

Hot! Products

includes an appendix of “Bible Stories in Alternate Reading Order as Found in the Bible,” and a second appendix, “Index of Bible Characters.”

Grandma and her “duckies” can read in whatever order seems best and most interesting, or Grandma may decide to read stories consecutively. Perhaps “A New Baby” about Moses in Exodus 1, will be especially timely, if a new grandchild has recently arrived. Or the story “Too Many Bills” (about II Kings 4: 1–7) might meet a current need, if the family faces concerns about money.

Here is an excerpt:

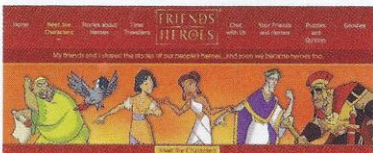
Joey and Amy jumped out of the car and ran to give Grandma a hug. Grandma looked worried. The children could tell that something was wrong. Dad followed them inside, and they listened while Grandma told Dad about her doctor bills. . . “Have you ever heard of the prophet El-isha?” Grandma said.

The relaxed pace of the book encourages questions and comments between Grandma and her grandchildren. In addition, permission is given to photocopy the large pictures “so that each child may have his or her own copy to color.”

If your children can visit Grandma about once a week, you will have about a year of Bible stories for her to share.

What if no grandma is available? Myers responds, “Ask your mother or your father to read to you. Maybe an older brother or sister will do it for you.”

This volume would also make it easy to take a turn teaching Sunday school, as a spiritual grandparent in the Lord. *Melissa L. Morgan*



Friends and Heroes Homeschool Unit Studies

Ages 7 through 11. Homeschool Unit Studies 1–13, \$29.99 each. Unit Studies, Series 1 (includes studies 1–13), #319.95. Unit studies available separately for those who already own the DVDs.

Friends and Heroes Productions Ltd., TX. (877) 903-HERO. www.friendsandheroes.com/us (North America). www.friendsandheroes.com (everywhere else).

Friends and Heroes is a breakthrough DVD series that now features a set of unit studies, based on its episodes and designed specifically for home-schoolers. Set in 69–71 AD, when Christians had good reason to fear the Roman Empire, this quality animated series feature two preteen orphans (a boy and a girl) who take refuge with a Christian family. Each DVD lasts approximately an hour, with two Bible stories included in each episode. You can watch a video clip here: www.friendsandheroes.tv/episode1.html.

The unit studies definitely take the DVDs to a whole different level. Your student will access websites suggested on the separate CD-ROM to learn about Roman culture. The CD-ROM lessons include science and art activities based on the episode, writing prompts for the student to create a journal, Bible study discussion questions, memory verses, music from the associated *What About Love* CD, and more. A sample from the Teacher’s Guide can be seen for free on the website. In addition, the website provides many printable images your student can use to decorate his or her journal folder.

The Parent’s Guide on the CD-ROM includes answer keys, certificates of completion, and Internet links.

I reviewed *Friends and Heroes Unit Studies 1*. It includes the DVD for episode 1, *The Long Journey*, plus a Teacher’s Guide on CD-ROM with lessons in:

- History and Geography: The Romans and Roman trade and money
- Creative Writing: Journal writing: written expression and copywriting
- Bible Study: Daniel in the lion’s den and Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish
- Crafts: sculpture and paper weaver
- Discipleship: Trusting others: pride, and worries

Further individual units are available, as is a set of 13 DVDs that comes with a all 13 unit-study lessons.

Compared to the *Story-Keepers* DVD series, the story line of *Friends and Heroes* isn’t as complex. *The Story-Keepers* is a video series based on the same lines, orphans surviving the wrath of the Romans while learning about the life of Christ on earth. It was more entertaining, with more Christian stories included, and more history of the early Church. However, *Story-Keepers* has only 13 episodes, which concentrate mainly on the New Testament. *Friends and Heroes* has 39 episodes and these cover a mixture of Old and New Testament stories. When you add in the *Friends and Heroes Unit Studies* unit studies and website, that definitely adds far more educational value. The website adds even more value with coloring pages, wall paper, activity pages, and more. Highly recommended. *Laura V. Hilton*



The Bugaboo Review

Grades 8–adult. \$14. *New World Library, CA. (800) 972-6657. www.newworldlibrary.com.*

Could you use “A Lighthearted Guide To Exterminating Confusion About Words, Spelling, And Grammar”? **The Bugaboo Review** is a quick, alphabetical reference for grammar sanity and word wisdom. This small, 210-page paperback book will help your student catch word confusion and grammar pitfalls that computers can’t.

High school English teacher Sue Sommer initially self-published this book to help her students. But when parents and their friends started to request copies, and her former students related