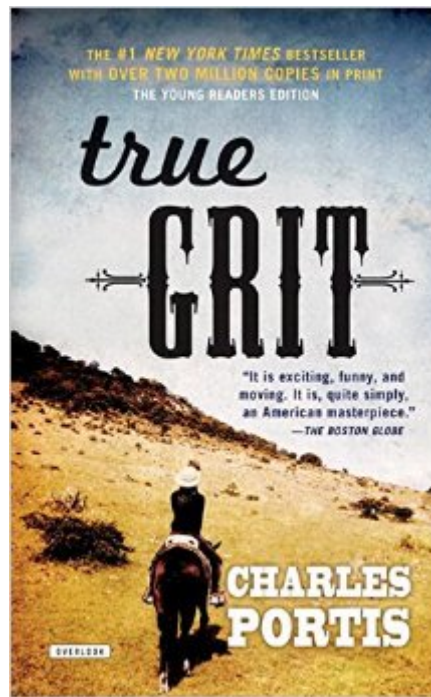


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# True Grit: Young Readers Edition



## Synopsis

The #1 New York Times bestseller with over two million copies in print, now available for a whole new generation of Portis fans with discussion questions True Grit tells the story of Mattie Ross, who is just fourteen when the coward Tom Chaney shoots down her father in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and robs him of his life, his horse, and \$150 in cash. Determined to avenge the killing, Mattie enlists the help of Rooster Cogburn, the meanest available U.S. Marshal, and pursue the killer into Indian Territory. As Mattie outdickers and outmaneuvers the hard-bitten types in her path, her vitality and resourcefulness amuse, impress, and touch the reader. What happens to Mattie, to the gang of outlaws unfortunate enough to tangle with her, to Rooster and the swaggering Texas Ranger LeBoeuf rings with the dramatic rightness of legend. An instant bestseller and critical success upon its first publication and the basis for two Academy Award-winning films, True Grit is an American Classic through and through. The Young Readers Edition includes the complete text of True Grit, an afterword by Leonard S. Marcus and discussion questions.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #67,200 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Westerns #38 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns #167 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

I was eleven the first time I read this. I bought it at one of those book-mobile sales in school after seeing (and totally falling in love with) the movie. Probably the only thing I ever bought in elementary school that I still have. I thought it was incredible then, and (20 years later) I still love it! The writing style is so straight-forward and unaffected that you can't help but be drawn into Mattie's adventure

(and you can't help but believe every dang word that comes out of her mouth). How refreshing to read a story about a fourteen year old girl who isn't mooning over some boy or whining about some stereotypical teenage dilemma. We're talking about a girl out to avenge her father's death - I mean, here is a girl with a mission! What a great story. I think the title says it all.

This is one of the great novels of 20th century America. The narrative voice is as distinct and strong as Huck Finn's or Holden Caulfield's. This is Portis' best novel (with "Norwood" second and "Masters of Atlantis" third), and one everyone should read. The adaptation by the Coen Brothers a few years ago came awfully close to capturing the magic of this novel.

Charmng, Tragic and funny! I have read True Grit several times and loved BOTH movies as well. I'm now reading it with my 11 year old daughter, who loves it. (and there are so few books we can agree on!) A real "girl power" novel that's doesn't feel contrived or forced. Mattie's just a really strong character and in the end, the title "True Grit" is as much about her as it is about her tough guy guardian, Rooster Cogburn

I saw both movies then decided I needed to read the book. After reading it, I bought five copies to share with some of my grandchildren. True Grit is a true classic American novel. The story is told by a teenage girl who is searching for the killer of her father. She finds Rooster Cogburn, a man with true grit, and the rest is history. Read this book then share it with it your family and friends

Truly a classic western novel. Entertaining from the first sentence to the last. Both movie productions followed the book closely, but the book is (as is usually the case) better than either movie. A quick read, too, as Portis's style just flows. Well worth it!

No matter what time or place you find yourself, we are all looking out at a vast and broad frontier, your habits and acts define who you are and what you're about. The main dynamic, I believe for the book True Grit by Charles Portis. No doubt, as time progresses, readers will question the validity of the narrator's story or chain of events, you can trust Mattie the central character and narrator does not lie or waste our time dressing up matters. I look at the the three principal characters of True Grit, Mattie, Rooster and LaBoeuf as the Three Musketeers, once the alliance has been forged, you can never break them up. For the men: The story has something to say about what is true chivalry, an update or state of affairs from the Knights of the Round Table. It is an interesting time to explore, the

vacuum created right after the Civil War, long swords cinched out and traded for repeating rifles. No doubt, the long swords became a symbol of the old ways, the blood that was shed and many sacrifices in the name of honor, it's a messy business for Rooster, being told that you have seen better days and cinched out as well. I wouldn't be surprised if Porter consciously used LaBoeuf as a variation or parody of the Frenchman and Knight Lancelot, a man stretched out miles from his home, an alien in a foreign world seeking to uphold his honor, and good standing, his usefulness used up, living life and foraging just for himself like one of the knights who had been sent on a quest to find the grail for his king, wandering amid a vast wasteland of broken dreams, survivors of the old West, he sees men swallowed up in a bottle for the most part to quell the pain and soothe old scars, the rare individual striving to stay on task hunting for the prize, I'm guessing the name LaBoeuf historically must be tied to cutlery one some level or another, one thing is for certain, there is an overriding feel if you get in his way Leboeuf will draw and quarter you. Yep, Portis is saying we have to rethink what it is or means to be chivalrous and to know and learn True Grit. Strip the dirt from the road off our backs and make ourselves more vulnerable for one another, shedding a few layers of armor in the process, old soldier of fortune. For the women: Mattie is rigid and stern, she doesn't like you to see her sweat, she rubs and washes the sweat off her brow until her cheeks turn red and sting. Life is very messy for Mattie, she doesn't want it that way, the men in her life have a tendency to act or be chivalrous when there is no need and when there is a call have trouble rising to the occasion, all preconceived notions and judgement slips away when justice is served swiftly. We spend our life seeking to be true to ourselves and find our one true calling, but it may require some help, before people learn they can rely and depend on you, and in turn, you can rely on them as well. We've been given the innate faculties or gifts to lead, we have to find them, in a messy chaotic world seek to restore order and maintain the peace, and maybe then you will have a good yarn to weave and get some rest. I read Charles Portis True Grit two times. In early 1970, when it was first released, a Mass Market Paperback Movie-Tie In with pictures from the film. And a vintage edition I purchased here right before the release of the second film version. Mattie's insights or glimpses of our innermost nature are very revealing, they have stayed with me for many years, fighting indifference, worst case scenario, is to suffer from a closed mind. A person can sit on a fence only so long before they will have to pick a side to stand on, what is your position, are you asleep, will you be prepared if there is a call to arms, rise and shine! As a school boy growing up in the 60's, I would like to thank Glen Campbell, as the impetus to inspire me to buy my original copy Of True Grit and learn to read for the love of it. A habit I would continue the rest of my life, what sort of underlying credit is that. A "Goodtime" to be had by all. From age 11 to my early 50's, I see Charles Portis an

author that will continue to delight, entertain and reward the reader at every level  
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Having seen both movie versions of *True Grit*, I really enjoyed finally reading the book they were based on. It's a quick and riveting yarn featuring characters that have become icons of the American west. Although young Mattie Ross is looking for a man of true grit to bring to justice the man who killed her father, she, as much as the weathered, wily federal marshal Rooster Cogburn, is also a specimen of true grit. She drives a heck of a hard bargain with the local horse trader, never takes "no" for an answer, and takes many risks in her determination to apprehend her father's killer. (Spoilers) There's a lot of humor in the book, like the exasperation of the menfolk who discover that Mattie is nobody's fool and especially in the banter and growing partnership between Mattie and Rooster. When she and Rooster and the Texas Ranger LeBoeuf find the no good varmint who killed her father, he's a pathetic whiner who complains that life has been unfair to him. There are also thrilling action scenes toward the end when Rooster charges the bad guys on his own and Mattie gets kidnapped and caught in a snake pit. Even tho I'm familiar with the story, it had me on the edge of my seat. I loved Mattie's narration throughout, and I really liked the coda where she talks about where everyone is 25 years later. It's a well-rounded, exciting story.

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