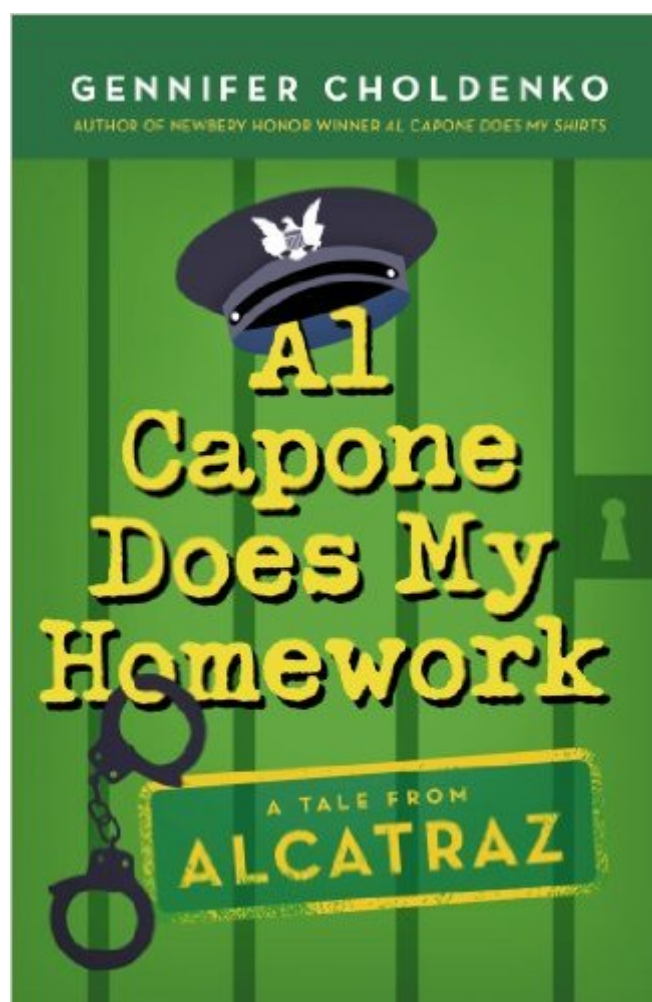


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# Al Capone Does My Homework



## Synopsis

Alcatraz Island in the 1930s isn't the most normal place to grow up, but it's home for Moose Flanagan, his autistic sister, Natalie, and all the families of the guards. When Moose's dad gets promoted to Associate Warden, despite being an unlikely candidate, it's a big deal. But the cons have a point system for targeting prison employees, and his dad is now in serious danger. After a fire starts in the Flanagan's apartment, Natalie is blamed, and Moose bands with the other kids to track down the possible arsonist. Then Moose gets a cryptic note from the notorious Al Capone himself. Is Capone trying to protect Moose's dad too? If Moose can't figure out what Capone's note means, it may be too late. The last heart-pounding installment in the New York Times bestselling, Newbery Honor-winning Alcatraz trilogy is not to be missed! "Superlative historical fiction." -- School Library Journal (starred review for Al Capone Shines My Shoes)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0570 (What's this?)

Series: Al Capone

Paperback: 240 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (83 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #49,322 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#) #99 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs](#) #369 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

My daughter (age 12) loves the book. She has enjoyed the series by Gennifer Choldenko. We were able to meet the author at a Young Author's Fair sponsored by a local school. She was very entertaining. She really brings her stories to life.

As an ardent fan of Choldenko's first two books in the "Al Capone Does My" series, I had mixed feelings about reading her new release. However, a few pages into the book, I was hooked! I think this one is her best in the series! Whether you enjoy reading about historical Alcatraz Island, mystery, humor, growing pains, or the love between a brother and his autistic sister---this book has it all! It's a must read book for readers of all ages!

I started reading this series on the recommendation of a nine year old super reader. She was right; the first two Al Capone books were five star winners. This one didn't live up to my expectations. In the afterword, the author says she had planned to write Al Capone Is My Librarian, but that one didn't work out, and so she wrote this instead. To me, it feels like her deadline was upon her, and she just threw this together. All of the old characters are there--Moose, Natalie, Annie, Jimmy, Piper, and Theresa, but the feeling is different. Moose's apartment catches fire while he is babysitting Natalie. When some of the residents try to pin the fire on Natalie, Moose and the gang set out to find out who really set the fire. They try various tricks to investigate. However, in the end they don't discover anything, and the mystery is solved when the official report comes out and says \_\_\_\_\_ did it. However, there is no explanation of who investigated for the official report. How they found out \_\_\_\_\_ did it, or why \_\_\_\_\_ did it. Also, Natalie partially overcomes her autism in a very medically unlikely way that was hard to swallow. The atmosphere of this book was just completely different. The prison and the convicts are just in the background, instead of being a vital part of the story. Perhaps this is nitpicky, but the language used by the characters is not from the 1930s. Kids in the 30s were not saying, "that's so lame." Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed reading this book up until the end when it all just didn't come together in a satisfactory conclusion.

My son blew through this book series. He is not a big reader, but he was hooked and as soon as he finished the first one he asked if we could pick up the other two. He finished each book within a day, he spent all day reading! He did mention a few parts of the book where there was mild violence, and obviously it has criminals in the book, so I wouldn't recommend it for any kids that are younger than Jr High age.

I was afraid the quality of the books in this series might grow thin, but Ms. Choldenko kept my interest as "Moose" and his friends and family dealt with the depression, autism, and an island full of the worst criminals in the country. I'm looking forward to another book or two. I don't believe I will

ever be too old for these books.

It has been awhile since I read the previous Al Capone books when they were first published. In fact, I had no knowledge of this third and final installment until I happened to stumble across it a couple months ago. Needless to say, I was quite excited to revisit Alcatraz and read more of Moose's adventures! This book was as engrossing as the other two books. Moose's dad has just been promoted to Associate Warden, which means more challenges for Moose and his family. Once again, Moose and his friends work together to solve the Alcatraz mysteries that threaten their lives. Of course, they get help from none other than Al Capone. Readers have the pleasure of seeing relationships develop (as well as Moose's character maturing) and Natalie overcoming some of her fears as a person with Autism. There were some funny moments, tender moments, and thought-provoking moments with a few memorable quotes of which I took note. I at first thought the ending was a little abrupt but when I let it sink in for a minute, I realized the saga of Moose and his life on Alcatraz ended just right.

I keep making the mistake of thinking that she can't keep up such a great story, she just can't keep these characters so true to their original forms, but each time a new "Al Capone" comes out, BAM! She has done it all over again. I started reading it early in the day and almost never put it down, it is that good. Somehow, the reader comes to care about these characters we have known for... seven years now? REALLY? I wish these books would continue on and on; if you think the only kids you could ever care about have wands and attend a wizard boarding school, think again!

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