

Review: Disney Brave iPhone/iPod/iPad Apps

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My daughter Hannah and I had a chance to check out the new apps for the Disney/Pixar movie "Brave":

Brave - Storybook Deluxe (\$6.99)

Brave Interactive Comic (\$1.99)

Like most 8 year old girls, Hannah is very excited about seeing this movie. I asked her to sit down with me and tell me what she thought about each of the apps.

The first app opened was the "Brave: Storybook Deluxe". Here is a brief summary of the app itself:

• "Brave: Storybook Deluxe" (\$6.99 - for iPhone, iPad and iPod touch)

This app contains a complete retelling of the film for children ages 5 and up, following Merida through a courageous voyage to defy an age-old tradition and forge her own destiny. The app features beautiful art, character voices, dynamic animation, and surprising interactive elements.

This app allows the reader to follow along with a text version of the movie storyline. This is filled with animation elements from the movie. It also allows the reader to record the story in their own voice to play back at a later time. This is a great idea anyone with a young child who loves to have their parent read them a story. Just record yourself reading along and your child can play it back whenever they would like.

This app also had some great games and interactive features. These include such activities as puzzles, coloring pages, and a game called Merida's Challenge. While riding through the woods on your horse Angus, you attempt to shoot as many targets as possible with your bow. The Archer's Quest allows the player to track their achievements. Both Hannah and I found the controls very easy to use for a child and it has led to many hours of enjoyment.

While the price is a bit high for most apps I would download normally, I found this one to be very entertaining and has a lot of play value that will keep it from getting too boring too quickly as some similar movie apps have done in the past.

The Second app we had a chance to look at was the "Brave Interactive Comic". The app is summed up here.

• "Brave Interactive Comic" (\$1.99 - for iPhone, iPad and iPod touch)

This app is a more advanced interactive graphic novel for kids ages 7 to 12 that turns this retelling into an enriched animated comic with special effects, enticing music and sounds, as well as clips, sketches, and step-by-step drawing lessons.

Retailing a whopping \$5 cheaper than the Storybook app, this one caught my eye. I downloaded it onto my iPhone and handed it over to Hannah. She immediately began navigating the app with ease.

The comic feature allows the user to slide their finger across the screen to bring up the next frame. There is a cool animation that goes along with the frame sliding into view. The frame appears to expand open with the characters sliding into their still position when the frame settles on your screen. Just a cool visual feature that really adds a graphic novel feel.

The comic itself tells the story of the movie with little deviation. It was still an entertaining read with Hannah doing her best impression of the character voices as she read.

Hannah's favorite feature of this app is the How to Draw section. It walks the user through the steps to drawing the movie characters through a touch program that looks a little like "Paint". There are many different colored pens to choose from. This can lead to some pretty funny pictures when put in the hand of an eight year old. This app was very entertaining and has lots of playability. The How to Draw feature alone would have been worth the price of the app. The age requirements listed aren't far off though. Some of the reading in the comic has some big words in it. Both Hannah and I highly recommend grabbing this one!