

How to prepare your class to enjoy 'I used to be dead'.

A teacher's resource, prepared by the author, Colin Pearce.

When to engage with the booklet



I think the book makes more sense and raises less 'problems' for the readers (or listeners) if they are prepared by completing the booklet before reading

Set in 28 AD in Roman-occupied Israel, the book covers military domination, disability, migration, nationality (or race if you will), arranged marriage, refugees, occupations, customs and beliefs. There are also reference to religions (Greek, Syrian, Jewish and Roman) as well as customs and folk ways. Children who gain understanding about the setting will enjoy the reading much more. You will see 'Ah-Ha' moments.

Consider your children's reading ages

To read or
to listen

The book is pitched at 'young adults' but you'd be forgiven, if, like me, you are not sure when that age starts and finishes. It will depend a lot on reading ages and development.

4th and 5th years: You know already that children in fourth and fifth grades like you reading to them. Teachers have told me their children love the characters. Their silly rhymes come to life if you add vocal distinction to each character's voice.

6th year and up: Only you can determine whether your children are ready to read for themselves, but experience tells me that readers get captured from ages 11 to 99. The geographical and social concepts apply to 7th and 8th grades.

Extra resources

You will need access to

- Dictionaries
- A global map with a clear view of the Mediterranean Sea and Israel.
- An encyclopaedia or Bible Dictionary, or if you prefer, access to online references. (Wikipedia is normally not recognised by Academia as reliable for reference, however

- the questions are adequately handled by any possible superficialities of Wikipedia.
- If you read Mark's Gospel chapter 1 and chapter 5 you might come to the same conclusion as I did that Jairus first noted Jesus' power some time before Tahlia became ill.
- My MA thesis 'Historical Fiction: The quest for authenticity' is available on my web site. It is a helpful insight into what can be fictionalised and what is sacrosanct.