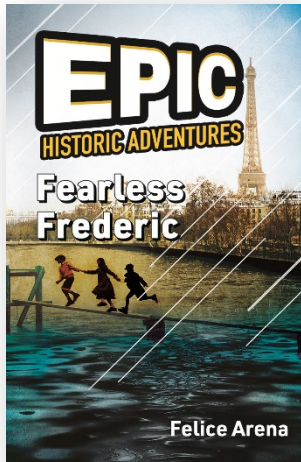


Epic Historic Adventures: Fearless Frederic

By Felice Arena

- What does the cover tell you about the story? Describe your idea of the intended audience.
- What verb tense has the author used? How has that influenced your perception of the story?
- Describe the three main characters in your own words. How are they different from one another and how are they the same? How has each changed by the end of the story?
- Choose a character other than Frederic and describe an encounter they have with Frederic from their point of view.
- Describe Frederic's feelings about his father.
- Do you think Frederic's theft of the room key from the chambermaid's cart was justified? What about the later threats he makes to his friends? Give your reasons.
- Today some people with "a way with horses" might be called "horse whisperers." How might the term apply to Frederic? Give examples.
- What do you think happens to the young pickpocket?
- Write a brief description of how you imagine Claire's life once she's adopted.
- Discuss how the book is "historical fiction." Explore some of the ways the author has fictionalized the actual events of the flood and of the theft of the Condé diamond.
- What is "suspension of disbelief"? Find examples that require this from the reader. On the other hand, cite where the author has made *Belle Epoque* Paris come to life for the reader.
- Make a list of the book titles mentioned. Why do you suppose the author mentions these classic tales? See if you can find parallels between this literature and the story.
- The author includes many French words in the story. Were you able to figure out their meanings? Look up any that you aren't sure of. Would you like to learn to speak French? Why or why not?



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- The Louvre Museum figures significantly in the story. Can you find an image, name, and creator of the horse race painting that captivates Frederic? Describe your own impression of it. By what name is the painting *La Joconde* better known as here in the US? Why do you think it's so famous?
- Look for pictures of the many Paris places mentioned in the book. Are they still in existence? Why is Paris called the *City of Lights*? If you could travel there, what places would you most like to visit? Give your reasons.
- Several historical events are referenced in the story. Research Louis Bleriot's flight over the English Channel. Imagine yourself as either a print journalist or TV newscaster and write a piece reporting this event.
- Explore what other newsworthy events were happening in other parts of the world in 1910. Make a list of five you think most significant.
- Have you or anyone you know ever lived through a natural disaster, such as the flood in this story, or an earthquake, wildfire, or hurricane? Interview that person and write a short description of their experience. Why is it important to learn their stories?
- The newsboy Journal says, "Some news is real. Some news is false." Do you agree with his assessment? How can you tell what's true and what's not?
- In his author's note, Felice Arena says, "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." Write what this means to you. Cite an example in your own life or in that of someone you know. Or make up a story that exemplifies this.