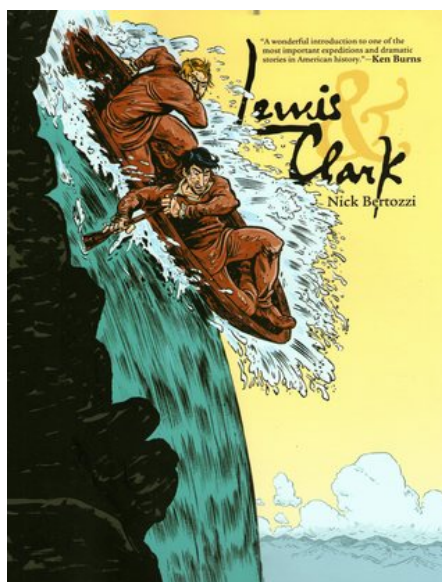




Lewis Clark

Nick Bertozzi

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Two of America's greatest explorers embark on the adventure that made their names—and sealed their fates.

In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis, Missouri, for one of the greatest adventures this nation has ever known. Appointed and funded by President Jefferson himself, and led by a cadre of experts (including the famous Sacajawea), the expedition was considered a success almost before it had begun. From the start, the journey was plagued with illness, bad luck, unfriendly Indians, Lewis's chronic depression, and, to top it all, the shattering surprise of the towering Rocky Mountains and the continental divide. But despite crippling setbacks, overwhelming doubts, and the bare facts of geography itself, Lewis and Clark made it to the Pacific in 1806.

Nick Bertozzi brings the harrowing—and, at times, hilarious—journey to vivid life on the pages of this oversized black-and-white graphic novel. With his passion for history and his knack for characterization, Bertozzi has made an intimate tale of a great American epic.

Lewis Clark Details

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Author : Nick Bertozzi

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Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, History, Comics, Nonfiction, Biography, Historical

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From Reader Review Lewis Clark for online ebook

Kathy says

Captures the struggles of the expedition in a condensed, entertaining manner.

Carrie says

When is the Sacajawea graphic novel coming out, because I would love to see her inner-monologue. Will someone write a mommy superhero series?

Rachael says

The illustrations are wonderful and feature a clever use of horizontal panels. Some of the drawings of vast terrain are breathtaking and readers really get a sense for how treacherous the journey must have been. However, I found the story itself somewhat confusing and I wondered throughout the book how much was true and how much was fictionalized. This could have been a great companion to school curriculum had that been more clear. I also would have liked some narration to give background information on what was going on.

Quinn Rollins says

The story of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery has been told and retold hundreds of times. It's a story worth retelling--the first American expedition to cross the continent, venturing into what was unknown territory, trying to find a convenient-but-nonexistent water route to the Pacific for President Thomas Jefferson. As a history teacher, I'm always looking for new ways to tell stories myself, and in Nick Bertozzi's new graphic novel, I just got another weapon in my arsenal.

Lewis and Clark: The Greatest Adventure of All Time may be forgiven for the hyperbole in the title, because what Bertozzi delivers in this black and white graphic novel/comic book is a retelling of Lewis and Clark that's worthy of Ken Burns or Stephen Ambrose. My favorite account of their trip is Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage*, and it seems that Bertozzi is using that as his primary text to adapt to comic book format. Many of the details, anecdotes and asides are familiar from that work, but also the overall epic feel is similar in tone to Ambrose.

The story takes us from January 1803 through 1834, and follows the lives of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Thomas Jefferson, Sacagawea and others as they intertwine and impact each other. The progression of their journey is familiar: old army buddies Lewis and Clark join up again to fulfill the president's wish to find a water route up the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. Eventually of course, they find out that there isn't one, and that the Rocky Mountains are much much much bigger and more treacherous than they thought. Along the way, they make contact with tribes of Native Americans, exchanging gifts from some, running from others, and inviting many to go back to Washington D.C. to meet the "Great Father" Thomas Jefferson. Sacagawea and her husband agree to accompany the expedition, and she becomes an invaluable member of the team.

To anyone who remembers their history class, that part of their journey should be familiar. What Nick Bertozzi gets so right in this version is the relationships and in particular, the insights into the character of Meriwether Lewis. Plagued by chronic depression, he tries to self-medicate with alcohol, but eventually has to confront that depression out on the frontier. Bertozzi actually draws this depression as a character in the graphic novel--peering out from behind trees, running a few steps behind Lewis in some frames--looking like a cloudy black stick figure that is just waiting to jump on Lewis' back. It's a unique way to show his emotions, and although Lewis runs from him, and wrestles with him, he eventually calls him his friend--familiar and friendly--even as he's being led to his suicide.

Bertozzi's artwork seems crude at first--all black and white, with rough sketches around some lines, but the style grows on you over the course of the book. He's very good at facial expressions, showing the awe, the confusion, the despair that confronts these adventurers at every turn. The mountains, rivers, prairies and new animals they discover along the way are also rendered well, making it clear that Bertozzi's "crude" style is a choice, not a mark of limited ability.

By the end of the book, I was impressed all over again with their journey, with the men (and woman) involved, and with how Bertozzi was able to retell a hundreds-year old story and make it feel fresh and exciting. If you're looking for a new way to tell children or adults about the Greatest Adventure of All Time, Nick Bertozzi's book might be the way to do it.

Calista says

This is a take on the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition. I didn't know that Lewis went crazy at the end of his life and killed himself. He was also made the governor of the new Louisiana territory.

The art is black and white and simple drawings - not my favorite. I didn't relate much to any character. I thought it lacked a character to draw you in. Sacagawea is so famous and she is only mentioned peripherally. I would think she would have been a main character, but then no one really was. I don't feel like the story had much direction. Still, even though it's not told well, I still think it's easier to understand historical events with a story like this or a movie. It makes it more alive.

This is good for any fans of history out there.

Troy Zimmer says

Having read a number of the reviews for this graphic novel, I was surprised to find that many find it confusing—I found it to be a fluid read. Bertozzi does a great job telling an epic historical story with effective black and white art, taking us across America many years ago. I was excited to join Lewis and Clark on their journey and to travel with them through time, land and rivers. Top work!

Sylvester says

Wish the panels could have been bigger, the story would have been easier to follow.

Julia says

In *Lewis & Clark*, Nick Bertozzi relates the adventures of the renowned Lewis and Clark Expedition in graphic novel format, from Thomas Jefferson's initial assignment to Meriwether Lewis in Washington, D.C. and the party's final glimpse of white civilization in St. Louis, to the Pacific Ocean and back again three years later. Their journey, while at its core a scientific endeavor, would also prove invaluable in recording the locations, culture and social codes of the many Native American tribes they encountered and whose lands they traversed.

Lewis and Clark themselves are depicted as refreshingly human -- certainly not the rugged outdoorsmen or supermen one might assume the leaders of such an enterprise must be. Clark is more cautious and rational; Lewis is volatile, emotional and haunted by his own personal demons. The relative success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is kind of amazing seen through 21st-century eyes. Although they encountered their share of hostile situations and bad luck, and were at times low on provisions, it's incredible that more men were not lost (in stark contrast to the Donner Party tragedy 42 years later). Then there is Sacagawea, the legendary Shoshone woman who served as a guide. It's important to remember that, although revered today as a heroine and a symbol of female worth and independence, she was by no means a participant by choice. Her scenes are distressing in their likely accuracy. I'm curious now to read the expedition journals myself.

Rll595ag_thomasjakovlic says

Nick Bertozzi's "Lewis & Clark" starts out with Meriwether Lewis being awakened from his sleepy stupor by none other than President Thomas Jefferson. What ensues afterward is one exciting tale of bravery, foolishness, disease, and pure persistence as Lewis and Clark, and their cadre of 80 men go on an adventure of a lifetime from St. Louis to the Oregon coast. In search of an all Pacific waterway passage, both men must contend with very real and imaginary fears; the elements including huge and nearly impassable waterfalls and rapids on the Missouri River, the Rocky Mountains, extremes in hot and cold temperatures, bartering and communicating with friendly Shoshone and not so friendly Blackfoot Indians, wild animals such as Grizzly bears, and Meriwether Lewis very real and deepening depression. Along the way, we see that Lewis's counsel on this trip Captain William Clark tempers Lewis' wild extremes in moods; in one situation with the Madan Nation, Lewis would have shot the chief for asking for guns, but it is Clark's sage advice that he should bury his pride and seek friendly terms that saves his entire entourage and mission from certain doom. Later further up the Missouri in eastern Montana, Lewis and Clark will come upon the Shoshone Nation and Sacagawea a pregnant and wise tracker who will guide them from the Missouri to the Columbia River and to the Pacific Ocean. Danger from unfriendly's both animal and Indians is never too far from these men's minds, and the idea of completing their three year round trip journey alive is always in question.

Our illustrator and writer for this graphic novel is Nick Bertozzi, and his skillfulness in presenting the intensity and pressure of the various trials is seen on the men's faces and the events. Meriwether Lewis is nearly always drawn with a menacing scowl and dark lines under his eyes. Towards the end of the book Bertozzi represents the mental illness that Lewis is slowly succumbing to in the form of an ever present "shadow" who stalks and talks to him. Lewis will take his life in 1810 via a self inflicted gun wound in a small cabin. Bertozzi's decision to illustrate the graphic novel in black and white adds to clear cut decisive moments that seem to come with every bend of the Missouri and Columbia River. Color would have added dramatic flair to the story, but Bertozzi recognized that stark contrast of black lines on white paper adds to stark choices Lewis and Clark made every day. What is refreshing in this retelling of Lewis & Clark's

expedition to the Pacific is his sheer honesty in depicting the various trials and triumphs. Bertozzi justly notes that both Lewis and Clark had moments of dignity and honor, when talking to the crowds in St. Louis about their intentions (collecting species of flora, fauna, and surveying the land and rivers), and showing their egos and both men's ambitions getting in the way of each other. Violence through engagements with the unfriendly Indians is never too far away, and Lewis and Clark are often seen within the pages conniving and honestly bartering their way towards a interior northwest passage with the Native Americans. What makes this book authentic is not only the genuine depiction of the two men, but the fact that Indians are not these savage monolithic entity. Some Nations are shown as thieves, others as friendly and skillful, and others are less trusting and equally as warring as the Americans. The reader walks away from the graphic novel feeling that although this is only an illustrated account of their journey, that Nick Bertozzi has made some effort to be accountable to the facts and tell this adventurous tale with a eye towards revealing the real story.

This graphic novel would be a great introduction to an American History class. Certainly, the reluctant reader or students in reading recovery would enjoy this vivid and authentic story. Pairing this with the original journal entries of Lewis and Clark to compare narrative factual from fictional accounts by Nick Bertozzi would be a legitimate way to show students the inherent differences between primary and secondary sources. "Lewis & Clark" is suitable reading for grades 8-12. Other books for educators to explore with Social Studies and Language Arts students are "The Journals of Lewis and Clark" by Merriwether Lewis, "Lewis and Clark": the Journey of the Corps of Discovery: an Illustrated History by Dayton Duncan, and "Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes: Nine Indian Writers on the Legacy of the Expedition" by Alvin M. Josephy Jr.

Mandee Seeley says

I'm embarrassed to admit this but I don't really know the Lewis & Clark story. I just moved to Oregon so I felt it necessary to learn. And being in graphic novel format made it much easier to do so. The way it's written made it a little difficult to see which direction the story was going because some pages went from left to right across the whole page instead of one at a time. However, it was a great introduction into the Lewis & Clark world, and it was quick to get through. I'd recommend it to anyone interested in their journey.

Nicola Mansfield says

Reason for Reading: I enjoy Western history.

I've read a few books on Lewis & Clark before (children's books) and read many books on the expansion of the west where the Lewis & Clark story would take up a chapter so I am familiar with this story. This book is recommended for ages 12 and up but it isn't written down to a young audience, adults will enjoy it as much or more. The book of course tells the story of their epic journey from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean, in search of a viable water route. That journey was fraught with accidents, bad luck, aggressive Indians, injuries and setbacks from nature itself. Bertozzi manages to tell a fine introductory tale of this expedition and these adventurers who were full of their success before they had even started.

Bertozzi also brings to life the personalities of Lewis and Clark in a way that I haven't encountered in my previous reading. Captain William Clark is shown as the level headed partner and thus is not the one that stands out. He is always reasoning with Lewis about there plans, calming him down, and putting out the flames of discord with others. He is shown as a quiet, intelligent, reasonable, respectful man who probably kept the expedition from becoming a mess, in more ways than one. Though he was willing to have as much

fun as the next guy and went along easily enough with Lewis' more thrill-seeking adventures. On the other hand, Captain Meriwether Lewis was a man with a volatile temper, quick to anger, and if not for Clark's levelheadedness may have caused some serious trouble on their adventure. Lewis was obsessed with the expedition and finding a water route to the Ocean. When coming first upon a huge waterfall and eventually hitting the Rocky Mountains he took these hits deeply and went into deep depressions, took to drink, and could not be reasoned with. When they finally made it to the Pacific Lewis was not happy as they had not made it entirely be a water route and their stay at the end dragged on because he entered a deep depression. Bertozzi also plays up a story involving Lewis, his reactions and feeling which along with many other factors may have lead to his final act of ending his life.

Done in black and white, which I always think suits historical non-fiction well, the art is kept simple without a lot of background within the frame by frame discussions of characters. Lovely backgrounds are used but when necessary and are never added clutter. The one problem I did have though, was that at times we are supposed to read horizontally across both pages and this was not always made evident. Sometimes it was obviously clear, other times the reading went down one page and started up again at the top of the other and then there were those times you were reading along and realized you should have read horizontally across both pages once you got to the top of the second page. A minor annoyance that happened to me more times than it should have. A good, interesting story, which Bertozzi has written with a fine sense of humour but not exactly a page-turner.

Brian Friesen says

Lewis and Clark at their most physically and mentally vulnerable. A familiar story that is stunningly told, shown, unfolded. Haunting and inspiring. This is history that opens doors and asks questions rather than providing facts and answers. The story begins in the final pages as much as it ends.

Michael says

3.5 stars. Fun, educational, and very well drawn. Nick Bertozzi's a terrific cartoonist, although the fluctuation between two-page spreads and single-page sequences made for a few sequences that I wasn't sure how to read until the second pass through. He does a great job displaying the passage of time and grounding all the scenes in a solid physical past. Some of the scenes, such as various pages of Indian tribes, feel half-thought out. Like Bertozzi wanted to show a side of the Indians that didn't necessarily fit with the expedition's encounters.

Kirsten says

As a Montanan, I know rather a decent amount about Lewis and Clark - so I usually had a fairly good idea what was going on. Without that background, I might have been confused, because it does jump around a bit and is fairly choppy. It's a good thumbnail sketch of the expedition, I suppose - although by choosing to end with Lewis' later suicide, instead of their triumphant return, it ends on a very down and somber note, which seemed a little at odds with the rest. I'm not sure what that added to the story of the *expedition* itself. (Also - not enough Clark, because Clark was awesome.)

Izzy Anders says

Two Graphic Novels: Book # 2

Lewis & Clark by Nick Bertozzi (c) February 15, 2011

Genre: Biography

Target Audience: Upper Primary/Intermediate

Text-to-text: This graphic novel could be incorporated when learning about Lewis and Clark or a classic american history lesson. The panels go into great detail on the trials, adversity, and outcomes that Lewis and Clark encounter on their travels. Like stated above, this text could be paired with a non-fiction informational book on the lives of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, or be a simple story that relates to a journey of adversity. The comic-strip themed pages will immediately grasp the readers attention while informing them of significant information regarding the expedition of two important pioneers.

Text-to-self: I became engaged in the story of Lewis and Clark at a young age. I desperately wanted a newfoundland breed dog and began researching. After some extensive research, I found that Lewis and Clark brought along a newfoundland dog with them on their escapades. Being able to incorporate historical evidence on this, in my opinion, profound animal, became a solid basis for my further begging. Lo and behold, we adopted a newfoundland puppy a few short months later. Being able to read about their pup helps me personally connect with this book, which is why I chose it as one of my graphic novels.

Text-to-world: We can relate this graphic novel to the real world by informing the importance of historical literature. Graphic novels are appealing to children because of the comic-like structure. This particular book is enticing to upper primary and intermediate aged children because of the mature content of Lewis and Clark. This is a unique way to get students excited and engaged about learning. It presents the information in a fun and simple way that will leave student's wanting to continue reading.
