



I Am Harriet Tubman

Brad Meltzer , Christopher Eliopoulos (Illustrations)

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Harriet Tubman's heroic and pivotal role in the fight against slavery is the subject of the fourteenth picture book in this *New York Times* bestselling biography series

This friendly, fun biography series focuses on the traits that made our heroes great--the traits that kids can aspire to in order to live heroically themselves. Each book tells the story of one of America's icons in a lively, conversational way that works well for the youngest nonfiction readers and that always includes the hero's childhood influences. At the back are an excellent timeline and photos. This volume focuses on Harriet Tubman's brave heroism as part of the movement to abolish slavery. As one of the key players in the Underground Railroad, she helped enslaved African Americans escape and find freedom.

I Am Harriet Tubman Details

Date : Published January 16th 2018 by Dial Books

ISBN : 9780735228719

Author : Brad Meltzer , Christopher Eliopoulos (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Biography, Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction, History

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From Reader Review I Am Harriet Tubman for online ebook

Asho says

S picked this book out from his Scholastic book order this month. He has been interested in Harriet Tubman ever since he visited the Harriet Tubman National Monument on the eastern shore last summer, and his interest was piqued again after a Black History Month presentation at school recently.

I liked this book quite a bit overall. I think the description of Tubman's early life as a slave is effective, in that it doesn't sugarcoat it or attempt to make it palatable for children, yet it's not so frightening as to make me feel like I needed to censor descriptions or storylines for my 6-year-old. The story covers Tubman's childhood, her heroism as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and also her activist work as an older woman. In general it does a good job of condensing a lot of history into a manageable read. It definitely held my 1st grader's attention. L (age 4) wasn't as engaged, but I wouldn't expect her to be at this age because she's not the target audience. F listened in as well, although of course it's all over her head at this point.

My one complaint about this book is that Harriet Tubman is depicted as a child in all of the illustrations. The drawing of her character never changes, even when she's supposed to be an old lady. When she's an adult in the story the other adults all tower over her. Halfway through the story S asked why she still looked like that. I told him, "I think it's because you're supposed to find her more relatable if she looks like a kid," and he said, "Ah, okay," and accepted that answer. Also, there were a couple of spots where text was written in a speech bubble but seemed that it wasn't the character talking and should in fact have been written as narration. That's a minor quibble, though.

This makes a good introduction to Harriet Tubman and the concept of slavery. I would be curious to see what other books in this series are like.

Jasmine from How Useful It Is says

I am Harriet Tubman – Review & Blog Tour

About: I am Harriet Tubman is a children's non-fiction picture book written by Brad Meltzer and illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos. It was published on 1/16/18 by Dial Books, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, hardcover, 40 pages. The genres are juvenile non-fiction, biography, and picture books. This book is intended for readers ages 5 to 8 and grades K to 3.

My Experience: I started reading I am Harriet Tubman on 2/3/18 as a story time for my 6 year-old son and we finished it that same day. This book is fantastic! I love introducing my son history, especially an important topic as someone taking action to make a difference. My son and I like the comic strips because it shows history in an interactive way. It feels real when it's happening in front of you. I like Harriet illustrated as a little girl because kids can easily relate themselves to her, though her short hair makes my son think of her as a boy. I like that the author brings in the close relationships Harriet has with her mom and dad through stories and teachings.

In this book, readers will follow Harriet Tubman as she introduce herself and the concept of slavery. She talks in the first person point of view about how she and her family have been enslaved and about being born with little and not having a choice. There are comics style of conversation to show communications about how slaves are being bought and sold and how families are being separated through human transactions. The comics also shows the brutal ways the slaves are being treated by their masters. As the story move forward,

Harriet express her feelings of dislike toward slavery. She made her first escape using the underground railroad to find freedom. After her success with finding freedom, she went back to rescue her families and friends. In the end, her positive actions are recognized by erecting statues and naming schools and parks after her.

This book is very well written. I like the positive encouragement at the end of the book about making hard decisions. I like the timeline of Harriet Tubman's life. I love that my son get to see her real picture after the read. I like that the author added in the definition for the underground railroad and what being enslaved means. This book is great because it brings upon an important history topic and made it easier for kids to read and understand. Slavery is sad and it brings tears to my eyes as I read this story, but I am grateful that my son can see that changes can happen when someone take actions. This book is excellent and I highly recommend everyone to read it!

Pro: illustrations, Harriet Tubman, comic strips, underground railroad definition, background on slavery, taking action

Con: none

I rate it 5 stars!

***Disclaimer: Many thanks to the author Brad Meltzer and publisher Penguin Young Readers for the opportunity to read and review. I appreciate the invitation to host a blog tour for this book! Please be assured that my opinions are honest.

xoxo,

Jasmine at www.howusefulitis.wordpress.com for more details

Earl says

We received an oversized promotional copy of this book for the store and, it seemed fitting, because Harriet Tubman was such a larger than life person that people should know about. And, that's why I'm so happy that the Ordinary People Change the World series exists. They are a great way for kids to meet who we consider heroes but were just like them. It's also a great way to discuss what makes a hero a hero and what skills we can nurture in ourselves that can make us extraordinary.

Steph says

Beautiful. Definitely a few parts of the story that would need major discussion because of how violent her life was, but really well done.

This author and illustrator pair is just incredible.

Nathan Albright says

As someone who has read a lot of books aimed at children by the author, it is nice when the author switches up his usual behaviors and does something different, although one wonders why he did this in this case in particular. Most of the time the author does not focus on the old age of someone, but here the author makes it clear to comment on the activities that Harriet Tubman did well into her 90's, including feminist activism. One gets the unsettling feeling that had the subject not been a lifelong political activist that she would not have her life focused on, since the author has an unhealthy appreciation for activism that does not suit the future well-being of children. Likewise, the author here uses a biblical story to point out the relationship between the Old Testament and freedom, but one gets the feeling that the author only points out this religious matter in order to support a leftist political interpretation of religion and history. If the author had talked about the old-age behavior of other subjects or mentioned religion in a way that was not connected to a political agenda, it would be easier to appreciate such elements here.

This particular book gives a fair amount of vividness in discussing the life of black slaves in Maryland society, where Tubman grew up not far away from the free state of Pennsylvania. Facing the threat of being sold downriver after having grown up in slavery, she escaped and then managed to help others escape. The writer clearly relishes his subject here, going into detail about what it was like to be a conductor of the underground railroad, talking about the author's head injury and painting possible illness as prophetic dreaming, and even talking about the spy work Tubman did during the Civil War thanks to her experience. If some of the books in this series are pretty bland, this one has a great deal of verve, in part due to the fact that the author gets to check off so many of his own interests as a writer, including praising activism, talking about the evils of the past, especially insofar as they relate to the South, and talking about spies as well as political agitation. The reader can really tell that this particular life is one that the author appreciates a great deal in its complexity and activity.

Nevertheless, even here the author manages not to include some very pertinent information. Despite being far more complete than most of the books in the series, which leave huge gaps in the life of the people being discussed, in this book the main gap is one that relates to the safety of blacks in the North. As a resident of New York (by no means the most racially tolerant of Northern cities, even in those days), the author probably does not want to discuss the role of the Fugitive Slave Law, which leads the author to be inconsistent when writing about the supposed safety of Tubman and her family and those others she helped free in Pennsylvania and in the fact that most of her family later settled in Canada. To be sure, the author could have explained this, but to do so would have explicitly admitted that the United States passed evil laws, and that would have not played into his political agenda. In a book like this, you can be sure that whatever is mentioned and whatever is not mentioned has a lot to do with the agenda of the author, which happens to be an agenda I do not find myself feeling very positive towards.

Jj says

This was an interesting and engaging biography for kids about Harriet Tubman. There was a good balance of story and information: the narrative nonfiction here works well in the balance between typed text and illustrations with comics-style scenes where the story plays out with dialogue/speech bubbles. I have not read other entries in this series (Ordinary People Who Changed the World), but based on this one I would like to. The thing that struck me as odd throughout was how the lead subject throughout is portrayed in the same shape, size, and style--which appears to make this person look like a child. I think this might be done to

make the person/character relatable to kids, but it also creates the strange effect of making the person look very small and young compared with the adults in the book even in scenes where that person **IS** an adult.

Thanks to the publisher (Penguin Young Readers Group) for providing a review copy.

Wolfgang says

It's really good.

I think she is really brave.

Is am happy that I read this book.

Mrs.Melaugh Melaugh says

In first person voice, Harriet Tubman explains to readers the evils she and others experienced as slaves. Overcoming steep odds, Tubman escaped to freedom in the North. Then, incredibly, she returned thirteen times to free nearly seventy family and friends with the help of the Underground Railroad. Tubman's exploits did not end with her role leading slaves to freedom; she also served as a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War and campaigned for women to have the right to vote. Despite the harsh subject, the tone is lightened through the use of cartoony dialog bubbles. I did find the decision to portray Tubman as a child even as she grows up and grows old to be disconcerting. I suspect that kids will either love it because it makes Tubman seem more like them or be confused by it. The book ends by encouraging readers to follow in Tubman's footsteps by doing the right thing even when it is hard, provides photos and a timeline of Tubman's life, and provides a short list of sources.

Suzie says

Category: Life stories

Awards: N/A

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Summary: I am Harriet Tubman is a biography about the heroic actions and life of Harriet Tubman. It discusses her early life in slavery and her escape. How she found a way to go back to Maryland and then help other escape and spent her life dedicated and in service to others.

Review: This is a great book for a bit older children. It has dark photos but they illustrate the mood of the time period Harriet lived in. It's informational in a kid friendly way to explain historical events.

Activities:

1. <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/l...>
 2. Have the students make a Timeline with the events of Harriet Tubman's life
-

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

Harriet Tubman is a woman who did extraordinary things. Her story is one that needs to be read, and taught. She's a true example of courage. She over came horrendous things, and did some of the most extraordinary

things. She changed the world in which she was apart of, even if no one else thought it was possible. She's proof that one person can and does make a difference. She never gave up, and in doing something so extraordinary, she saved countless people.

Like the other books in this series, this is another incredible story that should be included in libraries, whether at home or school. Young readers will fall in love with history, and discover heroes and heroines who have done some really extraordinary things. This is one book I highly recommend picking up!

FULL REVIEW <https://mundiekids.blogspot.com/2018/...>

Kelsey Rice says

This story is about Harriet Tubman. She helped slaves run to freedom and away from their owners. She helped slaves escape on the underground railroad for 13 years. She helped 70 slaves escape. Harriet Tubman fought to end slavery. I thought this book was so neat. The author gave the reader a lot of information in such a short book. I enjoyed it and learned more about Harriet Tubman from this book. I think this book could be used in the classroom to show determination and going after what you believe is right. I think there are several lessons you could learn from Harriet Tubman. Obviously, it could also be used for talking about her.

Bea Charmed says

I found the text to be engaging and interesting, and not at all condescending. The artwork was a bit dark for my tastes but it's not so dark that it interfered with the story. There are nice little touches on the details, and it helped the text flow. It's informative without being wordy though it's definitely not for toddlers or younger. It's light on personal details and heavy on her accomplishments. Nevertheless, I learned as I read and that made me happy. There's a timeline of major events in her life at the back and a small bibliography of books that Meltzer that used for pursuing a deeper understanding of Ms. Tubman. I really liked how he handled the topic of slavery; I thought he was respectful and honest. He didn't sugarcoat it but neither was he graphic. For instance, there are references to beatings and whippings, we see a whip, but we don't see the whippings, though there are some depictions of violence. If I were still teaching and I was teaching pre-K or older, I'd have the book in my classroom. For children kindergarten age on up to maybe 8 years, depending on the child. I would love to read more in the series.

I received a copy from the publisher for review.

Alicia says

With more dialogue than some of the others in the series, this biography of Harriet Tubman encapsulates everything strong, powerful, and heroic about her. Discussing her early life in slavery and her escape, she found a way to go back to Maryland and then help others escape and spent her life dedicated and in service to others, even when she had nothing herself.

Inspiring, just as the series is dedicated to showcasing.

KC says

The Ordinary People Change the World series-Harriet Tubman and her life during slavery and her role with the underground railroad- great graphic novel like panels.

Sylvester says

3* art

3* story

I'm glad these books are out there, it gives us parents an opportunity to introduce real people from history to our kids - at the same time, it's difficult to write something like this for children. But as an introduction, it was good. There was a line I found very awkward - something like " I will follow Harriet Tubman." I think I know what the author meant, but it came out weird.
