

# George the Drummer Boy

*Nathaniel Benchley , Don Bolognese (Illustrations)*

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More than two hundred years ago, Boston belonged to the British. George was a drummer boy with the King's soldiers there. He wanted to be friends with the people of Boston. But they did not like the soldiers. They shouted and threw things at them. One night, George and the other soldiers were sent on a secret mission. They crossed the river and headed toward Concord. George had no idea that this was the start of the American Revolution.

In this *I Can Read Book*, Don Bolognese's vibrant pictures capture the drama and humor of Nathaniel Benchley's exciting story.

## George the Drummer Boy Details


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Author : Nathaniel Benchley , Don Bolognese (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review George the Drummer Boy for online ebook

## Cheryl says

This is an easy reader. It is from an interesting perspective that you don't read about very much. It is written from the perspective of the British Soldiers during the Battle of Lexington and Concord.

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## Kristine Hansen says

A bit of history from the side of the British - something not seen very often in children's books. I like this book in that, while it's easy to read, it really gets into what happened and how the soldiers felt to be there. The author makes a note that this is a guess at how the British soldiers felt. I'd say it's probably pretty accurate. Very well done!

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## Kelly says

Confusing at first because it's about the Revolutionary War with a boy named George, but it's NOT about George Washington. Pictures are messy and not interesting (it is from the 70s). An introduction to a couple of battles during the War.

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## Sarah says

I was really excited to find this historical easy reader. I've read the author's other book "Sam the Minuteman", and I was thrilled that we were able to read about the same battles from a British drummer boy's perspective. I felt the author brought George's story to life very well and I am always impressed to read a story that is well told and yet easy to read. It takes a certain skill and well-chosen words to make a good-quality historical easy reader. I also liked the illustrations. They lent themselves very well to the story.

After we read this book we compared the three boy characters from "Sam the Minuteman", "George the Drummer Boy", and "Many Ways to Be a Soldier". It was a great literature exercise and I think my 7 year old son really enjoyed comparing the three boys' experiences. We even made a 3 circle Venn diagram out of it. SO grateful there was a book we could read in the same reading-age range from a British boy's perspective! Thank you Nathaniel Benchley!

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## Matt Guendel says

this was a good book because it educates kids on some some American history. This story takes place in Boston and is about a drummer boy and his run in with the Minutemen while following orders. This book has some action and there are some deaths that take place during battle. Its a decent read

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## **Charles says**

This story takes an unusual perspective for a book published in the United States, it presents the opening battles of the American Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord from the British perspective. The main character is George, a drummer boy in the British military units stationed in Boston. On the fateful night of the famous ride of Paul Revere, his unit is one that departs from Boston on small boats and then marches to Lexington. Their goal is to find ammunition supposedly hidden in Concord and Lexington is on the way. Most modern readers will not know that back then the phrase "drummer boy" should be taken literally. The youngest known drummer in the British Army was nine and the youngest in the American Army during the Revolutionary War was seven.

While George's age is not given, there is the clear impression that he was at most in his early teens. Therefore, the battles are described from his perspective, he more than the older soldiers, had no real idea why the two sides were fighting. There is no mention of glory or achievement in this narrative, just the rendition of a military defeat and returning to base cold, wet, hungry and tired. It is an excellent story, presenting the history of a very famous battle from the side of the defeated. They are not evil redcoats, just men that managed to survive a long day.

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## **SamZ says**

A good companion to "Sam the Minuteman" by the same author. I especially liked the note at the end about every story having two sides. It is important for kids to learn that even though we fought to win our Independence from England, we are now friends, neighbors, and allies.

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## **Books Kids Like says**

Benchley's "Sam the Minuteman" tells the story of Lexington and Concord from the American point-of-view. In "George the Drummer Boy," the author writes about what the experience might have been like from the view of a British drummer boy. George and his friend are ordered into long boats one night and shipped from Boston to Charlestown, across the river. Then, they march with the regular soldiers to Lexington and Concord. George sees the brief exchange of bullets at Lexington and the fear and chaos created by the Americans as they shoot from behind trees and rock walls. It's interesting to see the different perspective. It would be good for parents to read both books together so they could talk about the different experiences.

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## **Elizabeth Kennedy says**

This is perfect to read with Sam the Minuteman by the same author. It shares all the same great qualities as the story told from the American boy's perspective only this time from the British perspective: interesting story and illustrations, appeal to young boys, and a great way to get kids interested in history.

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### **Xiaoxiao Zhu says**

It's a pretty suitable picture book for children to learn more about American history with someone's experience. So it really is a perfect historical fiction for kids to experience the real scene in 1776. Actually this fiction mainly talks about George who is a drummer with the King's Soldiers in Boston in 1776. Unfortunately, the people of Boston don't like the soldiers, so they don't like George, which makes him unhappy. One day, George is fulfill his assignment, and he and Fred are there just as the first shoot of American Revolution are fired.

This book's colors are bright and illustrations are very vivid. And these must attract a lot of children's eyes and kids must find its value after reading it. However, someone must say history always has two sides and who knows which is the truth. But for children, what they need to do is not only to learn about history but also to study how to develop the United States.

What I mostly appreciate in this book is its plot, because it makes the scene more real behind my eyes.

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### **Shannon D. says**

The beginning of George the Drummer Boy starts by telling the reader about George, who was a drummer boy in the King's army. George was in Boston at the time, which was owned by England. The people in Boston were not friendly towards the King's men. Even though the people of Boston were mean, George still tried to be friendly with them. The King's men were planning a surprise attack on the people, and George's company was one of two that was chosen to carry out the attack. The book talks about what the men did to prepare for the attack and how the men started the attack. George is with his friend Fred, and while they were coming onto shore, they saw two lights. After that, they saw a rider go by. George and Fred both figure that the army has been found out and that the people were ready to fight back. The English Army tried to get the crowd of people to break up but they wouldn't, so the Army began to get ready for a fight. A shot was fired, and then the battle was on. George noticed that more and more men kept coming to defend their city. George and Fred decided to flee, but while they were running away, Fred gets shot in the arm. At the end of the book, the author tells us that the Revolutionary War had just begun.

This book is aimed at children in grades two through fourth. The concepts that are introduced to the reader is kind of mature in the sense that there is mention of war and of people being shot and picked off. The art medium that is used may be pencil or colored pencil. The pictures are somewhat blurry and the colors are not very bright. This book would be recommended to children that are interested in history, but also those that are interested in war and what people went through during war times.

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### **Cristina Ortega says**

George The Drummer Boy written by Nathaniel Benchley and illustrated by Don Bolognese follows the story of a drummer boy for the British World War One. The story talk about the start of World War One from a british soldier's perspective, this is a great children's book for elementary school teachers to read to their students while teaching them about how America became Independent it offers a lot of fact in a fun way because it uses George the drummer boy to appeal to young children. The Illustrations are very realistic and

help characterize the story and bring it to life.

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### **Heather says**

This was a fantastic little book. You learn about the battles of Concord and Lexington (the beginning of the Revolution) from the perspective of an English drummer boy. For the shortness of the book it had a lot of information and was the perfect introduction for younger kids. This also led to a good discussion on 'good guys' and 'bad guys' and how sometimes it's just people on different sides.

The illustrations were a bit weird, but oh well.

While this is not a chapter book, the vocab and such makes it for more advanced beginners, than new beginners.

This was a pleasant surprise. I'm glad we read it. Afterwards we reenacted the battles using our trains. They enjoyed it so much it went on for hours.

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### **Luisa Knight says**

It's written from the perspective of the British and follows George, a drummer boy, who doesn't understand much of what's going on and doesn't want to be in a battle. He just wants to get back safely to Boston.

At the end of the book the author notes: "Just as it takes two sides to make a war, so there must be two stories for every battle." If that was the author's entire reason for writing this story I'm afraid it was missed, as I feel like the character and the story should have presented a stronger and more accurate viewpoint then.

Reading Level: 2nd - 4th grades

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### **Lisa Hartmann says**

George the Drummer Boy by Nathaniel Benchley is a historical fiction book. It is for grades 2-4. This wasn't one of my favorites. I think mostly because it is about fighting. the story is a view of two battle, Lexington and Concord. It is a view from the British side. The drummer boy George is learning about war and how to be apart of it. He doesn't understand that the people in Boston were not happy about the King's men but he still wanted to be friendly with them. There are very simple drawing in the book and the only colors used are red,white, blue and black.

