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# Storie Italiane – Italian Stories: A Parallel Text Easy Reader (Italian Edition)



## Synopsis

Introduce your children to everyday life and traditions of Italy with five entertaining stories that take place in five different Italian cities. Each story will let the reader discover or rediscover popular sites like the Trevi fountain in Rome, and will engage little ones with tales that will transport them to fascinating places. Challenge young readers using the location map at the end of the book, and foster a new interest in travel, geography, and all things Italian. Every story is written both in Italian and English for easy comprehension. Perfect for bedtime reading or for Italian language classes.

Ages: 5+

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although I am a beginner in learning Italian, this book is a bit more advanced than I thought. Many of the words I do not know what they mean. But it gives me a head start in what I know.

Easy ready? NOT! I bought it for children - to read to them and perhaps introduce them to some words, but it is just too difficulty of a story line and vocabulary. Unhappy with it.

Perfect book for a young child or any beginner. Arrived as promised.

Thank you!

I found this book recommended on Facebook and I had to have it for my four grandchildren whose Italian needs to improve. I'll be using it to read to them or have the older ones practice their Italian by reading the stories.

Over the summer, I've been trying to learn Italian. I took four semesters of college Italian nearly 30 years ago, and I still remember a fair amount of vocabulary. So rather than dust off my old textbooks, I am using a reading-in-context approach to develop my proficiency. This little book of stories, presented both in Italian and in English, was a great choice for this purpose. The stories themselves are crafted to appeal to children, but I am a teacher, so the youthful themes actually appealed to me. I also liked how each of the stories taught me a little bit about Italian geography, culture, and history. The Italian texts and English texts are not direct translations of each other, however. This threw me off for awhile, but once I'd read each story several times in Italian and developed a more solid grasp of the vocabulary and grammar, I no longer needed to reference the English text, so it didn't matter any longer than the two texts weren't a perfect match. I can see this would be a very useful volume for parents or teachers to use with bilingual children (or children who are learning one language or the other). Author Jessica Kosinski's storylines and characters are interesting and well-developed, Julie Leiman Weaver's illustrations are colorful and provide some extra 'context' to aid in word recognition, and most of the vocabulary seems to be what native-born English-speaking children entering school would have in their mental lexicons, though there are a few low-frequency words sprinkled in, to stretch readers' meaning vocabulary knowledge. With regard to the Italian vocabulary used by translator Claudia Cerulli, that also seemed to me to be based on what is likely the oral language foundation of children in the early elementary grades, with a few harder words here and there. The reason I believe that to be the case is that I knew a fair percentage of the words, and I could infer most of the others from context--yet my own Italian proficiency is still somewhat limited at this point. One very small criticism has to do with the layout of the parallel texts. I prefer it when the page is divided in half, vertically, so that as I read in my target language, I can reference the other language simply by sliding my eyes to the left or right column. Here, several paragraphs of Italian are followed by several paragraphs of Italian, and sometimes the reader has to turn a page to read the English version of what was just presented in Italian on the previous page. This is a graphic design issue that I think could be remedied easily in future editions. Also, I do wish that the publisher offered an audio CD containing professional recordings of the stories in both English and Italian. That would be a very helpful tool for language learners, especially if the readers' rate could be manually controlled, as it can to some degree with Audible

books. If this was available, I would definitely buy it.

This is an interesting and informative book for any child. I highly recommend it. Way to go Jess!!!

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