



The Fourth of July Story

Alice Dalgliesh , Marie Nonnast (Illustrator)

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What happened on the Fourth of July long before there were fireworks and parades? Alice Dalgliesh takes young readers back to revolutionary times, back to the colonists' desire for freedom and the creation of the Declaration of Independence. Simple text captures the excitement of the era, telling how word of Independence travelled up and down the thirteen colonies, touching the lives of everyday people throughout the land. Like all of Alice Dalgliesh's work, "The Fourth of July Story" remains an American classic.

The Fourth of July Story Details

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Author : Alice Dalgliesh , Marie Nonnast (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Fourth of July Story for online ebook

Liz says

This book is aptly named; it is indeed a story. The basic elements are true. Flourishes are added to make the story more accessible for a young child. Those flourishes work well. They add excitement and a sense of pride to the story.

The book starts with the Liberty Bell ringing on the very first Fourth of July. It starts by addressing the reasons colonists wanted to be free from the British, and how the tension between England and the colonists mounted. Next we see Thomas Jefferson writing the Declaration of Independence, followed by spreading the news about the Declaration of Independence, and then the victory of the Americans over the British. All of this is told by three time Newberry Honor Winner Alice Dalgliesh, a seasoned storyteller with a rich voice and a keen eye for the elements of history that must be told if the story is to impart the awe of the founding of a nation.

Dalgliesh also adds scenes that might have happened. For example a rider with the Declaration of Independence in his saddle bag, stops to talk with a farmer of German ancestry about the Declaration. The farmer continues thinking about what it means to live in a free country as the rider moves on through the countryside.

The major figures of independence and the revolution have a place in the story: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington. There's a nice anecdote about a very young Andrew Jackson reading the Declaration of Independence to his neighbors.

"The Fourth of July Story" was originally published two years before I was born. The illustrations look like the illustrations in many of the picture books, novels and textbooks I grew up with. They bring a simple view of the revolutionary time alive. The artist is not trying hard for reality. The last picture in the book makes this particularly clear. At the end of the war, Washington is reviewing his troops. Almost all the troops are wearing uniforms that look spotless. My understanding is that soldiers were lucky to have any part of their uniforms left after the war.

"The Fourth of July Story" is great choice for reading on the 4th of July, or anytime the subject of the American Revolution comes up with young children.

Gigi says

A good, basic overview of The Revolution aimed at younger kids.

Heather says

This was a great book for my 6-yr-old as it summarized the American Revolution easily and held his attention. My older boys (ages 10) were already past this.

It would be good if you only wanted a brief, readable blurb or wanted something for the younger grades (or

for siblings tagging along with their older brothers!)

LaDonna says

Loved it! Such a great way to teach younger kids about our nation's history. I highly recommend it. This will be an annual story in our home from now on.

Karen says

Absolutely wonderful simple story of the 4th of July. Mom rates 5 stars, kids 3 stars..krb 6/30/16

Dolly says

This is a good book for children to explain about the origins of Independence Day for the United States. It's a simplified version that doesn't belabor the dates or names, but does explain some of the most important details. We borrowed this book to read closer to the actual holiday, but just read it today (at least it's still July!) We enjoyed reading this book together.

Jenny says

The girls enjoyed this book about the birthday of our country. It was very informative and easy for them to understand.

Alice Ball says

Alice Dalgliesh's prose is clear and simplified. It could be understood and absorbed as young as second grade. I wouldn't use it in a classroom, but would use it as a parent in combination with other texts that offer a more diverse perspective on the day.

Sarah says

This was a perfect book for my 6-year-old son's attention span. I love the artwork which reminds me of some of the 1970s bicentennial artwork, though it was published in the 50s. I like how the book focuses mainly on the Declaration of Independence, but it also talks about the very bare bones basics of the Revolutionary War in a language children will find easy to understand. There are some big vocabulary words, but nothing too intimidating for a parent to explain.

I also liked that the author touched on some of our country's founding fathers like George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson and explained which president they became (1st, 2nd, or 3rd.)

I think my favorite part was where Dalglish tells how it took 2 months for the Declaration of Independence to reach some of the towns in the South. Andrew Jackson was a boy and had been reading since he was 5. At the age of 9 he was asked to read this Declaration to his town and even practiced reading it beforehand so he wouldn't have to sound out the words while he was reading it aloud to everyone. No one knew at the time that he would become our 7th president. What a special, fascinating story to learn about!

The only thing that I didn't like was that the story doesn't seem to flow very well. It kind of jumps around a bit which can be confusing unless you're already familiar with the history.

Overall, a wonderful book about the birth of our country.

midnightfaerie says

A great educational book for your children over the preschool age. My 5 yr old loved it. Copyright from 1956 so a little on the old side, and the pictures are a little old but my son still enjoyed it. We've been doing a lot of history, learning about Washington, and the American Revolution, and this was a wonderful addition to our lesson, recommended through our school. It gave some more interesting facts we hadn't learned yet like John Hancock's signature and the liberty bell that my son really enjoyed. A great addition to any children's library.

John Yelverton says

A very patriotic little book which explains the American War for Independence in a nutshell so your children will understand what the Fourth of July is all about.

Luisa Knight says

This is a great introduction to the history behind America's Independence!

Dalglish does a fabulous job of presenting just enough of the *right* information to keep children from feeling bogged down or bored. Colorful illustrations on almost every spread.

Ages 4-8

#4thofjulybooks

Haley says

This book offers a lot of great facts about independence day and how important it was for our country. This book has so much information embedded on each page that I would definitely use this as a interactive read-aloud that was spread out over multiple days. I also think it would be important to include additional visuals and lessons around this topic so students could fully understand.

momma.hailey says

This is exactly the type of historical story book that I love to read a loud to my children. The length might intimidate some, but it's worth it. Beautiful illustrations make it that much better, although the story stands alone. At first I was surprised it didn't have a higher rating, but then I remembered most people don't want to read long picture books to their children. Sad, but true.

Amy says

Love this! It is a reprint of a book from the 50's. Perfect little overview for a 5-9 year old with lovely vintage artwork. The author's note in the beginning sums it up:

"The story of the birthday of our country is a big story to tell young children. Yet when they begin to ask, 'Why do we have a holiday on the Fourth of July?' they have a right to know. They have a right to know that Independence Day is something more than fireworks and picnics.

In telling the story I have used few names and tried to give only a few clear impressions. I have not indicated, therefore, the exact chronology. Older children may learn that Richard Henry Lee's resolution was voted on July 2nd, the Declaration on July 4th, and that all the states did not sign until August. For younger children it is all 'The Fourth of July.'"
