



Manjhi Moves a Mountain

Nancy Churnin , Danny Popovici (illustrator)

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Dashrath Manjhi used a hammer and chisel, grit, determination, and twenty years to carve a path through the mountain separating his poor village from the nearby village with schools, markets, and a hospital. Manjhi Moves a Mountain shows how everyone can make a difference if their heart is big enough.

Manjhi Moves a Mountain Details

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From Reader Review Manjhi Moves a Mountain for online ebook

Earl says

I love stories like this where a situation is questioned and a solution is presented and a new better life is created for lots of people. And the fact that this is based on a true story makes it more incredible. Even after reading the author's note at the end, I want to read more about Dashrath Manjhi and the circumstances of his monumental act.

Edward Sullivan says

The remarkable true story of Dashrath Manjhi who spent twenty years chiseling away at a mountain to carve a path that would connect his poor village with another with schools, markets, and a hospital. An inspiring story of patience, persistence, and perseverance.

Juliana Lee says

True story about a man who lived in a poor village on one side of a mountain which had a prosperous village on the other side. It was difficult to get to schools, shops, and hospitals so the poor village became poorer. Standing at the top of the mountain Manjhi could see both sides clearly and wondered how he could help. Then he began a 22 year task of chipping away at the mountain one inch at a time. When the people saw that what he was doing was actually helping, they also chipped in to help open a pass between the two villages. Manjhi turned a 40 mile walk to only a 9 mile walk with his pass. Then not only could his people go to the other side easily, the other side could come to them as well.

Gary Anderson says

“Moving mountains” is usually a hyperbolic metaphor for accomplishing seemingly impossible tasks. In the nonfiction picture book *Manjhi Moves a Mountain*, a dedicated laborer literally moves a mountain to connect two villages. Manjhi’s poor village “in the heart of India” is separated from a more prosperous village by a mountain. Manjhi throws a stone in frustration. Inspired by seeing a dust crumble from the stone, Manjhi begins to chip away at the mountain with his hammer and chisel. At first, other villagers laugh at his folly, but eventually they begin to respect his dedication. Twenty-two years later, Manjhi has moved the mountain, and the two villages are united.

This beautifully designed book has a mythical feel, but Manjhi’s story takes place in the twentieth century. Nancy Churnin wisely refrains from belaboring Manjhi’s heroism as she simply tells what happens and heroism emerges from that description. Danny Popovici’s appealing illustrations reward readers who linger on each spread as details are embedded in the depth perspective of each picture. The book begins and closes with different endpapers that effectively convey the power of Manjhi’s accomplishment.

Although it actually happened, Manjhi’s accomplishment is something of a metaphor after all, as the back matter challenges readers to consider what mountains they can move to improve their communities, and provides links to resources for learning about what others are doing, and how readers can share their own

experiences.

Sharon says

It was about two years ago that I happened across the true story of Dashrath Manjhi who chipped away at a mountain for more than 20 years to finally make a path connecting his village to not just the next village, but also to doctors, a school, water and jobs.

The book does not mention how Manjhi started the quest because the mountain stood between his wife and the medical care she needed. She died many years before he finished but he endured through much ridicule, believing that his vision was possible. His work changed a 34 mile treacherous trek over a mountain into a much more manageable 9 mile walk along a safe road.

I am amazed at Dashrath Manjhi's dedication, determination and endurance each and every time I think of him and I think that having a children's book that tells his story is an excellent thing.

Mary Lee says

True story of a man who exemplifies perseverance, carving a road through a mountain one chisel swing at a time.

Jana says

When we hear of the kind of faith that can move mountains, the story of Dashrath Manjhi is a terrific example. This picture book biography is about a man in India who was fed up with having to climb over a treacherous mountain everyday in order to work on the other side. Manjhi's side of the mountain was poor and the other side had plentiful food and resources. Manjhi decided that he would dig a road through the mountain, creating a passage that would allow folks access to the other side. With just a hammer and a chisel, he took 22 years to accomplish his dream. This is a great story of faith and perseverance; definitely a great book to help develop a growth mindset.

Linda says

Based on the true story of Dashrath Manjhi's idea that turned into a quest and a love story, too, because he saw a need to connect his poor village to the more prosperous one "over" the mountain. He sold his three goats to trade for a hammer and a chisel and began. It took 22 years, but he did it, a road to get to the other side was made, and now it was only 9 miles to get better health care, to get to school, to shop for things not available in his small village. Inspiring, and beautifully shown in Danny Popovici's gorgeous illustrations.

Margaux says

I picked this book up thinking it was a fable from India. It is, in fact, the biography of a real man who spent 22 years of his life literally moving a mountain. When he realized that the only thing keeping his village and it's inhabitants from a better life was the mountain that separated it from the other towns, he decided things needed to change. Manjhi worked the fields by day and spent all of his free time chiseling away, little by little {by hand, I might add} chipping away at the giant land mass. Eventually people stopped mocking him and began marveling at this huge accomplishment. They could envision his dream, too.

Kids will see this true story as an inspiration. In a sense, it is a parable about keeping to your goals even in the face of truly tough adversity. A very cool book with vibrant illustrations.

Barbara says

Oh, what we can learn from this true story of true grit! While others in his village of Gehlaur, India, simply bemoaned the fact that a mountain separated them from Bihar, a much larger town with modern conveniences, Dashrath Manjhi decided that he would take action. If there were a road through the mountain, he decided, then villagers could save a great deal of time when traveling. Thus, he tackled the impossible and tried to move a mountain. Using a chisel and a hammer, he blasted away at that mountain for 22 years. And slowly but steadily, he opened a space through which he and others could pass. Young readers--and adults--can draw inspiration for making their own changes through this determined man's example. The story and watercolor illustrations pay tribute to the impact one person can have on the world around him/her. And there's even a website--nancychurnin.com--intended to acknowledge the ways youngsters can do the same and where young readers can submit stories about what they're doing to move the mountains in their lives.

Lynn says

This story reads like a legend but is about a real event and a real person. Inspiring and astonishing story of persistence and selfless dedication. Bright and appealing illustrations complete an excellent book.

Terrific book for classrooms as it is can be used in so many ways.

[Shai] Bibliophage says

The tale of Manjhi Moves a Mountain is an inspiration for everyone to never give up on achieving what you dream. Even if it takes several years before you were able to achieve it, never lose hope and just continue what you're doing.

I was astonished that this children's story book is based from the true story of the real Manjhi, or Dashrath Manjhi in real life. The storytelling written by Nancy Churnin and the illustrations drawn by Danny Popovici will delight anyone who read this amazing book.

Thanks to Creston Books and Ingram Publisher Services for the reading copy of this.

Stephanie Bange says

Churnin is building an oeuvre of picture book biographies about little-known, diverse people from history who have had an immense impact on their field of work or environment. The third is about Dashrath Manjhi who spent 22 years manually chipping away at a mountain in India that separated his poor village to a wealthier one. What once was a 34-mile hike from one village to the other became a 9- mile walk. At first a curiosity, others in the village began supporting him by chipping away more of the mountain while he was resting and by bringing him food and supplies to complete his task. Churnin tells the story as simply as Manjhi lived -- no frills needed for this simple man. It is easy to chant "Hold. Aim. Swing." as Manjhi works his way through the mountain in this story. Danny Popovici's illustrations are colorful, expressive and lively, reflecting life as Manjhi might have lived it. A great choice to illustrate the rewards of sticking to a task to see its completion. The rewards are, indeed, great.

Karen Gedeon says

Manjhi Moves a Mountain – written by Nancy Churnin, illustrations by Danny Popovici – Based on the true story of Dashrath Manjhi who believed in a better life for the people in his village, Manjhi Moves a Mountain takes readers through his realization that only a mountain stood in the way of a better life. While most people would accept this as fact, Manjhi looked for improvement. After 22 years of digging, he succeeded in cutting a road through the mountain. Rich desert colors in orange, yellow and pale browns fill attractive illustrations depicting Manjhi's poverty stricken town combined with a direct retelling of the story, readers feel Manjhi's need to overcome the obstacle. Included are an author's note giving more information on Manjhi's story along with some ways to "Move Your Own Mountain." Good for grades 2+ as the message becomes more personal with older readers.

Nicole says

Wow! Such a simple story (the title says it all) contains such an extraordinary feat fueled by love and hope, that I was moved to tears!
