



0. EDGARDO MORTARA CONVERTS - Story Preface

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Edgardo Mortara, a young Jewish lad, was “legally” kidnapped from his parents and forced to study a religion that was not part of his family tradition. He learned the catechism of the Catholic Church in a setting far from his parents and siblings. This image depicts a painting by the French artist Jules-Alexis Muenier entitled “The Catechism Lesson.” It brings to mind what may have happened to Edgardo. Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

Edgardo had, in fact, converted.

He had converted (according to his captors) on the way to Rome, soon after he had been taken from his parents. The Church, through its various news journals, used this conversion as another reason to keep the child. How could he continue to practice his Christian faith in a Jewish home?

As Edgardo continued to study at San Pietro in Vincoli, with the magnificent sights of Rome all around him, his family never gave up trying (see episode four of this video preview) to get him released.

And the Italians who lived in his former town of Bologna (and all the other towns of the Papal States) never gave up trying to rid their daily lives of Church control.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EDGARDO-MORTARA-CONVERTS-Kidnapping-of-Edgardo-Mortara>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EDGARDO-MORTARA-CONVERTS-Kidnapping-of-Edgardo-Mortara>



Inquisition - Kidnapping of Children

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