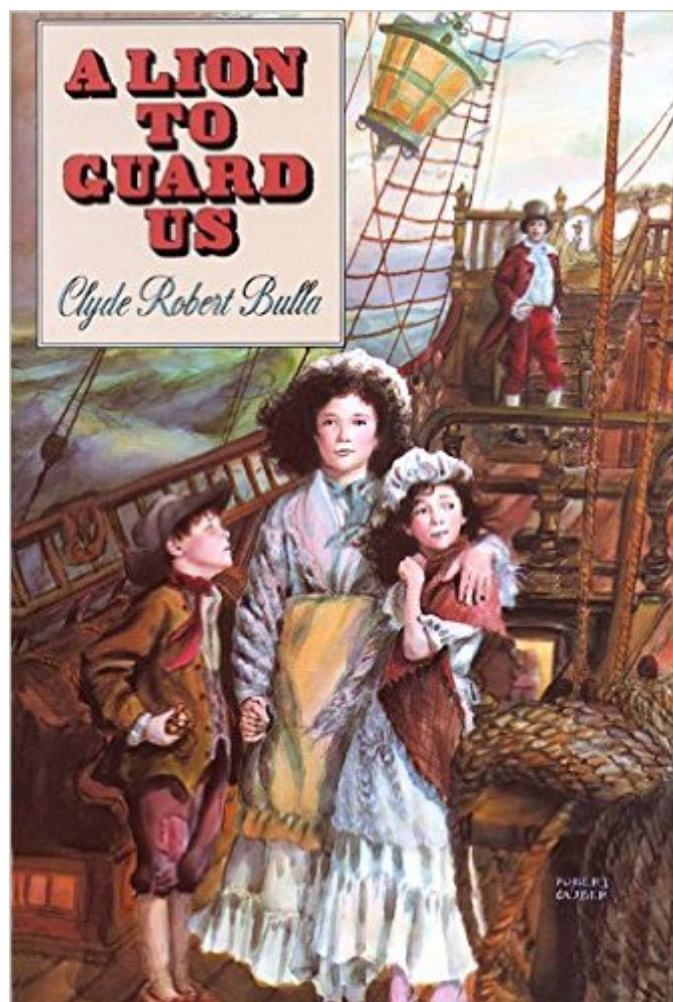


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# A Lion To Guard Us



## Synopsis

Amanda Freebold doesn't know what to do. Her father left three years ago for the new colony of Jamestown, in America, thousands of miles away. All Amanda has to remember him by is a little brass lion's head he gave his family to guard them while he is gone. Now her mother has just died, leaving Amanda to take care of her younger brother and sister. As head of the family, Amanda finally decides to take her brother and sister to America to find Father. The ocean crossing is long and hard, and the children don't know whom to trust. But with the lion's head to guard them, Amanda knows that somehow everything will work out fine.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 360L (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reissue edition (October 20, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064403335

ISBN-13: 978-0064403337

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (73 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial](#) #62 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Did you ever notice how exciting adventure books are written for older and middle readers only? The second and third graders really seem to miss out. This book is a wonderful find. Written at a late 2nd grade or early 3rd grade reading level, it provides a wealth of excitement and adventure. My daughter loves Bulla. We have read all of Bulla's children's books and this is one of the best. We also recommend "Sword in the Tree" and "Ghost Town Treasure". For a more contemporary style novel, try "Shoeshine Girl"

This book is about three children whose father is in America helping to settle the colonies. Shortly after he leaves for America the children's mother dies leaving them with nothing and no one to look after them. The oldest child Amanda decided to take a boat to America and find their father. On the ship ride to America, there is a terrible storm and the ship is wrecked. The three children are forced to live in a hut on an island with other families from the ship until a new ship can be built. This historical fiction is a great adventure for children in 3-5th grade. I enjoyed the vivid details that helped draw me into the story. I couldn't put the book down. It is a story of courage sure to get the imaginations of children going. The author of this book conveyed a strong message of courage and a determination to live your dreams. This adventure had an inspiring tale of overcoming struggle and working together to survive.

*A Lion to Guard Us* by Clyde Robert Bulla tells the story of Amanda, Jemmy and Meg who live in England in the 1600's. Their father goes to Jamestown, and their mother becomes very ill, falls on the stairs, gets sicker and dies. They live with Mrs. Trippett, a rich, cold-hearted lady that Amanda works for. Mrs. Trippett won't give them the money bag that was around their mother's neck when she died. They want the money to go to Jamestown. Mrs. Trippett kicks them out, but Dr. Crider finds them and takes them to his home. Then they get on a ship to Jamestown. Dr. Crider falls overboard during the trip, and Amanda doesn't know what to do next. A horrible storm hits, and they crash on Bermuda. Read this book to find out if they ever get off the island and find their father. The book shows how people had some hard times going from England to Jamestown in the New World. This book made me feel like I was there in the story. I like how Amanda didn't give up. I think that when you read this book it will inspire you and interest you.

This book tells the story of when the *Sea Venture* crashed and how they landed on Bermuda. The main characters are Amanda, Gemmy and Meg. They were commoners (that means they are not really wealthy). The 3 main characters lived in a gentry woman's house (the woman was wealthy). Their mother was a servant in the house until she fell down the steps. Then Amanda became the servant. Amanda's father has been in Jamestown for 3 years. Before Amanda's father left for Jamestown, he gave his family a lion's head doorknocker to guard them. When Amanda's mother dies, they run away from the woman's house and end up in Jamestown. On the way to Jamestown their ship, *The Sea Venture*, crashes and they end up in Bermuda. They build a ship to carry them to Jamestown. When they arrived on Jamestown, many of the men were wounded from a fight they

had with the Indians. Amanda's father was badly injured.

My children and I read this as part of our unit on the Colonial History of the U.S. We found it well-written without being bogged down with facts, and the plot was strong enough to keep the entire family interested in listening, from the Ph.D. to the three year old.

I think *A Lion to Guard Us* by Clyde Robert Bulla was a good book because it has a lot of action. And it has mystery. I also liked it because it was an exciting adventure. In the book, Amanda leaves England on a boat with Jemmy, Meg and Dr. Crider going to the New World to find the children's father. They had to sleep in the hold of the ship. They went on the boat and then they crashed on an island named Bermuda. Next they built houses for people to live in. Then they made ships. Then the two boats set out to Virginia. Did they find their father? Find out by reading the book. I think the best part was when they were in the big storm at sea. In comparing this book to others I have read by Bulla, I think it is the best because it has action and lots of other things like boats. I like boats a lot.

As a homeschool mom, it is always a struggle to find a great book that also reinforces a history lesson. This book is both! After the death of their mother, three children struggle to get to America (Jamestown, VA) in search of their father. If your children are or will be studying this time in history this is a must read. I would recommend this book for 2nd graders through 6th graders depending on the reading level of your child. Or better yet read it together outloud. What a great historical fiction book for children.

A novelette of the Revolutionary War era. My daughter needed to read it for school, but the library's copy has disappeared. Picked this one up for her. She's normally an omnivorous reader (but leans toward stuff about cats), and she had no problem reading it and then giving me a verbal playback (encouraging me to read it myself :). The writing is straightforward and I may well have to read it myself.

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