



Andrew Jackson: The Making of America #2

Teri Kanefield

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**Andrew Jackson: The Making of America #2 Teri Kanefield
A 2018 Grateful American Book Prize Honorable Mention?!**

Andrew Jackson tells the story of one of our most controversial presidents.

Born in the Carolina backwoods, Jackson joined the American Revolutionary War at the age of thirteen. After a reckless youth of gunfights, gambling, and general mischief, he rose to national fame as the general who defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans.

Jackson ran for president as a political outsider, championing the interest of common farmers and frontiersmen. Determined to take down the wealthy, well-educated East Coast “elites,” he pledged to destroy the national bank—which he believed was an engine of corruption serving the interest of bankers and industrialists. A staunch nationalist, he sought to secure and expand the nation’s borders. Believing that “we the people” included white men only, he protected the practice of slavery, and opened new lands for white settlers by pushing the Native people westward.

Jackson, a polarizing figure in his era, ignited a populist movement that remains a powerful force in our national politics.

About the Series

The Making of America series traces the constitutional history of the United States through overlapping biographies of American men and women. The debates that raged when our nation was founded have been argued ever since: How should the Constitution be interpreted? What is the meaning, and where are the limits of personal liberty? What is the proper role of the federal government? Who should be included in “we the people”? Each biography in the series tells the story of an American leader who helped shape the United States of today.

Andrew Jackson: The Making of America #2 Details

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Author : Teri Kanefield

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From Reader Review Andrew Jackson: The Making of America #2 for online ebook

Taylor Wilson says

This a great book for anyone especially young children to learn more about Andrew Jackson and the making of America. If your a fan of reading about history than this is a good book for you. It is full of information about Andrew Jackson himself and some of the things he did for America. This would be a great classroom discussion book.

Beth Younge says

I've been aware of President Andrew Jackson since the musical Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson which i adore so much. I enjoyed how his life was told and the way that the book was set out. It provided so much information and i think if you listen to the musical you need to read the book to understand the context of certain bits (ie. My name's Rachel). I feel like this is one book i'll have to visit it again as it was that good.

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

JoLee says

Featured in "Historical Nonfiction for Young Readers" on Intellectual Recreation.

There are, of course, many books about the controversial presidency of Andrew Jackson, some even for young readers, but Teri Kanefield's Making of America series is compelling and very readable.

Jackson was a very interesting person, and this book hits all of the highlights and low points of Jackson's life, from his childhood during the Revolutionary War, to his elopement with Rachel Donelson, his military ambitions, and divisive politics.

I didn't have a lot of good feelings about Andrew Jackson going into this book, and I don't feel much better about him after finishing, but I do feel like I have a more complete picture of his life, legacy, and the lasting impact of his politics.

Review copy from NetGalley.

Raven Black says

Look at the start of our countries politics. Seeing parallels to today's world/President. Not a pleasant individual, not politically correct but shows where we came from

Robin says

A decent intro to Andrew Jackson, but the book failed to adequately discuss Jackson's racist policies.

Earl says

Andrew Jackson, the second book in The Making of America series from Teri Kanefield, is an important work both for helping middle school children understand the development of the country and for offering some insight into the kinds of people some of today's politicians admire.

While I find Jackson to be anything but a man worthy of much admiration in 21st century America he played a large role in the shaping of the country. Because of that his story is indeed an important part of history. Kanefield does a remarkable job of presenting the man in a fair and accurate way (something I would have struggled to do without pointing out the obvious negative implications for our current predicament). By doing so students can question during classroom discussion how or why some things were accepted and even encouraged. A slanted presentation would have caused lock step reactions on all sides and would not have helped to either promote debate or actually teach the nuances of history.

Like the previous volume (on Alexander Hamilton) this book will be a valuable addition to both home and school libraries as well as a wonderful addition to the classroom itself. In addition to Jackson's story there are plenty of sidebars with ideas, incidents, and terms that will allow this book to serve as more than simply a biography of Jackson.

Kanefield tells his story in a coherent narrative that leads from important historical event to important historical event while also showing how Jackson's personal life and psychological makeup contributed to his actions during those events. When too much importance is given to a charismatic person then that person's personal strengths and flaws become ever more important because we are giving them so much power. There is a warning here even if it is not made explicit (as expected from a good history book) about personal vindictiveness and pettiness when given power. Combined with a less than astute ability to pay attention to details (sounds like right now) and long lasting harm can result.

I would recommend this to both schools and parents. While the book itself is balanced it certainly invites discussion about both history and government, so where one might sit on the political spectrum won't matter. Kanefield does not judge Jackson here, she tells his story, often in his own uneducated words.

Alexa Hamilton says

Really informative, and well-written, especially for the age group. I knew a lot about Andrew Jackson and the ways he influenced this country, but now I really see what happened in much more detail. While it was somewhat unpleasant to read about this unpleasant man, it was incredibly informative and I found myself reading small chunks to my husband out loud. Middle school students will find a lot of information laid out well in this book. The sidebars about political parties and the Constitution and other subjects that needed a bit of background were well-placed and offered just enough information to be useful without being

overwhelming.

Richie Partington says

Richie's Picks: ANDREW JACKSON: THE MAKING OF AMERICA by Teri Kanefield, Abrams, March 2018, 240p., ISBN: 978-1-4197-2840-2

"[African Americans] had for more than a century before been regarded as beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery. . . . He was bought and sold, and treated as an ordinary article of merchandise and traffic, whenever a profit could be made by it. This opinion was at that time fixed and universal in the civilized portion of the white race. It was regarded as an axiom in morals as well as in politics, which no one thought of disputing, or supposed to be open to dispute; and men in every grade and position in society daily and habitually acted upon it in their private pursuits, as well as in matters of public concern, without doubting for a moment the correctness of this opinion."

--Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, the Dred Scott decision (1857)

"In February of 1832, the United States Supreme Court heard arguments in the case between the Cherokees and Georgia. The State of Georgia claimed that the United States Supreme Court had no jurisdiction over matters that took place within Georgia's borders, so Georgia didn't bother to defend itself in court.

The Supreme Court sided with the Cherokees, declaring Georgia's law 'repugnant to the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States' and therefore void.'

Georgia ignored the Supreme Court on the grounds that the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction over matters within its borders. Jackson, as president, was supposed to uphold the law and enforce the Supreme Court's decision, but he took no steps to do so. In this case, he believed the Supreme Court was wrong. As Jackson read the Constitution, the Indians had no sovereignty in Georgia.

Jackson believed that as president, he was entitled to decide what the Constitution meant. He understood that the Constitution gave the Supreme Court jurisdiction over United States laws, treaties, and the Constitution, but as president he had taken an oath to defend the Constitution. As head of an equal branch of government, he thought his opinion should at least be equal to the Supreme Court.

He actually went further, arguing that, as president, his opinion on Constitutional matters should trump the Supreme Court. His reason? He was elected by the people and represented a majority of voters, while the Supreme Court, with appointed judges serving for life, was the least democratic of the branches, reflecting the opinion of a small handful of men...

When Jackson did nothing to enforce the Supreme Court's ruling, Georgia took it as a signal to do as they pleased. Within weeks of the court's decision, Georgia closed Cherokee schools, seized Cherokee farms and land, and distributed them to whites...Cherokee resistance lasted for years--until, at last, harassed and besieged--they were driven from Georgia."

Author Teri Kanefield has crafted an exceptionally well-researched biography of President Andrew Jackson. Based upon the information presented in this biography, I conclude that Andrew Jackson was a scoundrel. He was an uneducated, abusive, slave-holding, genocidal tyrant who made a career of trampling mores, laws, and the United States Constitution. He might have been best remembered as being responsible for the Trail of Tears, had he not also been the ignoramus who put Roger B. Taney--the author of the Supreme Court's infamous Dred Scott decision--on the Court.

Donald Trump's admiration for Andrew Jackson is well known, and as one of his first acts, Trump had a portrait of Jackson hung in the Oval Office. Throughout the book it's easy to see that these two lying demagogues have many attributes and beliefs in common.

One jaw-dropping aspect of the story involves Jackson's utter ignorance, as a practicing attorney, of how promissory notes function and how his subsequent aversion to debt and hatred of banks adversely affected the country. A difference between Jackson and Trump is that when Jackson fell into debt, he never short-changed his creditors by declaring bankruptcy. And Jackson would have been aghast at Trump adding over a trillion dollars to the national debt to fund tax cuts for billionaires and giant corporations.

Jackson did have one shining moment in his stint as president. He concocted a solution to a constitutional crisis stemming from South Carolina's interpretation of Constitutional law that the states had the right to nullify any federal statute that they interpreted as unconstitutional. Unfortunately, this contribution was minor compared to the toxic legacy of his two terms in office.

As with the author's recent biography of Alexander Hamilton, **ANDREW JACKSON: THE MAKING OF AMERICA** provides amazing insight into our constitutional history and helps us understand the roots of so many persistent American conflicts. It's a "wow" book that will blow the minds of many an adolescent reader.

Richie Partington, MLIS

Richie's Picks <http://richiespicks.pbworks.com>

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Erin says

I learned a ton about Jackson and his time period. The parallels to today are frightening. Overall, really interesting.

Renee says

If you like history, this book will keep you captivated! You'll learn a few things about Andrew Jackson, both good and bad. I was never particularly in love with Andrew Jackson and this book rather cemented that feeling. However, I try my best to understand the point of view of my political adversaries and that's why I appreciate books like this - interesting, insightful, and informative.

David says

Backwoods boy to President of USA

"Andrew Jackson The Making of America"

Teri Kanefield Abrams Books

Andrew Jackson 1767 – 1845 was a very popular president of the United States (1829 to 1837) who railed against big government and stood for the ‘common man’. Jackson didn’t trust ‘corrupt aristocracy’ as he labelled the political and financial establishment of the day.

Read Teri Kanefield’s whole panorama of the amazing life story of Andrew Jackson, from the brutal boyhood in extreme poverty to the success as a military general, later as President of USA and his final years.

Andrew Jackson had a very colorful life starting out in the back country of Carolinas in a family and community which knew all too much of poverty and war. He lost many of his family members to the British soldiers in the Revolutionary War. He then lived as an orphan and grew up in very tough circumstances. Teri Kanefield does us a great service in this very readable book bringing life and coherence to a childhood and rowdy young adulthood so different from what most of us are familiar with.

Andrew Jackson eventually educated himself sufficiently to become a lawyer and worked hard to take advantage of every opportunity which came through this work. His financial dealings sometimes went well but sometimes were spectacular failures and left him distrustful of banks. After moving to Nashville, a frontier town, Andrew Jackson met and later married Rachel Donaldson in what became a lifelong partnership. They filled their homes with children of family members and friends.

Jackson learnt bravery in his youth and carried that forward in his adult life. He served in the military and eventually led US forces in defeating the British forces in the battle of New Orleans 1815.

Jackson grew up in the Carolinas where slavery was an accepted practice. At times in his career he became a slave owner and saw no problem in that. Andrew Jackson also did not share the view of Washington political establishment of the time that Indian people had rights to land and sovereignty. He regarded Indian land as unsettled and available for settlers. He therefore supported dispossession of some Indian tribes including the Cherokee which led awful suffering as the Cherokee were ‘relocated’ away from their land in Georgia to another state.

Jackson was popularly elected twice into the Presidency. Jackson brought his friends and family with him to Washington when he came to government because they were the people he knew and trusted. He worked hard to reverse many of the reforms of his predecessors. Jackson did believe strongly in the Union and sought to preserve it at all costs. There is no hint of deceit or corruption in this writing on Jackson’s life or his Presidency.

Reading about Jackson’s life in the level of detail which Teri Kanefield has so skilfully set out, a great picture of a man and a time full of opportunities and contradictions emerges. The waves of popular support which elected him and continued throughout his presidency sounds like an early taste of what is echoed in the popularism much evident today. Jackson had simple answers that people understood.

Kalli says

Good young adult educational history book about one of the founding fathers of America. A man that was a bit different that you expect a president to be.

Carrie Shaurette says

It's an interesting time to read an Andrew Jackson biography with so many parallels to current day politics. This is a good one for middle school kids that uses the president's own words effectively to portray his character.

Sherry H. says

Wow! If the biographies and history books I had to read in school were as half as interesting as Teri Kanefield's writing, I would have devoured them!

The book opens with a bang - Andrew Jackson doing something at his inauguration that no other president had done - letting the masses into the White House. He was quite the maverick, upsetting protocol his whole life.

There is an abundance of pictures and diagrams, which add to the interest of the biography. There's an extensive bibliography in the back, along with a comprehensive index.

Andrew Jackson was an interesting character and his story enhanced by excellent writing style!

Thanks to Teri & Abrams Publishing for an ARC of this book.
