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To Dare Mighty Things: The Life Of Theodore Roosevelt



Synopsis

President Theodore Roosevelt is known as "the man with a plan," the "rough rider." His figure stands tall in American history; his legacy stretching him to larger-than-life proportions. But before his rise to fame, he was just "Teedie," a boy with ambitious dreams to change the world, and the conviction to see his stupendous imaginings brought to fruition. As an American president, he left an impressive mark upon his country. He promised a "square deal" to all citizens, he tamed big businesses, and protected the nation's wildlife and natural beauty. His fearless leadership assured that he would always be remembered, and his robust spirit now dares others to do mighty things. In her moving picture book portrait, award-winning author Doreen Rappaport uses her well-honed approach of personal quotes and vivid prose to spin together the tale of a sickly boy who became a monumental man. Coupled with C. F. Payne's dramatic artwork, the story of President Teddy, touchstone of American history, is brought to life.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5-Once again, Rappaport offers an accessible introduction to one of the world's most influential people, punctuating her poignant narrative with well-chosen quotes that help frame the life of an important figure. Roosevelt stands tall in American history, but his childhood was one of serious illness that kept him bedridden for long periods of time. He became an avid reader and yearned for

the life of the adventurers he read about. "Teedie," as he was called, longed to explore the wilderness and yearned to be a "fearless" man like his heroes. From his early political career through the challenges of his presidency, this book chronicles how he became that fearless leader. He confronted injustice head-on and promised a "Square Deal" to all citizens, opposed many special business interests, including the use of child labor, and sought to protect the nation's wildlife and preserve its beauty. The highs and lows of both his personal and public life are presented here, including the death of his beloved wife, his experience as a soldier with the "Rough Riders," and being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906. Rappaport breathes life into her subject in a way that is sure to spark the interest of the most reluctant reader. Her choice of quotations defines the man's lively personality and charisma, and Payne's softly shaded artwork highlights his facial expressions and dramatically captures the robust emotion, good humor, and unstinting courage that are the hallmarks of the 26th president. Concisely written and yet poetic, this is a first purchase for every library. -Carole Phillips, Greenacres Elementary School, Scarsdale, NY
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Starred Review Theodore Roosevelt's big ideas and big personality come together in this splendid picture-book biography. Most readers won't know who Roosevelt is, but they will be drawn into the book by the laughing portrait on the otherwise wordless cover. Once inside, they will be hooked by Rappaport's portrait of young "Teedie" a sickly child who is nonetheless high-spirited and curious about everything. And he is determined to do as his father insists: make over his body so that it is as strong as his mind. The book's artful design uses two-page spreads to convey Roosevelt's wide-ranging interests and experiences •charging up San Juan Hill; isolating himself in the Dakota territory, after the death of his first wife; even struggling to bust trusts to help small companies compete (here the image is of a small Roosevelt roping a huge hand tightly holding a wad of money). The only picture that doesn't really work, ironically, is the dully colored spread that discusses TR's conservation efforts. The text neatly balances brevity and information, and key quotes are in a bold font that draws the eye. Occasionally, events could have been tied together more smoothly, but overall this is a terrific introduction to one of America's most energetic and far-sighted presidents. Grades 3-5. --Ilene Cooper

Like most of Rappaport's books, she covers the highlights of TR life. The illustrations are fantastic as usual. She allows you to know TR as the man, not just the president.

Great for kids to learn about our heroes and good social studies at an early age. Want them to become familiar with our history, people who were true American leaders and the good things our Presidents did and help to navigate through history.

Wow! Everyone should have this book! We enjoy it so! Great illustrations! Our favorite aspect of it is that the story is told by quotes from TR himself. Highly recommend.

An excellent book for young people! Where is a Theodore Roosevelt when we need him so badly???

Great book to teach young kids about a Mighty Leader!!

Great book for children!

The narrative is not very coherent in this book. I was expecting something more sophisticated from the story because the picture is so beautiful.

What a stunning tribute to a "one of a kind" President: Theodore Roosevelt. Tracing TR's life in a series of images the young reader will learn that physical disabilities, like asthma, do not necessarily mean a life of failure. The study of history, especially American History, can be a daunting task and much depends on the teacher and how that teacher presents it to the student. Parents as well can find benefit and enjoyment in reading this book with their children and exploring our nations past. Intended for 2nd or 3rd graders Doreen Rappaport's fine mini-biography is a great way for children to meet this singular man from the turn of the 20th Century. Told in short passages and quotes, the student is treated to brief glimpses of TR's life and his thoughts. From the sickly child who loved to read about adventure and nature through his years of vigorous physical training and intense study the reader sees TR as an outdoorsman, cowboy and a soldier without fear. And it was this fearless attitude that led him into politics and eventually to the highest office in the land: the US President. Illustrated by C F Payne this book is a visual treat for young and old alike. Each page is beautifully done; young TR's dreams of nature and adventure; his lonely ranching days "out west

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