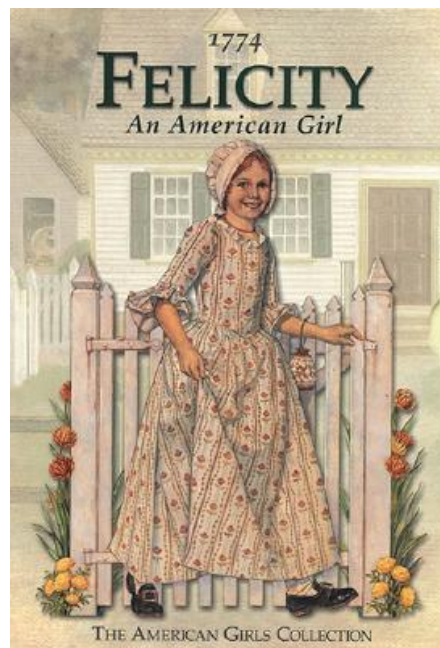




Felicity: An American Girl (The American Girls Collection)

Valerie Tripp

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Felicity: An American Girl (The American Girls Collection) Valerie Tripp

Felicity Merriman is a spunky, spritely girl growing up in Virginia in 1774, just before the Revolutionary War. Felicity's stories tell of the adventures of this spirited girl, who grows impatient doing the "sitting down kinds of things" that colonial girls are expected to do. Felicity much prefers to be outdoors, especially riding horses. In her stories, Felicity learns about responsibility and loyalty -- to her family, her friends, and her new country -- and what it means to be truly free. The perfect way to learn about Felicity is with a complete set of her six books in an attractive slipcase.

Felicity: An American Girl (The American Girls Collection) Details

Date : Published June 1st 1992 by American Girl (first published 1992)

ISBN :

Author : Valerie Tripp

Format : Paperback 412 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Fiction

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From Reader Review Felicity: An American Girl (The American Girls Collection) for online ebook

Taylor says

Felicity Merman is growing up in a time of very fierce loyalty and fiery Independence. Just as America is about to break free from England's rule! Everyone around her, her friends, family, everyone is taking different sides. With her passion and her courage, Felicity must find a way to hold both love and loyalty in her heart. Meet Felicity: it's all about how Felicity tries to get the horse she has always dreamed of from that wretched Jockey Nigh who treats her like dirt. Felicity learns a lesson: it's all about how Felicity learns how to be a proper young lady. In Felicity's surprise, Felicity's mother sadly passes away, but the seamstress surprises her with a beautiful ballgown for the royal ball. In Felicity's day, Penny, Felicity's horse, is going to have a foal, and Jockey Nigh is very ill in jail. Will Felicity save him? You will have to read the book to find out! :D I LOVED this book; I even read it on the car ride to Disneyland; it was so good!

Eileen Seitz says

Title: *Felicity: An American Girl*

Author: Valerie Tripp

Genre: Historical Realistic Fiction

Theme(s): Kids Fiction, Miscellaneous Animals, Mammals

Opening line/sentence: "Felicity Merriman pushed open the door to her father's store and took a deep breath."

Brief Book Summary: Felicity Merriman is a spunky, spirited girl growing up in Virginia in 1774, just before the Revolutionary War. In this story, Felicity learns about responsibility and loyalty -- to her family, her friends, and her new country and what it means to be truly free.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1: Children's Literature

Felicity Merriman will walk into every feisty horse-loving girl's heart. In colonial Williamsburg, girls should stitch a straight seam, sit quietly at lessons, and always defer to the elders, but Felicity's heart is as big as her imagination. When she discovers that Jiggy Nye, the tanner, is mistreating the most beautiful chestnut she has ever seen, she decides to befriend the horse. When Jiggy states publicly that he will give the horse to anyone who will ride her, Felicity both tames and rides her. While Felicity does not win the horse, she does win the horse's heart and, treasuring her beauty and independence, lets her free with the shy apprentice Ben's support. American Girl books may be a marketing mechanism for American Girl dolls and accessories, but this book delightfully introduces readers to the colonial world and one special heroine. Topical and emotionally charged illustrations enhance the story. 2000, Pleasant Company Publications, Ages 8 up.

—Elisabeth Greenberg

Professional Recommendation/Review #2: School Library Journal-- Felicity Merriman lives in Colonial Williamsburg, where her father is a shopkeeper. She rails against the behavior expected of nine-year-old girls, and would rather be helping in her father's store or, better yet, spending her time around horses. She is particularly drawn to Penny, an unbroken, mistreated horse owned by an abusive alcoholic, Jiggy Nye. Felicity visits and ultimately tames Penny, taking literally Nye's statement that anyone who rides the horse can have her. When Jiggy reclaims his horse, Felicity frees her, knowing that this constitutes horse stealing for which the penalty is hanging. But Felicity manages to pull it off without getting caught. This ending leaves a lot of unanswered questions and may be somewhat unsettling for readers who can justifiably question the morality of Felicity's actions even as they cheer her determination. "A Peek into the Past" gives a brief history, richly arrayed with scenes, portraits, and artifacts of the time. Other than the too-abrupt

ending, the volume is well written and attractively illustrated in full color; the full-page pictures and small vignettes effectively augment the text and provide the flavor of the period.-- Marie Orlando, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

Response to Two Professional Reviews: Both reviews place a large emphasis on Felicity's personality and how it impacts the story. Both agree that the book introduces young readers to colonial times and a strong heroine figure. The School Library Journal states the unrest they have about the unclear ending. Overall, the reviews place the book in a positive light.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: The illustrations enhance the story by relating to the topic and emotions of the literature. Besides this, the personalities of the characters are so prevalent and makes one feel as if they are taking a step inside their shoes. Lastly, the book effectively introduces colonial times in a simple yet informative manner that doesn't cause any confusion.

Consideration of Instructional Application: This book could directly correlate with the teaching of the Revolutionary War. This story effectively places focus on the clothing, food, and traditions of this time period. An instructional application that would aid in the reading of this book is having the children dress up like they did during this time period and acting out a scene from the book. With this lesson, they would get a taste for the culture during that time period while also acting out a historical scene.

Zanny says

This was one of my favorite American girl books when I was little. Having a adventure involving horseback riding (side saddle) all over the woods by yourself is every little girls' dream. Felicity helps take care of her friend Ben, who has runaway from his apprenticeship to join George Washington's army. Talk about 18th century problems. But as achild it is always cool to see a girl doing these amazing things all by herself. Granted, it seems a (tiny) bit less exciting now, as a grownup, but still so fun! The girls in the American Girls collection always seemed so independent and "fierce" to me when I was growing up. They still are. I always love to read one of the books I loved as a child ever now and then. This was a good choice.

Kate Hansen says

I think that Felicity was a wonderful book because it tells a story of mistakes made to work.

Kristin says

Okay, from an adult's perspective, these books may be a little formulaic and they're definitely rosy-ended predictable, but they do leave me smiling. In Felicity, we learn a little about Williamsburg right on the brink of the Revolution. We get a good dose of friendship, a bit for horse lovers, a tad about the love of a grandfather. We learn a bit about apprenticeship and running a mercantile. We also learn about manners, sewing and music of the day. Most importantly we see a few core values enacted (e.g. kindness, forgiveness).

I enjoyed reading these with my youngest. There's plenty of mentions that can send you to the internet for more information. There's battledore and shuttlecock, pattens, queues, hornbooks, bird bottles and pillories. Oh, and the chocolate pot! Having finished, we're headed to the library, now, for the movie. :)

Kezziah And Books says

As a little girl. I was opposed with American Girl. I still really enjoy the stories. American Girl really got me into reading. I started American Girl when I was 9. I loved them ever since.

Malaina says

I really like it but it was sort of sad because her grandfather passed away

Ainsley R says

It was funny

Katie says

I love these books and read them at least once each season as time passes both in our world and in the books. I adore Felicity's adventures and high spirits, which I feel would not be much different from mine if I lived in that era. I have also collected the doll and as many of the accessories as I can afford (they are quite pricy) from American Girl Co.

Mya says

a classic story I recommend any young girl read.

Ellie VanLahr says

The American Girl Doll series' is one of the best for young girls. The featured girl in this one is Felicity, she lives in Virginia pre revolutionary war time. She is something of a tomboy and loves riding horses, but she hates acting the part of a stereotypical girl of that time. This book is great for any young girl because it gives an example of a young girl who doesn't act like the rest, but still loves herself and finds friends who love her for her. This book would be recommended for girls at any age in elementary school.

Susie says

I found the Felicity books fascinating because I had actually been to the place where the books take place -

Williamsburg, VA. It's so cool that Williamsburg is preserved and you can see where people like Felicity lived and worked and went to school. Anyway, so her stories were especially interesting to me because I knew about the places. The stories dealt with exactly what was going on at that time - the relationship between the Loyalists and the Colonist rebels. Felicity's best friend is a Loyalist, so is her Grandfather. However, her family is not. They do things differently to defy the king and support the colonies. Also, her daily life is very similar to girl's daily life now - she goes to school, she plays with her friends and siblings, and she has chores to do. I just love these books.

Sarah Zarymbski says

Growing up I was obsessed with American Girl Dolls, so I loved reading the books. Each American Girl Doll is from a different time in history when there was a significant event in American history. Felicity is from the 1770's, just before the Revolutionary War. She is expected to do everything like a "proper lady", which she isn't a fan of. She loves horses, and would do anything to ride one all the time. When she learns that there is a new horse in town that is in the hands of a man that is cruel to animals, she is determined to save it before it is too late. This is a good book because it gives the reader an idea of how life was in a different time period than what they're used to. This book is historical fiction.

Shanton Deon Brown Fields says

I'm Shannon Deon Brown-Fields and I love those books they was so,good.

Sami says

to always be happy

Myra says

***New Review:

I had to demote my rating to only two stars, not three, after spending the semester in my Liberty Girls group reading this series aloud to my kids. I realize the main reason I stuck with this series is because of the period of history it covers - the American Revolution, my favorite. Although I still love the third book, and the 6th book has some merit (although Felicity still has quite a selfish attitude that she partly overcomes) I have to say that I am not impressed with this series. I wish I had considered and found a different set of books to read with our Liberty Girls that covered this time period.

My reason for not loving this series: The author didn't create Felicity with a grounded set of core values. There were a lot of times in reading aloud these books that I just had to stop and explain what she did/felt/thought that was not right and explain why. I guess that can be a good thing, but there was just so much of it that it became tiresome, and left me wondering what real value there was in reading them. I even skipped reading my kids the fifth book. I just didn't see any reason to. Anyway, that's my new review.

Ellen Diem says

Felicity is a spunky little girl who grew up in colonial America in 1774. During her story there were two different groups living in America, loyalist and patriots. Felicity's best friend is a loyalist while she is brought up in a patriot household. Felicity gets into many different things while having fun. The age range of this group of books is primary, because girls are usually into girl power, and independence. Many girls in this age group are into those things. The artistic elements, while there are not many the illustrations that are included help you get a better understanding of what she looked like and what people dressed like in 1774. This book should be read by young girls so that they can see even in history girls did their own thing.

Liz says

It's probably been two decades since I read Felicity's stories, but I recently brought my dolls out of storage and have been entertaining myself with making new doll clothes for them.

For inspiration and nostalgia I reread the series for both Felicity and Kirsten and I have to say, I'm really surprised by Felicity's stories. And not in a good way.

On the surface, she's the Colonial doll--it's 1774 and her father has stopped selling tea in his store. And yet, though the Revolutionary War is starting, Felicity hardly seems to notice until the last book, when her best friend's Loyalist father is jailed.

Despite that, Felicity is setup to be the most American on the American dolls because she's a Patriot, independent, spirited, etc. And I am deeply concerned about that, because though it is NEVER outright said, it is HEAVILY IMPLIED that Felicity's family, the Merrimans, are slave owners.

And I certainly do not remember this from when I was ten. I remember the horse plot and Felicity's school lessons and her Christmas story--but what I didn't pick up on was that their two servants, Marcus and Rose, are most likely owned by them.

In the first book we are introduced to Marcus, "the man who helps Mr. Merriman at home and at the store" and the second book introduces Rose. They are both referred to as servants. However, in the "Peek into the Past" portion at the end of *Meet Felicity* we are explicitly told that Marcus is a slave.

"But not everyone in Williamsburg had fine food, elegant clothing, and beautiful homes. Half the people who lived in the town were African-American slaves, such as Marcus. They were forced to work long and hard for the person who owned them. They got little in return except basic food, clothing, and shelter."

And so Rose, being "the cook and maidservant at the Merrimans" is mostly a slave as well. It's also important to note that neither Marcus or Rose are given last names, nor any lines in any of Felicity's stories.

As if that weren't bad enough, in books three and four we meet Mrs Merriman's father (also note that Mother is never given a first name, where Mr Edward Merriman is) who owns a plantation.

Grandfather, as he is referred to, even takes Felicity on morning horse rides across his land, where they stop and talk to his field hands and overseer "about the weather." In the accompanying illustration all the field hands are black and appear to be picking cotton, while Grandfather sits on his horse talking to the white overseer.

As if to really drive it home that Grandfather is indeed a slaveowner, the "Peek into the Past" for Felicity Saves the Day includes a brief description of plantations:

"In Eastern Virginia where Grandfather lived in the 1770s, grains such as wheat and corn were the major crops. While small farms were usually run by the farmer and his family alone, plantations depended on slaves. Slaves planted, tended, and harvested crops. The owner of a plantation, who was called a planter, might have a few to 100 slaves, depending on the size of his plantation."

To counterpoint all this slavery, Felicity's birthday book introduces us to Isaac Wallace, "a free black a little older than Ben" (the Merriman's apprentice). Isaac has a last name, he's described as a drummer in the militia, he has lines, and helps save the day with Felicity and Ben.

So yeah. Kinda ruined my childhood today.

Julie says

Historical fiction at its best! Well developed plot, historically accurate, and positive character values.

Rachel says

Felicity's world seemed the most inaccessible to me growing up, considering that she was the oldest character and her world was far more chartered and organized than mine. I groaned to think of Miss Manderly's lessons and proper parties at the governor's. I was thrilled that she maintained her friendship with Elizabeth, despite their cultural differences. I feared for her horse, Penny, who was abused, for her mother who got sick, for Ben, who perhaps scared me most of all, as his indentured relationship to Felicity's father strayed close to slavery in my eyes. Though the fact that Ben, an adult, and Felicity, a young girl (though certainly viewed in more mature terms in her time,) were close friends didn't bother me at all. I actually liked navigating their relationship, and witnessing humble Ben teaching hotheaded Felicity a few lessons, and vice versa.
