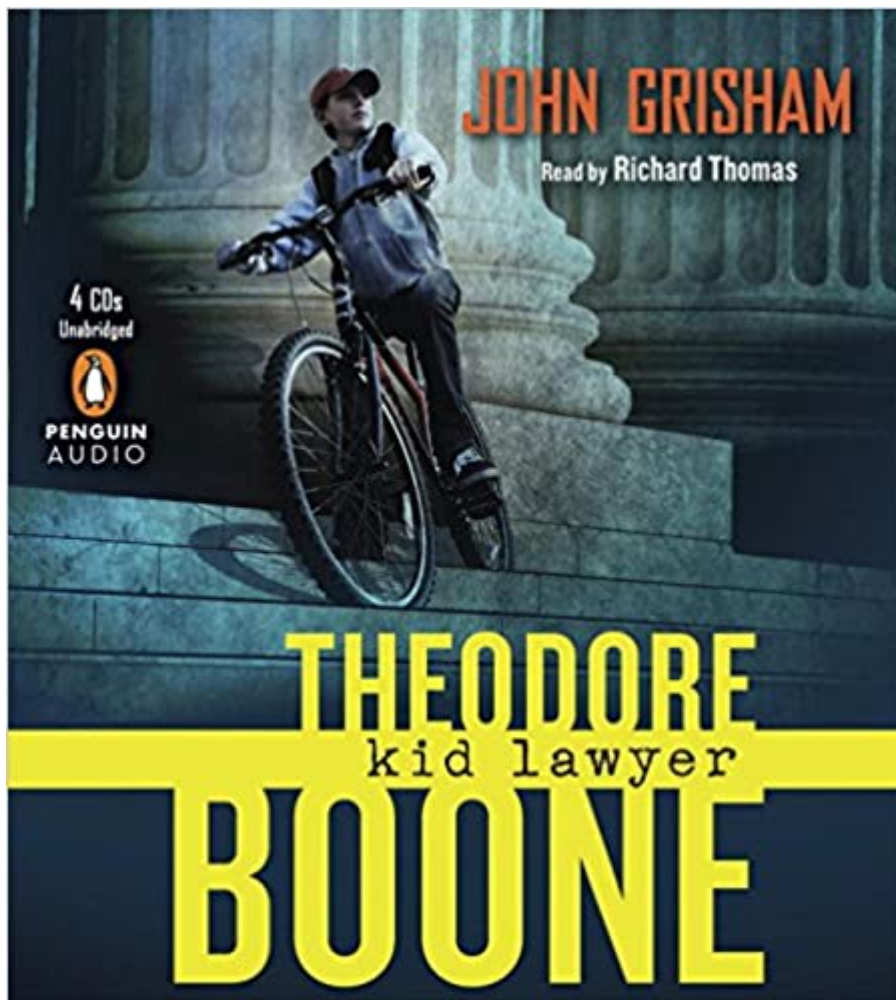




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Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer



Synopsis

A perfect murderA faceless witnessA lone courtroom champion knows the whole truth . . . and he's only thirteen years oldMeet Theodore BooneIn the small city of Strattenburg, there are many lawyers, and though he's only thirteen years old, Theo Boone thinks he's one of them. Theo knows every judge, policeman, court clerkand a lot about the law. He dreams of being a great trial lawyer, of a life in the courtroom. But Theo finds himself in court much sooner than expected. Because he knows so muchmaybe too muchhe is suddenly dragged into the middle of a sensational murder trial. A cold-blooded killer is about to go free, and only Theo knows the truth. The stakes are high, but Theo won't stop until justice is served. Brimming with the intrigue and suspense that made John Grisham a #1 international bestseller and the undisputed master of the legal thriller, Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer will keep readers guessing and pages turning.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 6-8Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone's fervent wish is to become a great lawyer one day, or better yet, a great judge. Theo's parents are both lawyers and have their law firm where Theo has his own little office. Because of his knowledge of legal matters, his classmates turn to him for advice. As John Grisham's first volume (Dutton, 2010) in a projected series opens, Theo has

arranged for his class to go on a field trip to the courthouse for the opening of a high-profile murder trial. Theo becomes more directly involved in the sensational murder trial when one of his friends informs him that his cousin is in possession of key evidence in the case but is too afraid to come forward because of his immigration status. Although Theo is sworn to secrecy, he must figure out how to bring this information to light before the end of the trial. The courtroom drama and background legal matters are realistically portrayed and easy to understand. There are times though, when the action slows down as Grisham weaves explanations of the legal system and process into the story. Richard Thomas's well-paced reading is appropriately youthful, and he gives each character a distinct voice. The conclusion of the novel serves as the beginning of the next and the continuation of the case.

— Mary Oluonye, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH

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After years of taking on lawyers of the adult persuasion, best-selling writer Grisham turns to a lawyer who's only 13. Well, Theo Boone hasn't taken the bar, but he offers advice to his friends, hangs out at the courthouse, and watches Perry Mason reruns. Things turn serious, however, when a witness to a murder, a young illegal immigrant, comes to Theo with evidence. The trial is in full swing, and it looks like the defendant will walk unless Theo comes forward. But he's promised the young man he will keep his identity confidential. What should he do? Grisham doesn't have the whole writing-for-kids thing down quite yet. His style, a little stiff, sometimes seems as if it's written for an earlier era. In one howler, he introduces Theo's teacher: "He always addressed them as 'emen' and for thirteen-year-olds there was no greater compliment." The moral dilemma Grisham poses is interesting, but when Theo (logically) calls in the adults, it loses tension. Problem-solver Theo sometimes seems like a sophisticated Encyclopedia Brown, and as with the boy detective, expect to see more of him. Grades 6-8.

--Ilene Cooper

--This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

The premise behind this book really is quite clever. Two highly successful lawyers marry, have a child, and surprise, surprise - the offspring decides he wants to be a lawyer when he grows up! A nice, realistic portrayal of life in a legal household. The good thing about young Master Boone is that he is a very likeable character, both within the confines of the story, and beyond. Readers will like him because of his relative modesty, his insecurities, his faults and his talents. His fellow characters (school friends) like him because he is cool as. His parents, too, are far from perfect, as is the

highlight (for me) of the book - Uncle Ike. That dude has SERIOUS ISSUES but we love him just the same. This book is FUN! Even though it is obviously aimed at the younger (teen?) reader, THEODORE BOON is a great introduction to the legal thriller as well as a way of making enquiring young minds think of life after the school years end. John Grisham's writing style has always been an easy one to pick up; he writes in the common, down to earth way that makes his books a joy to read. This concept is extrapolated for the younger market and it works a treat in this book. Negatively speaking, I think the plot itself is the weak link in this story. Basing the complete book around a murder trial is normally a safe bet, but this case is a little feeble, and a boring one at that. There are, however, hints of suspense scattered throughout the story whenever Theo comes up against Omar Cheepe and I imagine he will have a role to play as we approach the end of the book. I give this book three stars, but in actuality (your Honour) it is more like three and a half. BFN Greggorio!

Not a bad story, but ends very abruptly, as if the author became bored with the story and ready to move on to something more interesting. I am assuming these are meant for younger readers, but not all young readers have short attention spans.

I have enjoyed the majority of Grisham's books. This is the first time have read one of his "children books" and being well into adult years now I really enjoyed it. I do not think it would be the best choice for young readers below the age of Theodore Boon, 13, but probably a very good read for older teens.

The story of Theo Boone is good enough on its own, but could be great for any preteen to adult who wants to learn about our legal system while not being bored by the details. The story line wanders into several legal situations, some small and one murder trial, all well handled. A quick & easy read while maintaining your interest.

This book was very entertaining, well written and believable. Mr. Grisham is one of my favorite authors. I found myself thoroughly engrossed in the mystery and the story moved along quickly. I would recommend this book to anyone, youth to adult.

Well, I liked the characters as portrayed for young teens; but the writing style was too simple and pedantic. The use of dialog was more entertaining and useful to move the story along. Would have

really liked the finale to be completed with a "zing" rather than just assuming the final drama..

Did not know what to expect when I started reading this book but was greatly surprised, it was very good and recommended, however the down side is you have to buy the sequel to continue reading, but I give it five stars anyway.

NOTE: Because I have just completed reading the entire Theodore Boone series, this review will apply to each book in the series by John Grisham. I have read every book written by John Grisham and every single one of them is definitely a "keeper" and well worth the investment of both time and money. Grisham first came on the literary scene as a writer of legal novels, and most of his work still focuses on the legal arena. But over the years he has shown that his talent is much farther reaching, that his subject matter reach is hardly limited to the law. One novel that comes immediately to mind is "Playing for Pizza." Another is "Gray Mountain." And now comes the "Theodore Boone" series, essentially books aimed at the children's book market segment. Don't be fooled, however, the "Theodore Boone" series is also a GREAT read for adult readers. The 13-year-old Boone quickly becomes a memorable and admirable character. Both of his parents are lawyers (his father a tax-lawyer and his mother a divorce-lawyer) and Boone determines early on that he, too, very much wants to become a lawyer when he grows up. He does not, however, yearn for either of the law fields embraced by his parents! No, he sees himself as a trial lawyer, someone who engages in courtroom battles of great moment before juries. One of the most frequent places he visits virtually on a daily basis are the courtrooms in his hometown. He is known by, and (usually) widely admired and respected by, every prominent local judge, court clerk, police officer, et al. The judges, especially, are his true "heroes." He even named his dog, which he rescued just hours before the dog was to be put down, "Judge." How did he accomplish this? By appearing as a "lawyer" in Animal Court, where anyone can serve as his or her own "lawyer." So, if you think John Grisham is only a very talented writer of legal thrillers, think again, and pick up and read his Theodore Boone series. It is the work of a true master of the writing craft!

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