



# Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphs

*James Rumford*

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## **Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphs** James Rumford

To a child, the future is a magnificent dream. For Jean-Francois Champollion, the dream was to sail up the Nile in Egypt and uncover the secrets of the past. In 1802, when Champollion was eleven years old, he vowed to be the first person to read Egypt's ancient hieroglyphs. He faced great challenges over the next twenty years as he searched for the elusive key to the mysterious writing—and the fulfillment of his dreams.

## **Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphs Details**

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# **From Reader Review Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphs for online ebook**

**Tim Vandenberg says**

Gorgeous paintings and well-researched writing tell the tale of the decipherer of Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Jean-Francois Champollion. Why don't more teachers share about this young man's 21-year journey that began when he was just 11 years old....What a perfect example of You Can Achieve What You Set Your Heart To! He even almost DIED trying to figure out the ancient code (due to lack of eating). MUST reading for all teachers who teach ancient Egypt. I wish I had known about this book 18 years ago when it was first published!

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**Shelli says**

Such a fascinating read about Jean-Francois Champollion, the man who deciphered the mysteries of the Rosetta Stone that led to unlocking the secrets of Egyptian hieroglyphics. The afterward portion shows several hieroglyphs, their translation and also a bit of info on how they may have been pronounced. Perfect for students covering Ancient Egypt in World History, or just for fun.

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**Matthew says**

I can't believe how much I've learned about hieroglyphs and Napoleonic France from reading this book. To begin with, I was completely unaware when it came to Egyptology before this. I never had an interest, but after reading this I am completely enthralled with it. I never imagined that this would be so illuminating. I didn't know that the Rosetta Stone came from Rosetta, Egypt. I thought that it came from the Middle East. Guess it just goes to show how little I really knew about the topic. I was fascinated by the rebellion of the French people against friends of Napoleon after his defeat at Waterloo. It's like the French Revolution all over again. What an amazing guy he must have been. I really enjoyed this book. I recommend it to anyone with the time to get through it.

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**Lisa Vegan says**

I've always loved Egyptian Hieroglyphs, and have read books about them and had (and given as gifts) kits with rubber stamps, and other hieroglyphs projects. Reading this book, I find it truly amazing that these symbols/this writing were able to be deciphered.

Throughout the book and on a page at the end, there are various hieroglyphs. Having them included was crucial for this book. The ones interspersed with the story did break up the story a bit, but it was worth it to have them there.

What's wonderfully inspiring about this story is it's about a real boy/man, who from an early age, had a dream and determination to decipher hieroglyphs. How he persisted and succeeded makes for a thrilling

story, and quite a bit of general history information is given too.

Along with the hieroglyphs, the illustrations here contribute immeasurably to the book; I really enjoyed them.

It's quite an amazing story, made all the more impressive given that somebody's lifelong dream came true, with hard work and never giving up. It's a good story for kids to read (or have read to them), for if they have dreams they might feel confidence in going after them, and if they don't have dreams they might give thought to developing one or more for themselves. It's a particularly good book for children who are fascinated with hieroglyphs and Egyptian history, history in general, writing and language.

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### **Natalie says**

The story itself wasn't very interesting but I liked the way the book was put together. There were little hieroglyphics scattered through the paragraphs and larger hieroglyphics with definitions around the outside.

Jean-Francois was a genius who lived all things Egypt. He was determined to be the first to read Egyptian writing.

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### **Shelly♥ says**

My kids were fascinated by this story. Jean-Francis is a French youth during the time of the Revolution who falls in love with Egyptian culture and specifically hieroglyphics. He is obsessed by them, and wants to solve the mystery of the writing. After the discovery of the Rosetta Stone and progress in this feat by others, Jean-Francis finally cracks the code.

The book also has hieroglyphics on almost every page, explanations of how they fit into different words. Reading this sent my boys to their notebooks to try and draw and create their own drawings of ancient writings.

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### **Jacquie says**

Beautiful illustrations.

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### **Jean-Marie says**

Very good (and sometimes dramatic) picture book about how Jean-Francois Champollion came to decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs and publish the first translation of the Rosetta Stone.

My 6 year old enjoyed acting out this part:

Jean-Francois raced down the street to his brother's office. He burst through the door exclaiming, "I have the

key!" Then he collapsed. He had not eaten. He had not slept. For five days, he lay near death. On the fifth day, he awoke. "Pen and paper," he whispered, and he wrote of his discovery to the world.

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### **Karen says**

Pre-read for CC1 and the study of Egypt. My boy is very fascinated with all things Egyptian.

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### **Hilary says**

#### **Very pretty and interesting child's book**

Visually appealing, watercolor painting and hieroglyphs. Short read that fits in with the study of the Ancient world, obviously Egypt.

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### **Runway Family says**

Even more than a story of cracking the heiroglyphic code, Seeker of Knowledge is a story of the passion and perseverance of a man who "would not rest until he had found the answer" to his question. This, in and of itself, is a wonderful lesson for all children. The story also brings the life of Jean-Francois Champollion and his amazing accomplishment to life through concise prose and superb watercolor illustrations. Certain heiroglyphs in the margins and supporting texts are also lovely (e.g. "there is a long-necked far-seeing giraffe in 'predict'"). My only criticism is that some of the heiroglyphs in the body text seemed to be randomly dispersed. I would have preferred to see a consolidated chart of certain heiroglyphs and their associated sounds and meanings at the end of the book.

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### **Hyeonjeong Lee says**

Personal Reaction - I like this book very much because of its theme. This is a biography of Champollion who was a linguist and amateur of ancient scripts. Personally, I am very interested in ancient scripts. My family sometimes went to museums to see different ancient scripts. From the experiences, I could learn about ancient scripts as well as its history. It's one of my best childhood memories.

Purposes-I would recommend this book to second graders of elementary school for several potential purposes:

- As second graders have learned English since their first year in school, to extend their interests in language, this book would be helpful. Also, this book would help them understand that people from different countries and periods use different languages.
- As ancient scripts are very unique and they are like drawings, children would enjoy seeing those scripts.
- The illustrations are based on watercolor paintings. Their lyrical painting complements the story very well. Also, the watercolors make the mood of this book very smooth and soft, thus it would encourage children to feel more comfortable as well as enhance their imaginations.
- At the beginning and the end of this book, instead of using one color page like other books, this book

contains ancient scripts. When children open this book, they will see the ancient script on the first page, and it would encourage their interest. Also, when they finish reading this book and see the ancient script on the last page, they would keep extending their imaginations and thoughts.

- This book uses ancient words in the between of each sentence. For example, it has an ancient word, running, in the sentence. "Jean-Francois raced down the street to his brother's office." It would help children to understand its meaning.

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## **Georgiana says**

Along the Nile River, the ibis bird uses it's long curved bill to search for food. In ancient Egypt, the ibis was sacred to the god Thoth, who also had a long, curved bill. Bur instead of searching fir food, Thoth searched for knowledge. According to legend, Thoth gave the ancient Egyptians pictures to use for writing. With the gift if writing, the Egyptians became seekers if knowledge, too.

For three thousand years, the Egyptians wrote about their world, covering their temples with words, filling their libraries with books. Then invaders came and destroyed Egypt, and the pictures called hieroglyphs were forgotten.

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## **Bea says**

Seeker of Knowledge is a picturebook biography of Jean-Francois Champollion, the first person to decipher ancient Egyptian script. Jean-Francois first dreamed of decoding Egyptian hieroglyphs as an eleven-year-old living during the time of Napoleon's tours through Egypt. Without overwhelming the young reader, the story gives accurate details of Jean-Francois' life culminating in his successful solving of the hieroglyphics and subsequent travels to Egypt. The pictures are a gentle supplement to Champollion's story throughout and eventually spark children's interest in further exploration of hieroglyphs.

The book is appropriate for a varied range of children, and can be read-aloud to interested new readers or read independently by elementary students. As an elementary teacher, I recommend this book because it sheds light onto the history of our written language, fosters energy for big dreams, and encourages children to believe they can accomplish what they hope for. Seeker of Knowledge also serves to segue into further study of biography for the older elementary student.

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## **Winifred Rogers says**

### **Still Curios**

I chose this book because of curiosity in my ancestors way of communication. I liked the history of his and who the man was who discovered the deciphering of Hieroglyphics. What I didn't like was my thought of being able to learn how to write it myself. I don't think I'm going to recommend this book.. But, then again other title is exactly what I have learned.

