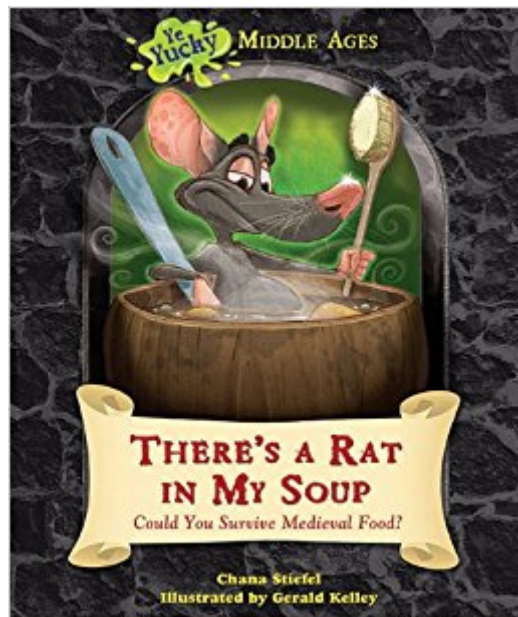


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# There's A Rat In My Soup: Could You Survive Medieval Food? (Ye Yucky Middle Ages)



## Synopsis

Eat like a king! Sit down to a meal of eagle, peacock, green-dyed eggs, stuffed pig's stomach, and blood gravy. Medieval royalty would eat giant feasts filled with strange and exotic dishes. So join in on the fun and find out what food was like during the Middle Ages in this reluctant reader book.

## Book Information

Series: Ye Yucky Middle Ages

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Enslow Pub Inc (July 2011)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 7.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,220,165 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Medieval #92 in Books > Teens > Personal Health > Diet & Nutrition #111 in Books > Teens > Hobbies & Games > Cooking

## Customer Reviews

Don't expect a whole lot of info, but the info that's there is interesting and should be especially fascinating to children.

Rounds out the series. Just great.

Many children are reluctant to choose non-fiction books. Series such as Chana Stiefel's Ye Yucky Middle Ages may reverse this trend. In exchange for an interview and honest review, Chana graciously sent me a copy of this book. I was immediately intrigued by the title and the book cover. This chapter book series is well organized. The contents page spells out the topics being covered. Additional resources include a glossary of words to know and lists for additional print and Internet resources. A red font distinguishes words that are defined in the glossary. Colorful graphics and whimsical illustrations create a kid-friendly tone. One needs a good sense of humor and a strong stomach to cope with some of the recipes that Chana shares in

this book. Would anyone ever imagine that medieval cooks used all the parts of an animal and had a propensity for serving live animals? Readers will be equally disgusted to learn the acceptable levels of uncleanness. It was not out of the ordinary to find "beer, grease, bones, spit, and poop from dogs, cats and rats" under the table. Chana describes the differences between the wealthy who routinely gorged themselves during massive feasts and the poor who ate a more simple diet. Every day ingredients such as flour were a luxury for the less fortunate. Grinding their wheat and baking the bread were expensive processes. Food hazards affected all socio-economic classes. The ill effects were endless due to ignorance and a lack of refrigeration. Food availability became scarce during times of drought, excessive rain, and when the castle or community were under siege. Being aware of these medieval dangers helps readers appreciate our modern ways of food distribution, preservation, and preparation. Anyone interested in medieval times or the history of food will be fascinated by this book.

**OPENING AND SYNOPSIS:** "Turning a long metal skewer, the cook roasts a whole swan over a blazing fire. For gravy, he mixes the bird's blood with its heart, liver, and guts. He stirs in pieces of bread and adds some broth. The swan's skin and feathers are then stuck back onto its body to make it look alive. Dinner is served!" Enjoy reading about mouth-watering "delicacies" like this roast swan, pottage (think gruel), blackbird-filled pies and more in this delightful romp through medieval cooking. In 48 pages, Stiefel covers royal food and feasts, as well as the peasants' plight. She also looks at the constant threat of starvation that plagued the people of the Middle Ages.

**WHY I LIKE THIS BOOK:** This gross-out book is gobs of fun. Stiefel's prose is delightfully descriptive. Her conversational and humorous voice truly put the "story" in this history. Yet, at the same time, it's clear this is a well-researched text. Stiefel includes quotes from people who lived in the Middle Ages, as well as other tidbits, like the shopping list for a 6,000-person feast. Gerald Kelley's lively illustrations are a perfect match for the text, keeping the book fun and engaging for young readers. You'll find it hard to put down.

**SOURCE:** Publisher-provided copy

**INTENDED AUDIENCE:** Grades 3-5 ( ), Grades 5 - 9 (publisher); I think 's grade-level designation is more appropriate

Hummingbirds. Beavers' tails. Cow udders. That's just a taste of what's on the menu in *There's a Rat in My Soup: Could You Survive Medieval Food? (Ye Yucky Middle Ages)*. Part of Enslow's **YE YUCKY MIDDLE AGES** series, this installment focuses on medieval food. Other books in the series cover knights, castle life and medieval medicine. Stiefel uses the spoonful of sugar makes the history go down approach. Chapter headings include "Freaky Feasts", "The Royal Table", "Gruel

Again", and "Empty Bellies." Packed with ewws, this fun and light-hearted book will please lovers of fairy tales and fantasy. But, reader, beware! You may never look at true love's first kiss in quite the same way: Toothbrushes weren't yet invented in the Middle Ages. While Snow White may have had lips of ruby red, her breath would have knocked Prince Charming stone cold dead. Enslow provided me with a complimentary copy of the book to review. Recommended for grades 5-9. ISBN#: 978-1-59845-375-1.

Would you eat roasted swan, blackbird pie and cow's udder? According to *There's a Rat in My Soup*, you probably would...had you lived during the Middle Ages. Of course, if you had been a peasant, you would have eaten MUCH worse. Part of the "Ye Yucky Middle Ages" series, this 48 page book covers medieval cuisine in a very entertaining, yet informative way. The "yuck factor" and the cartoon-like illustrations by Gerald Kelley will draw young students in while they learn what life was really like in the kitchens and dining rooms of the time period. Sidebars include quotes from primary sources. Also included are a glossary, index, recommendations for further reading and websites. A recommended purchase, especially for those looking for age appropriate material for a Middle Ages curriculum. Grades 3-4 through 8th. J. Stone, K-4 Library Media Specialist [from an advanced reading copy provided by the publisher]

I've now read all of the Ye Yucky Medieval Ages books to my 3 home educated boys; ages 8, 11 & 12. These are wonderfully written and informative with bright, fun illustrations. After seeing these, our small town librarian has decided to order the set!

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