily, Italy, against the backdrop of WWII.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Fearless Frederic	Felice Arena	9780143786757	8+	\$16.99		
History Mysteries: Diamond Jack	Mark Greenwood	9780143309260	8+	\$12.99		
History Mysteries: The Lost Explorer	Mark Greenwood	9780143309277	8+	\$12.99		
Do You Dare: The Bushranger's Boys	A Lloyd	9780143307563	8+	\$14.99		
Do You Dare: Eureka Boys	P Matthews	9780143308454	8+	\$14.99		
Do You Dare: Tough Times	S Mitchell	9780143308010	8+	\$14.99		
The Boy and the Spy	Felice Arena	9780143309284	8+	\$16.99		
TOTAL						

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