

Adventures in
ODYSSEY

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY™ PRESENTS

2

THE IMAGINATION STATION



Attack *at the* **Arena**

MARIANNE HERING • PAUL McCUSKER

Praise for The Imagination Station® books

These books are a great combination of history and adventure in a clean manner perfect for young children.

—Margie B., *My Springfield Mommy* blog

These books will help my kids enjoy history.

—Beth S., third-grade public school teacher
Colorado Springs, Colorado

[The Imagination Station books] focus on God much more than the Magic Tree House books do.

—Emilee, age 7, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

My nine-year-old son has already read [the first two books], one of them twice. He is very eager to read more in the series too. I am planning on reading them out loud to my younger son.

—Abbi C., mother of four, Minnesota



Attack ***at the Arena***

BOOK 2

MARIANNE HERING • PAUL McCUSKER
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID HOHN



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY • ADVENTURES IN ODYSSEY
TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC. • CAROL STREAM, ILLINOIS

Dedicated to Jim Ware, an inspiration

Attack at the Arena

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Summary: Patrick and his cousin Beth travel back in time to ancient Rome, where they meet Telemachus and help put an end to the spectacle of gladiators fighting to the death.

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Prologue



Mr. Whittaker is a kind but mysterious inventor. His workshop is in a large house called Whit's End.

Mr. Whittaker's favorite invention is the Imagination Station. The machine can take you anywhere you can imagine—it's kind of like a time machine.

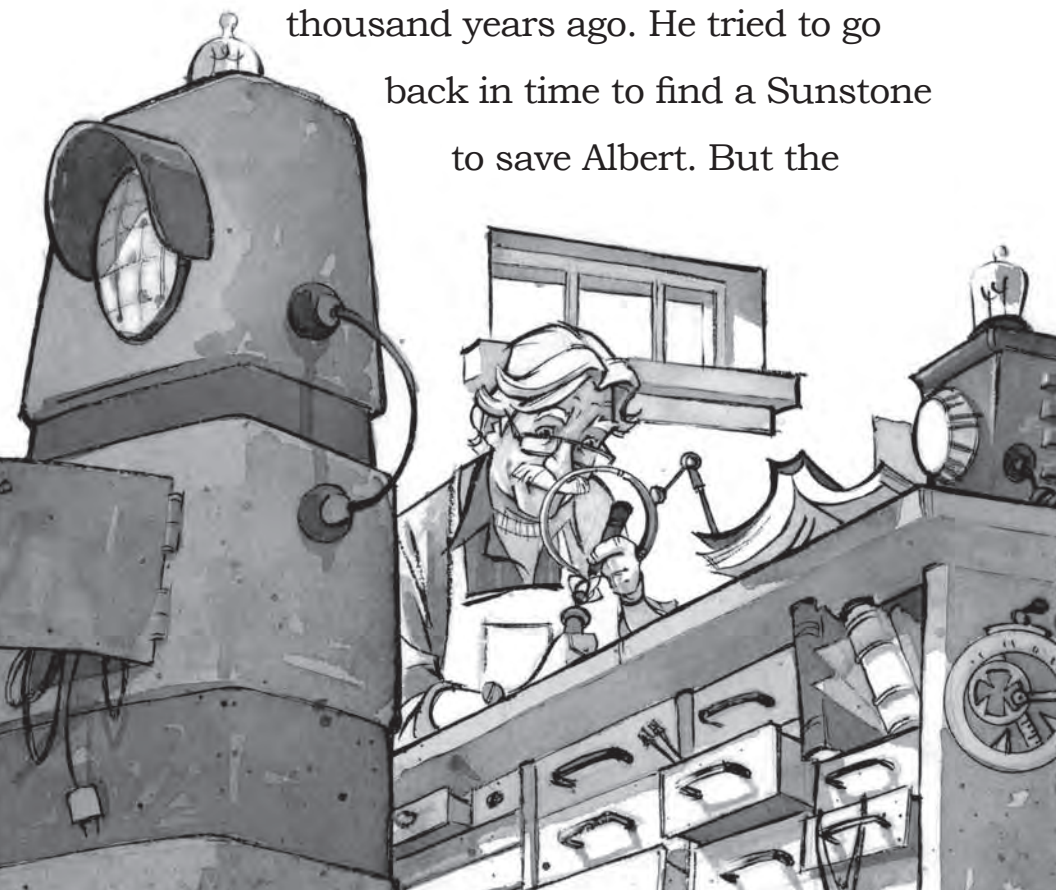
One day Mr. Whittaker found a letter inside the Imagination Station.

The letter said this:

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*To save Albert, I need a Viking Sunstone before
the new moon. Or Lord Darkthorn will lock
him inside the tower.*

Mr. Whittaker did some reading. He found out the Vikings had used Sunstones a thousand years ago. He tried to go back in time to find a Sunstone to save Albert. But the



Prologue

Imagination Station wouldn't work for him.

What had gone wrong?

Next, cousins Beth and Patrick arrived at the workshop. The Imagination Station worked for them. So Mr. Whittaker sent them to a Viking village.

The cousins went to Greenland and had some adventures. They rode in a Viking ship. They saw



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polar bears and reindeer. They met Erik the Red and Leif Eriksson. They found a blue Sunstone and came back home in the Imagination Station.



The cousins returned to the workshop, and they found another letter. The second letter said that Albert needed a silver cup from Rome. The cousins rushed to get ready for their next adventure.

But they still had some questions:

Who was Lord Darkthorn?

Would they be able to help Albert before the new moon?

Most important—how would they find a silver cup?



The Second Trip



Patrick, Beth, and Mr. Whittaker were at Whit's End on Tuesday morning. They were in the workshop getting ready for the Roman adventure.

Beth came out of the girls' changing room. Patrick came out of the boys' changing room soon afterward.

The cousins were curious about their ancient Roman costumes.

“Why did you give me a plain dress?” Beth

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asked Mr. Whittaker. “The cloth is rough. And the only thing pretty about it is the gold border.” She looked down at the gray tunic. It reached to her ankles. The tunic was not long enough to cover her leather sandals.

“You need to blend in,” Mr. Whittaker said.

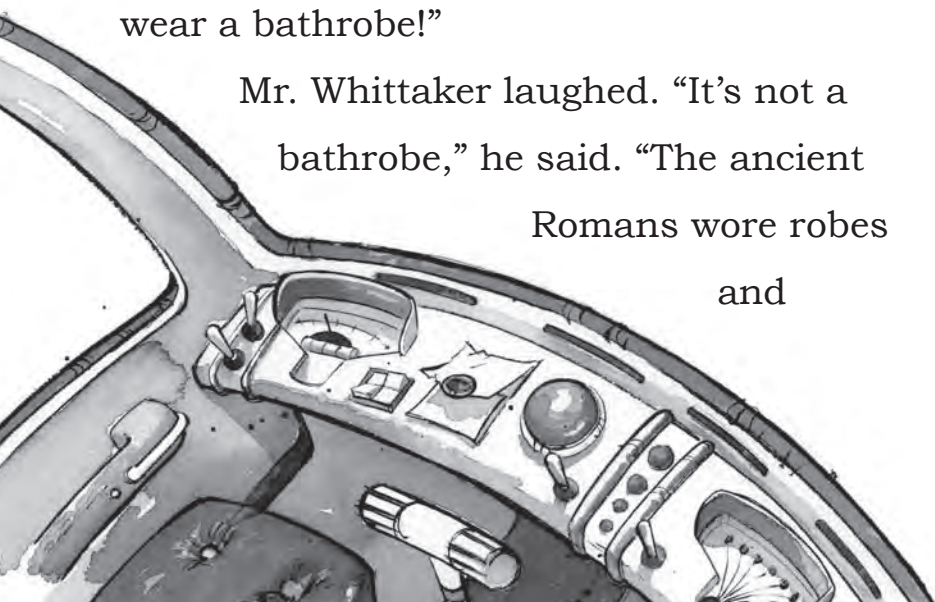
“As what?” Beth asked.

“A slave,” Mr. Whittaker said. “There were lots of slaves in ancient Rome.”

“A slave!” Beth said. “No!”

“Don’t complain,” Patrick said. “I have to wear a bathrobe!”

Mr. Whittaker laughed. “It’s not a bathrobe,” he said. “The ancient Romans wore robes and



The Second Trip

tunics.”

“But the belt is a rope,” Patrick said. “And the hood is weird. When I put it on, I look creepy.”

“No one in Rome will think you look creepy,” Mr. Whittaker said. “In fact, that kind of robe was a sign of peace. It’s what monks wore.”

“Monks?” Beth asked.

“A monk is a holy man,” Mr. Whittaker said. “They can live anywhere.”

“I’m going to be a holy man?” Patrick asked. “But I can’t even sit still in church!”

“It’s better than being a slave,” said Beth.

The cousins walked to the Imagination Station. It reminded Patrick of the front of a helicopter. He looked at Beth and smiled. She smiled back. The cousins wanted to get going.

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They climbed inside the Imagination Station.

Patrick and Beth looked carefully at the dashboard. A red button was in the center. Around it were dials, levers, and flashing lights. On top of the dashboard were two letters.

Two very old and mysterious letters.