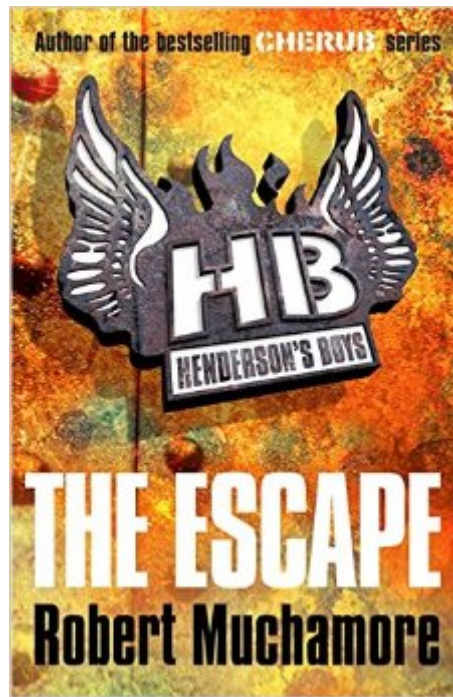


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# Henderson's Boys 1: The Escape



## Synopsis

Summer, 1940. Hitler's army is advancing towards Paris, and millions of French civilians are on the run. Amidst the chaos, two British children are being hunted by German agents. British spy Charles Henderson tries to reach them first, but he can only do it with the help of a twelve-year-old French orphan. The British secret service is about to discover that kids working undercover will help to win the war. For official purposes, these children do not exist.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1010L (What's this?)

Series: Henderson's Boys (Book 1)

Mass Market Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Hachette Children's (February 5, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0340956488

ISBN-13: 978-0340956489

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #163,415 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in [Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical](#) #97 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military](#) #149 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

The back of this book has a warning, "Not suitable for younger readers". It is with good cause. This is an excellent book. Muchamore's ability to write adventure and also draw you into his characters is fantastic. However, he is also very realistic in his descriptions. This is wartime France. People are dying, by the hands of the Germans and by starvation. There is no food in the city and refugees are forced to live in squalor. Our main characters may be spared that fate, but it is all around them and described in wonderful detail in the book. There were also a couple of instances where sexual tension was described. It would be fine for a 12 year old or up, but I wouldn't want to answer my 9 year old's questions, had I let him read it. I will put this book on the shelf, but when my son is old enough, I will definitely be letting him read it. It's a wonderful book for the right age group. I love this

book deals with history in a way that make it come alive for the reader. Furthermore, in this day of instant everything, I think it's a great way to help teens understand that the world wasn't always just a text message away and information wasn't just there under your fingertips waiting for you to access it.

I was a bit puzzled as I read a good portion of this book and had not yet met Henderson - I kept thinking, "Where is he? Isn't he a key character?" By the time Henderson came on the scene (more than halfway through - though his name does pop up early in the book), I better understood what the author had done for the first half of the book. His careful construction of the lives and stories of siblings Rosie and Paul (children of British spy Digby Clarke), and also the parallel story of Marc (a 12-year-old who escapes from an orphanage) does a fantastic job of painting a shockingly realistic portrait of not only the children and their lives and losses during the German's mad rush forward into Paris, but also the suffering and starving French soldiers and the brutality of the German (particularly the Gestapo) officers. There are many well-detailed examples of injured and exhausted refugees, bombs devastating cafes where people drinking a cup of coffee are sometimes killed by buildings collapsing and catching fire. The author does not shy away from death or telling the truth of how awful war is. At the same time, the creativity and spunk of the children is inspiring (I loved Paul's drawings), and when Henderson meets up with Marc and then brings the three children together with him, his clever ideas to outwit the Germans and keep himself and the children alive kept my eyes glued to the page. The children all are forced into growing up in a hurry as they learn that sometimes you have to kill in order to survive. A very powerful story that will keep you on the edge of your seat, with a somewhat painful cliff-hanger ending that will make you wish you didn't have to wait for the next book in the series.

Fast paced adventure series dealing with world war 2. Children outwitting German spies in France after the German invasion. This, *The Escape*, is the first in the series. Very much looking forward to reading all. One note is that it has it as suitable for age 12 and up. Some of the action involves some violent killings. I would say more suitable for older children, maybe 16 or 17 and up.

This book is almost 5 stars, I must admit I loved it, and it came close to being better than *Fledgling* Jason Steed, but not quite. I think it's better than Robert Muchamore's *Cherubs* series. You learn so much about history that makes it brilliant. The story brings 2 characters together over the course of the book. So why only 4 stars and not 5? Well Robert Muchamore did the same thing he did with

Cherub, the same thing that Horowitz did with Alex Rider, The same thing they did with Young James Bond, Tom Sawyer, Oliver Twist. They made all the children characters Orphans. It started in an Orphanage so I was thinking, "here we go another orphan" Then another two kids had a dad, but the mother was already dead, a few more pages and now their dad was dead so now they are also Orphans. Why are most of the young adult books written about orphans, it's pathetic. Can't they write a story without an orphan? Any back to the book, it's a really good read.

When I bought this book I had high expectations. *Cherub* had been so good this lives up to those expectations. It's a good book for 12+ it also had historical detail.

Great book and great detail in the German war times and keen to read the next I hope the next is as good.

Not my favourite book for my 11 year old loves it. He's a huge fan of Alex Rider and found these as good.

I have read all of Robert Muchamore's *Cherub* books which I recommend all teens to read. And this book is just as great as them. It is completely different than *Cherub* but just as good and catching. Great!!

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