



Grover Cleveland, Again!: A Treasury of American Presidents

Ken Burns , Gerald Kelley (Illustrations)

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A gorgeous collection of American presidents filled with fun facts and sparkling with personality, from nonfiction master Ken Burns.

This special treasury from America's beloved documentarian Ken Burns brings the presidents to life for our nation's children. Each president is given a lushly illustrated spread with curated stories and information to give readers of all ages a comprehensive view of the varied and fascinating characters who have led our nation (with the exception of Grover Cleveland--the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms--who gets two spreads!). A must-have for Ken's many fans, classrooms, and anyone who wishes to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for our country.

Grover Cleveland, Again!: A Treasury of American Presidents Details

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Author : Ken Burns , Gerald Kelley (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Grover Cleveland, Again!: A Treasury of American Presidents for online ebook

Kelly says

My 11 year old loves reading about the presidents. What I like about this book is that each president has a brief summary about them and what they did as president, but it also talks about what the country was like during their presidency and connects from page to page so it reads like a story.

Amy Lafleur Meyers says

I couldn't wait to read this book because it's a children's book written by Ken Burns (!), renowned historian and mind behind many PBS historical documentaries. Each of the forty-two presidents (and yes Grover Cleveland gets 2 spreads) gets a two-page spread with a background illustration from an interesting or important time from that president's life and a notable quote from the president. There's a sidebar with the fast facts of the president with the official presidential portrait of each, birth/death dates and places, family members (including siblings and children), political party, nickname, other facts, and even pets! One of the most exciting parts though are the mini sidebars with fun facts and sometimes debunking popular stories about the president. One of my favorites was learning that Andrew Jackson was a practical joker who liked to hide people's outhouses. Along the way, Burns emphasizes that anyone born in the US can be president, no matter what their challenges may be. In the back of the book is a list of selected presidential birthplaces, libraries, museum, and historic sites as well as a glossary. Ken Burns has a knack for telling a story, even in a way that's clear and interesting for children. Fun and exciting introduction to the presidents! Note: Don't skip Ken Burns's note at the beginning for the reason behind the title of this book.

Dierdre says

I thought this book was a fantastic introduction to the US presidents! Each president has a two page spread with a few paragraphs about their presidency, a couple blurbs about things not necessarily mentioned in the paragraphs, a quote, and a sidebar with facts such as DOB, term, VP, siblings, pets, etc. along with their official presidential portrait. The illustrations were wonderful. As an adult, I learned a few new things about some presidents and it made me want to read more in depth biographies of some of these men. I have no complaints about this book, but one thing I would add if he makes a new edition, is where the president attended college, if he did.

Jim Blessing says

I signed up to get this book as I thought it was a book about the Grover Cleveland presidency written by Ken Burns (the PBS documentary film maker). When I picked it up at the library, I discovered it actually was a children's book. It was quick read and nicely illustrated book of the Presidents.

Brett says

I would have read this book until it came apart in my hands if it had come out the year I turned six. Fun, fact-filled, lovely illustrations. Heck, it was fun to read as an adult!

Abraham Ray says

Great children's book about the presidents!

Mary says

Great title, and story behind the creation of the book by Burns.

Appealing brief bios of presidents that I would think would really appeal to kids.

Amy Pickett says

This is a well-written (it's Ken Burns, after all!), appealing book about all of our presidents up through #44, "No Drama Obama." It's fun to page through, useful for getting facts about a particular president, and especially informative when read from cover to cover. Illustrations, presidential portraits, and iconic quotes accompany each presidential profile. Highly recommended!

Christina says

Fun look at all 44 previous American Presidents, in terrific mini-biographical sketches that focus on them as "people" not so much as political leaders. Brief facts are given in callouts, family stories, and personal anecdotes by author Ken Burns (of PBS documentary fame) that connect him and his family to some of the Presidents. I love that the title comes from his own kids, when they would recite all the names of the Presidents, in order of when they held office, and get to say Grover Cleveland twice since he had nonconsecutive terms. The illustrations are lovely two-page spread watercolors, showing a key scene in the President's life, or with his family, or a historical event during his term. Also reproduced in full color are all of their official portraits. The text is written in a folksy, simple, informal style that makes it easy and entertaining to read. Facts include "Look For Him..." pointers: places where kids today can find reminders of each President, such as on a particular currency, or at the Hoover Dam, for example. Has a nice glossary and a list of Presidential sites to visit, but no sources given. Mentions in acknowledgments that the text is based on thumbnail biographies written by a historian, but that's it for sources.

Pam Oconnor says

Great book! Full of interesting facts. Will be wonderful for young readers, but is a great read for adults as

well.

Kurt says

My daughter read this to me and she loved every minute.

Donalyn says

Full of interesting facts, but biased in voice and perspective. Too many exclamation points. Seem to talk down to kids.

Brianna Westervelt says

Ken Burns, Children's Author

Ken Burns the Filmmaker is never far away from Ken Burns the Author and History Buff. However, anyone who picks up this richly illustrated "Treasury of American Presidents" thinking it will have the depth of one of his PBS epics will be sorely disappointed. In the brief chapter (they are all brief) about our 16th president, Burns writes that he hopes readers will someday "take the time to learn as much about [Lincoln] as [they] can, because his life and his words tell us so much about what makes this country special." Meaning, perhaps, that this treasury of presidents is not at all comprehensive because there is so much more to each presidency, president, and man (they are all men) than could be included in this book.

Eight facts I learned about five of our presidents:

- Abigail Adams urged her husband, John Adams, to give women equal status in the Declaration of Independence. Therefore, the document would have read: "all men and women are created equal." What a difference that would have made in the course of history...
- John Adams also had a dog named Satan. What does that say about the dog??
- Andrew Jackson was once pictured on the Confederate \$1000 bill.
- During James K. Polk's presidency, the United States almost had a border war with Canada. CANADA!
- Polk is known for keeping all his campaign promises. In this election year, I'll just leave that factoid here.
- For Lincoln, fighting the Civil War was just as much about keeping the country together.
- Eleanor Roosevelt was America's first representative to the United Nations.
- Ken Burns is President Lincoln's fourth cousin!

Gerald Kelley's illustrations are beautifully rendered, giving readers unique glimpses into these different presidencies. His cover illustration is especially striking as FDR, Lincoln, Cleveland, Washington, and Obama all laugh and converse with one another as they stand around the Oval Office.

In each layout, Burns indicates where readers can look for these famous faces out in the world in the "Look for Him!" section, such as FDR's face on the dime or Lincoln's fixed upon Mount Rushmore. The author also lists various facts about each president, such as birth, dates of presidency, nicknames, family, and even pets. However, my favorite aspects of the layout were quotes by each president, set under their names in a faint, almost invisible ink. An excellent quote by John Adams that I felt especially intriguing: "Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

(Originally appeared on the Q Review page of quindaropress.com in July 2016.)

Alice says

I love non-fiction. I was afraid this would be just another book about Presidents, a few pictures quotes etc, but it really isn't all the typical.

It lists siblings names (why not parents not sure) children's name and the names of pets. That is what I actually like the most about it was the bio blurb on the side. I also like that it took you outside of the book. Like it said something like "look at the inauguration of Lyndon Johnson soon after JFK was killed. SO I googled it... wow! Also he reference Gerald Ford ungraceful"ness" and told you to hit YouTube to see some examples.

That is what a good non fiction book does, gets you interested to branch out away from the book to learn more.

What I also like about it is that it isn't written like "this year this president did this blah blah" Like a statement of fact. It is told more as if the author is sitting in the room telling you how he thinks and feels about the president, based on his study and research. A little bit of opinion and personal insight. For example he talks about how we went home for lunch from school and heard about JFK being assassinated!

I would like to nominate this for a beehive book award if not for 2018, 2019 lots of good data!

Algona Public says

I found that Grover Cleveland Again was an excellent and interesting YNF book. It provides all kinds of interesting facts about all of our presidents from George Washington to President Barack Obama.

Chris
