

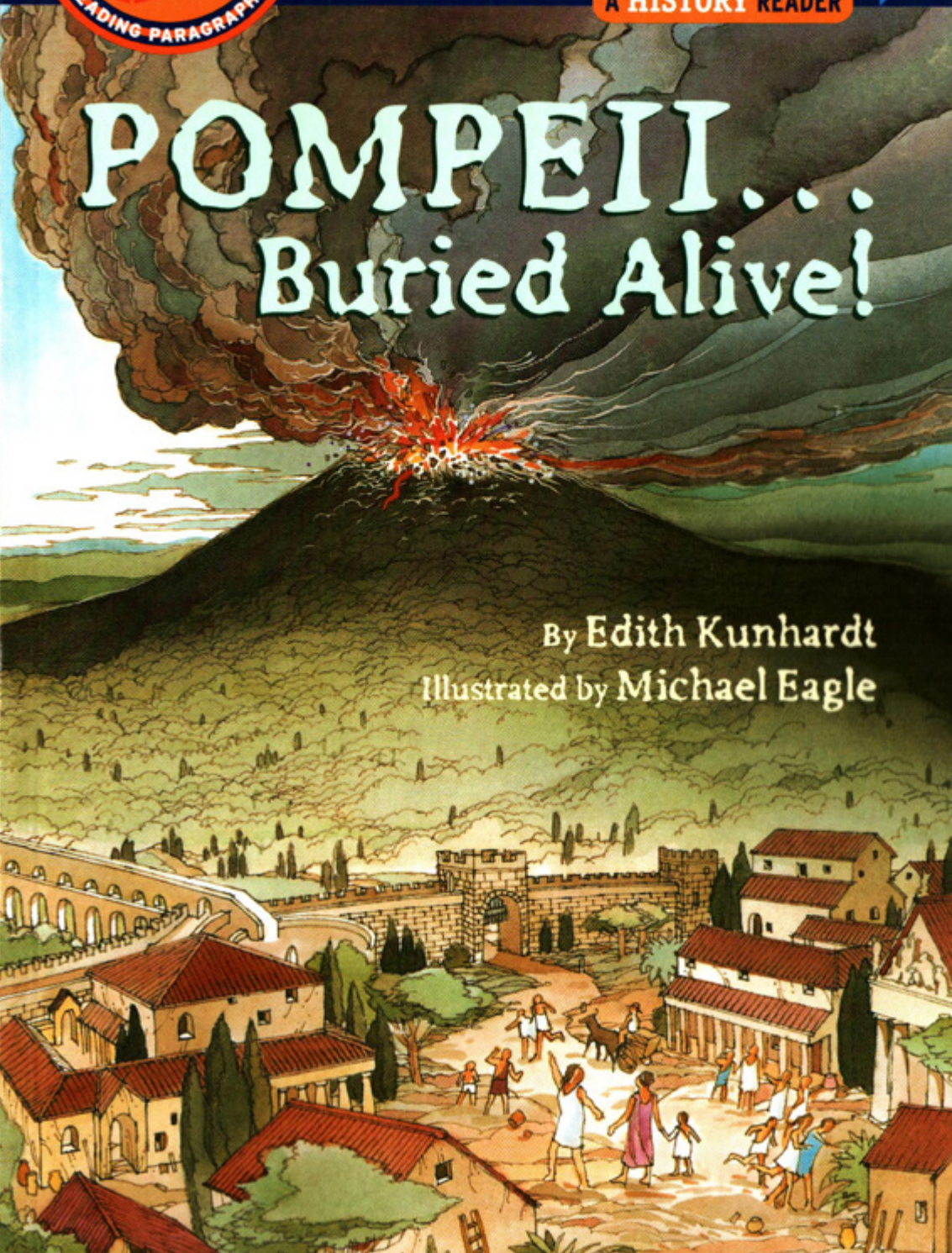


STEP INTO READING®

A HISTORY READER

POMPEII... Buried Alive!

By Edith Kunhardt
Illustrated by Michael Eagle



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fascinating world of non-fiction! Here you will find natural science, biography, history, sports . . . and more.

STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS include a huge selection of high-interest topics to engage young readers. No child can resist finding out about such topics as:

- Animals, both fuzzy and fierce
- Brave, bold, and brainy people
- Wild weather, such as twisters
- Life in the time of ice mummies or the Age of Dinosaurs
- Supersized trucks that leap into the air

Why should children read non-fiction? The benefits are enormous. First, children build their vocabularies, encountering words that may not come up in ordinary conversation but are needed to increase reading comprehension.

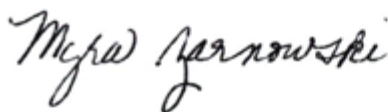
Second, non-fiction introduces children to a writing style that supports learning. When explaining new concepts, non-fiction writers often compare one thing with another. Comparisons make learning easy and fun.

Third, children build their store of background information. Context helps readers make important content connections, whether they are reading about history, biography, or natural science.

Last but not least, non-fiction books raise questions and motivate children to find answers.

The Common Core State Standards call on us to prepare children for college and careers by teaching them to read, write, and discuss non-fiction. **STEP INTO READING® NON-FICTION READERS** can help children meet this goal while enjoying informative, age-appropriate books.

Happy reading!



Myra Zarnowski
Professor, Elementary and Early Childhood Education
Queens College, City University of New York

Look for an F&P Text Level on the back of every book.



Learning to Read, Step by Step!



Ready to Read **Preschool–Kindergarten**

- big type and easy words
- rhyme and rhythm
- picture clues

For children who know the alphabet and are eager to begin reading.



Reading with Help **Preschool–Grade 1**

- basic vocabulary
- short sentences
- simple stories

For children who recognize familiar words and sound out new words with help.



Reading on Your Own **Grades 1–3**

- engaging characters
- easy-to-follow plots
- popular topics

For children who are ready to read on their own.



Reading Paragraphs **Grades 2–3**

- challenging vocabulary
- short paragraphs
- exciting stories

For newly independent readers who read simple sentences with confidence.



Ready for Chapters **Grades 2–4**

- chapters
- longer paragraphs
- full-color art

For children who want to take the plunge into chapter books but still like colorful pictures.

STEP INTO READING® is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides; children will progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading. The F&P Text Level on the back cover serves as another tool to help you choose the right book for your child.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!

*The publisher wishes to thank Michael K. Weisberg
of the American Museum of Natural History
for reading this manuscript for accuracy.*

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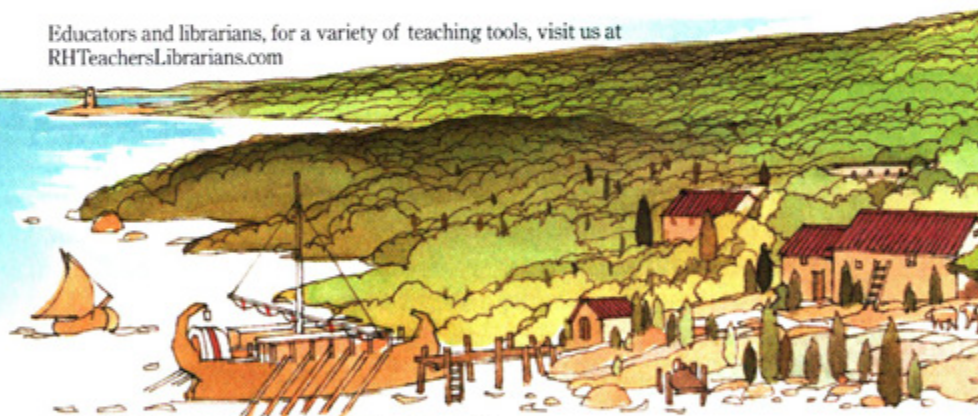
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(Step into reading. Step 4 book) Summary: A simple retelling of the fateful days in 79 A.D. when Mt. Vesuvius erupted and the people in the ancient town of Pompeii perished.

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This book has been officially leveled by using the F&P Text Level Gradient™ Leveling System.

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STEP INTO READING®

A HISTORY READER

POMPEII... Buried Alive!



By Edith Kunhardt

Illustrated by Michael Eagle

Random House  New York

1

The Sleeping Giant

Once there was a town named Pompeii. Say: pom-PAY. Near the town there was a mountain named Vesuvius. Say: veh-SOO-vee-us.

The people in Pompeii liked living by the mountain. It was a good place to grow grapes. It was a good place to raise sheep. And—it looked so peaceful!



But the mountain was really a dangerous volcano. It was like a sleeping giant. If the giant woke up, it could destroy the town.

Did the people know about the danger? No, they did not!



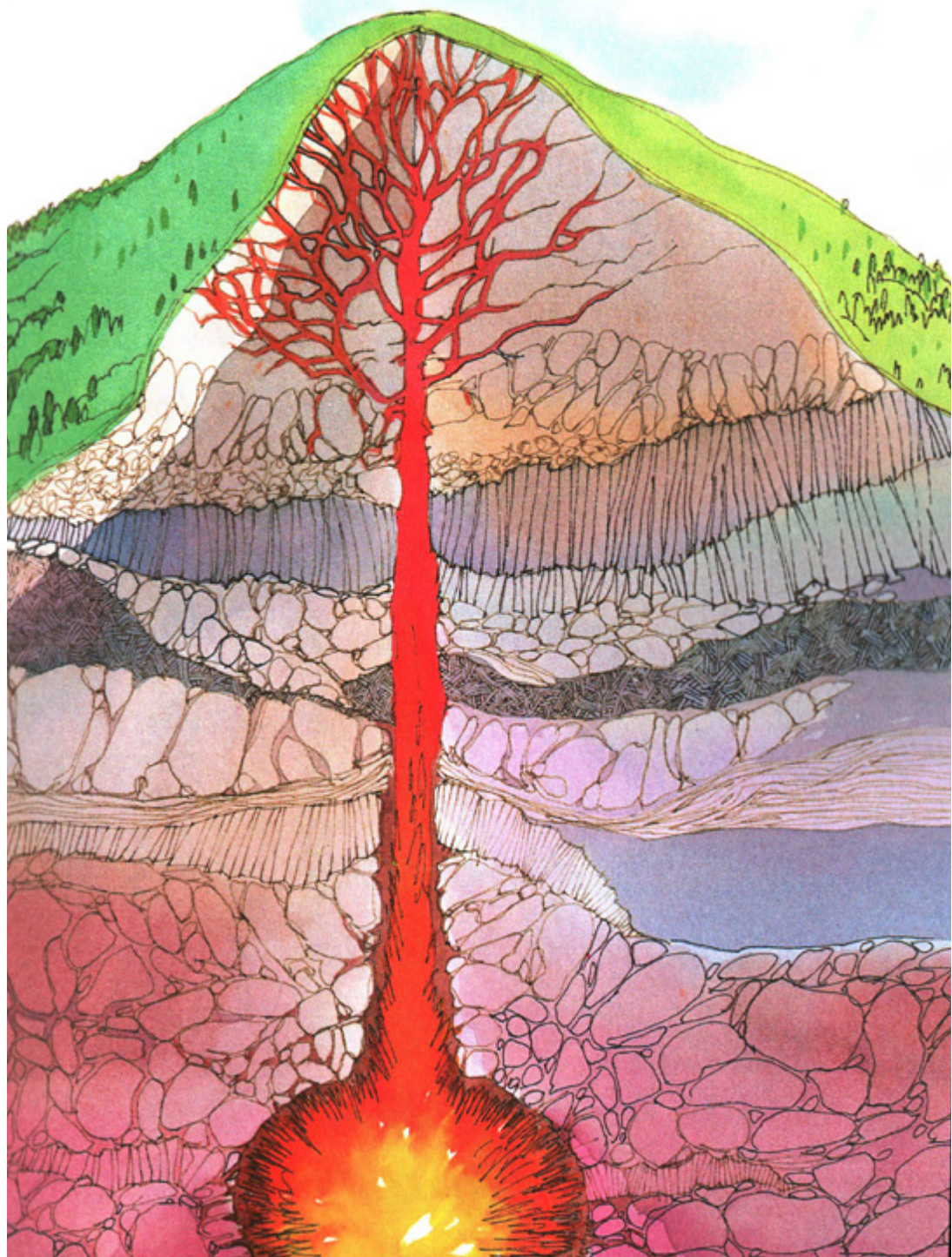
A volcano is a special kind of mountain. It has a hole at the top.

One day—almost two thousand years ago—something was happening under Vesuvius.

Way down deep it was very, very hot. It was so hot that rock was melting. As the rock melted, a gas was made. The gas was trying to escape.

The gas and the melted rock were mixed together. The mixture was hot and bubbly. The gas was pushing the melted rock up through Vesuvius.

The melted rock was about to blast right out the hole at the top!



The day started out the way it always did. The sun rose. People began coming to Pompeii with things to sell.

Fishermen were bringing fish.

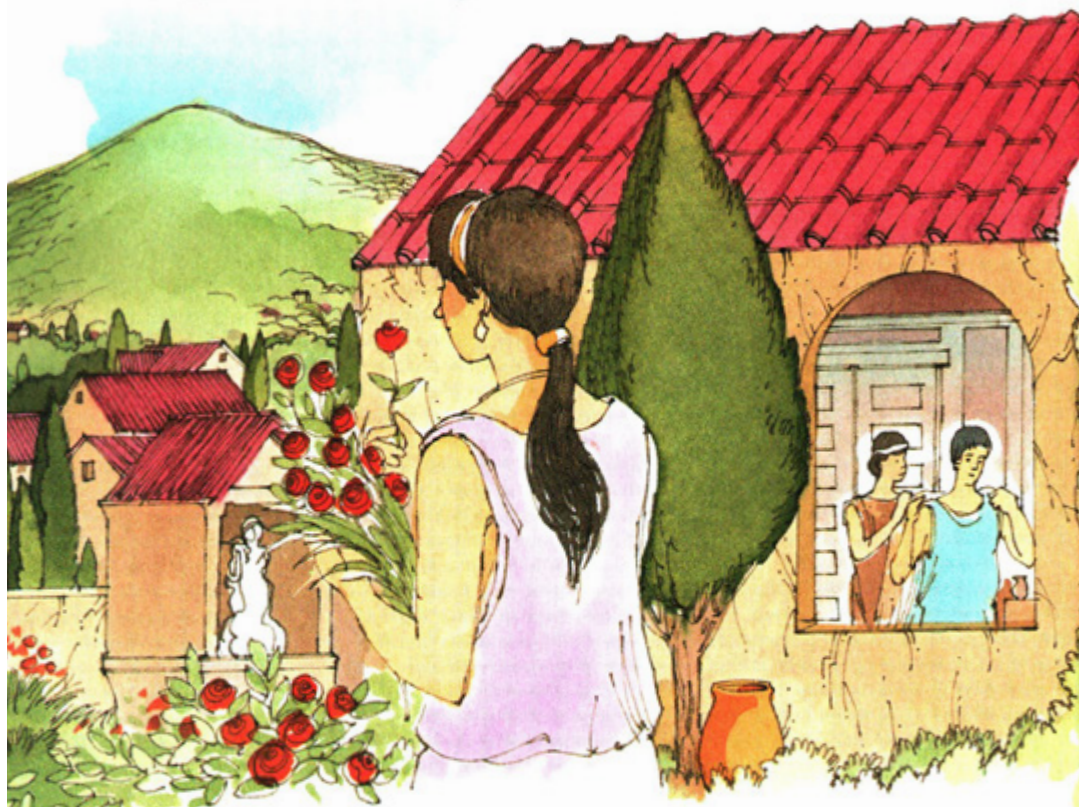
Peddlers were bringing melons and straw hats.



Farmers were bringing vegetables.
Shepherds were bringing sheep.
Carts rumbled through the narrow
gates and into town.



The noisy carts in the streets woke up the people in the houses. The family who lived in one of the biggest houses was soon busy.

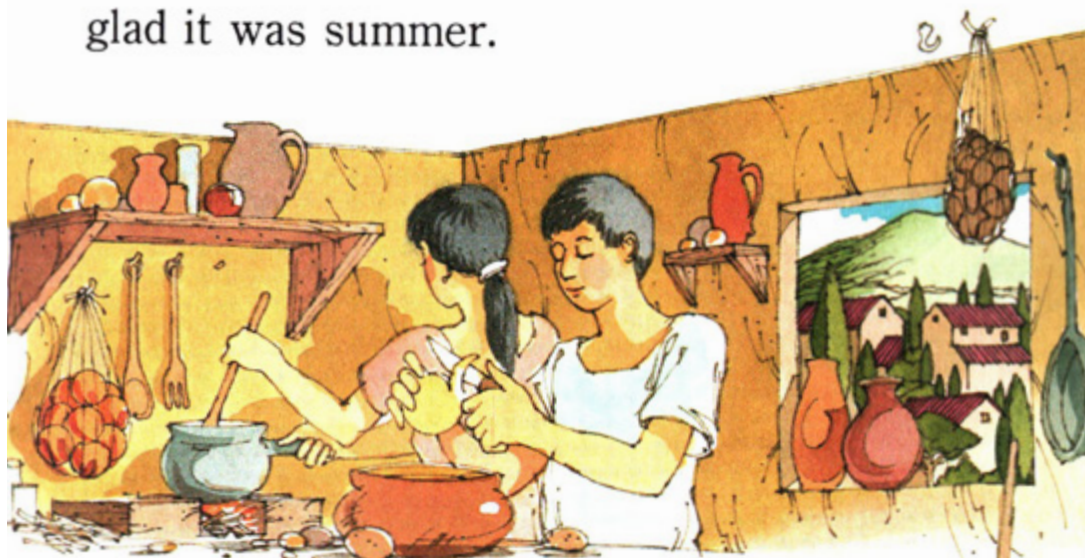


The mother went to pray in the courtyard. She put flowers by the statue of a god.

The father began to dress. His slave helped him.

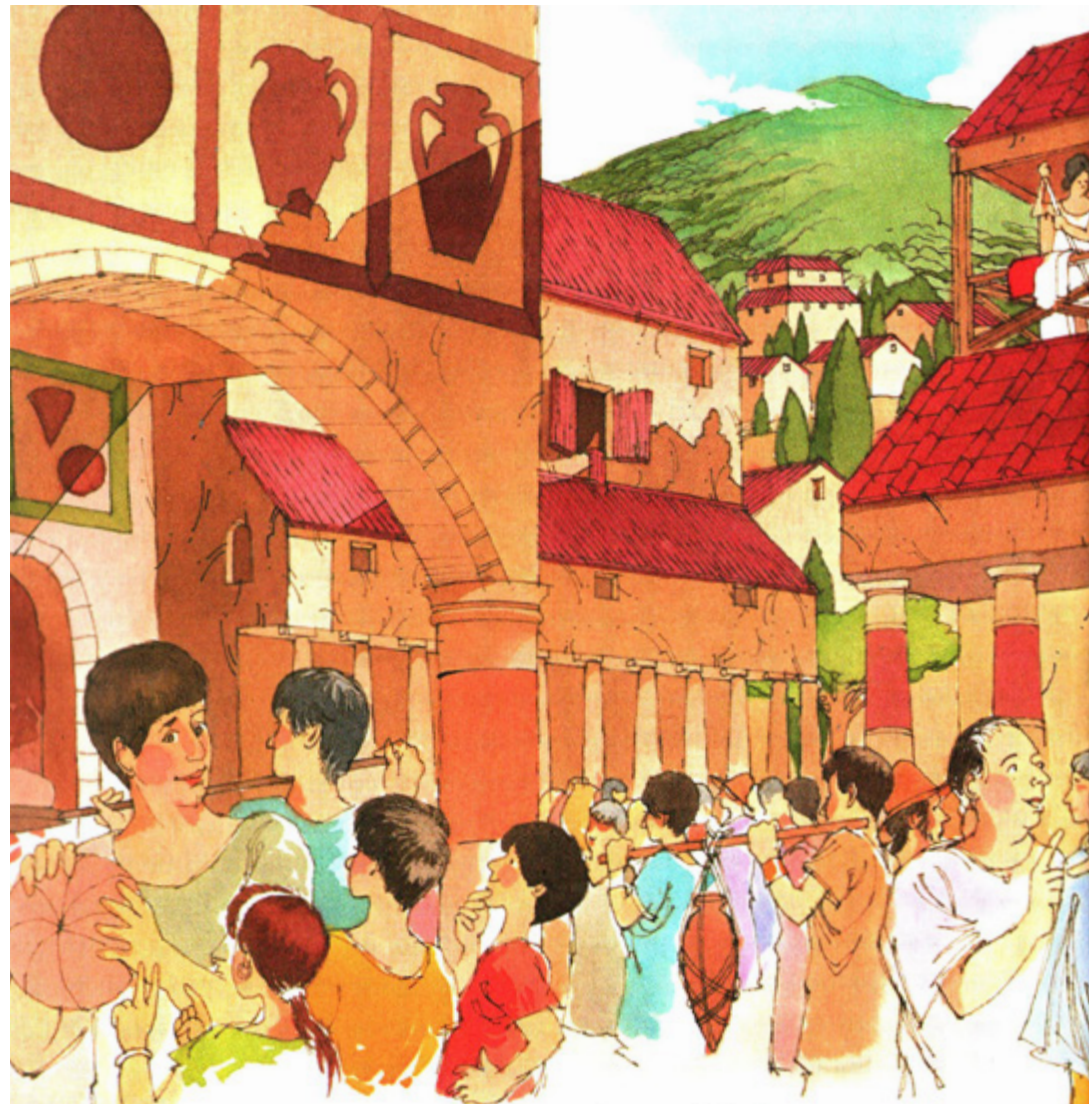


The children were playing. They were glad it was summer.



The slaves in the kitchen were making breakfast.

No one in the house knew that something terrible was going to happen.



After breakfast the children went outside. The streets were crowded. People were at work inside the shops.

Bakers were busy baking flat bread. Weavers were busy weaving wool cloth. Potters were busy making clay pots.



Slaves were getting water at a fountain. A musician was playing his flute.

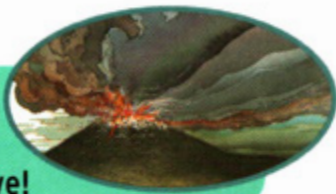
No one in the street knew that something terrible was going to happen.



STEP
4
READING PARAGRAPHS

STEP INTO READING®

Pompeii was a quiet town until Mount Vesuvius erupted. Read the true story of this volcano and the town it buried alive!



Learning to Read, Step by Step!



Ready to Read Preschool–Kindergarten



Reading with Help Preschool–Grade 1



Reading on Your Own Grades 1–3



Reading Paragraphs Grades 2–3

Does your child read simple sentences with confidence?
Newly independent readers are ready for Step 4.

Challenging Vocabulary • Short Paragraphs • Exciting Fiction and Non-Fiction



Ready for Chapters Grades 2–4

F&P TEXT LEVEL **N**

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