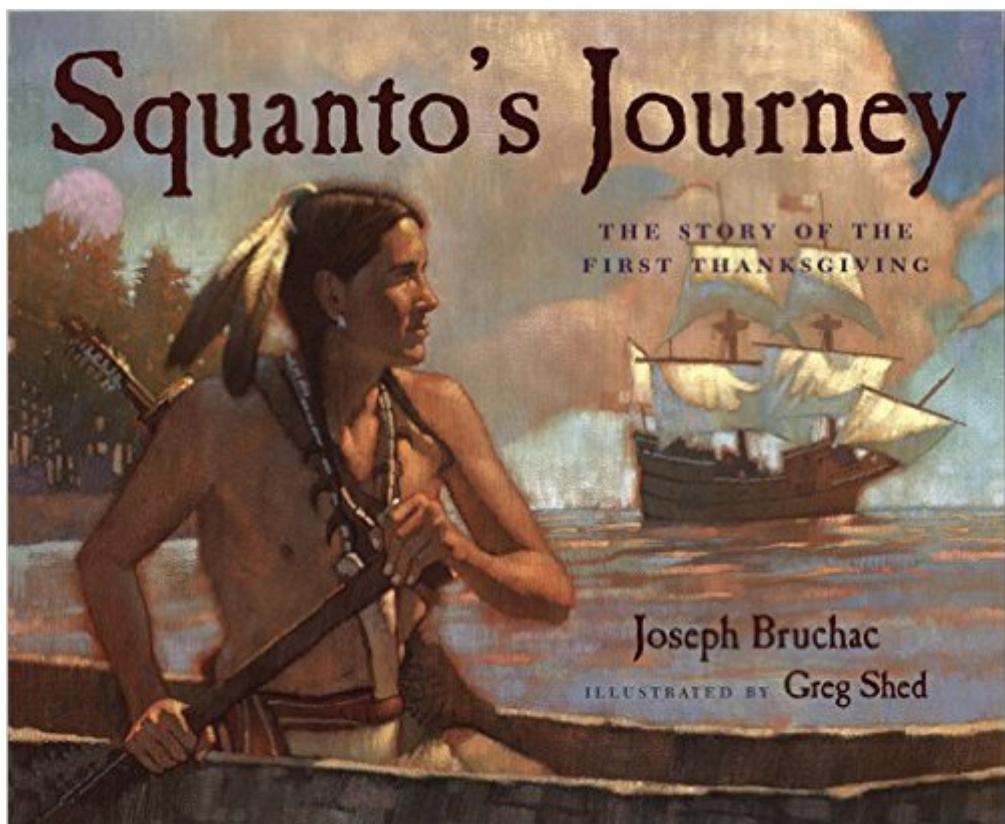


The book was found

Squanto's Journey: The Story Of The First Thanksgiving



Synopsis

In 1620 an English ship called the Mayflower landed on the shores inhabited by the Pokanoket, and it was Squanto who welcomed the newcomers and taught them how to survive. When a good harvest was gathered, the people feasted together--a tradition that continues almostÂ four hundred years later.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 1, 2007)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #24,153 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #21 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #23 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Thanksgiving

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This book is an excellent way of sharing the first Thanksgiving with children. It is told from the perspective of the Native Americans, a perspective that is often overlooked. The illustrations are beautiful and help to tell the story visually.

This is a nice book about Squanto, beginning with when he was forcibly taken to Spain and sold into slavery, through learning English and travelling back to North America to eventually help the Pilgrims as they established their new colony. Most of what I learned about Squanto was new to me. Each 2-page spread has a full page illustration. The illustrations are attractive in gold, autumn tones. There is a brief glossary on the back of the very last page, mixed in with copyright information, it's easy to miss. However, there is no pronunciation key which would have been very helpful for the names of the Indian tribes and individuals. Also be aware, this book doesn't really teach you

much about the Pilgrims or about the first Thanksgiving, so you need another book for those topics, but this is a nice addition to a collection of "Thanksgiving" books for children in the elementary school years.

High hopes for this book were ultimately disappointed by the poor level of writing and editing. However promising, this concept is delivered without grace, humor, or skill. I once hear a writer say successful writing "shows," not tells...well, this book "tells." My K-3rd grade audience was confused by this book, and no wonder: an odd first-person introduction by "future Squanto" (1621) drops the reader into a narrative about past Squanto (confusingly written in the present tense by past Squanto), transitions again into "present tense" (1621) Squanto to talk almost-not-at-all about the pilgrims' Thanksgiving, and then ends with a "I'll always be here" message (is this pre-thanksgiving Squanto again? An older Squanto?). I'm sure the author probably thought having Squanto tell the story might make it more compelling, but he neglected to help Squanto sound like an actual person. Instead, he recites his experiences in a dry, mechanical way as if he weren't actually the one in the experiences. Different terms are randomly swapped out to refer to the same Indian tribes and areas of the world...I had to keep putting the book down and explaining to my kids, "that must be a translation for the name of that Indian tribe." It feels like a non-native person did a lot of research and tried to "sound native" by sometimes using English-language translations of Indian words and other times using the words themselves...it just doesn't work and feels like someone is trying to work in as much research as possible rather than write a successful children's book. This is the real problem: the story isn't presented compellingly and it ignores its young audience's needs. It's short (but not short enough to keep a young person engaged) and has big colorful pictures (probably the only thing that kept my audience engaged at all), but narrative Squanto's speech is wooden and too concerned with listing facts and events; the humanity that might help the reader believe this is someone relating a personal experience is missing. Despite all of that, I had to have something to share with the kids other than the Rush Limbaugh Thanksgiving story they received from a relative. This is getting 3 stars because it features a native American protagonist (my kids have native ancestry) and it's not written by Rush Limbaugh. To have such a promising subject and much-needed perspective on how Squanto's story intersects with the Plymouth colony's Thanksgiving delivered so poorly is really disappointing.

After reading over the book and putting myself in the shoes of an elementary school child, the information in this book seems to be somewhat confusing and overwhelming for students. Only the

most advanced child would be able to make some sense out of the language and academics of this book.

I didn't know about the story about Squanto and his life before and during when the settlers arrived on the shore, but now I do. thank you for breaking the mythical 'thanksgiving image' that we have thought for so many years. our society needs to know the truth, and not sugar coat it.

This is a great book. I bought it for my first grade class though and felt there were elements that might have been a little too grown up for them. However it didn't go too far and the educational aspect of it was great. If you're reading it to 2nd graders and up it's excellent. Just use your own filters and judgement for the younger ones.

I love the story of Squanto - a young man who endures incredibly bad situations, and still has the courage and dignity to help others. The illustrations in this book make Squanto's world come alive. Easy text - great for younger readers. Everything Joseph Bruchac does is excellent. My older readers also like "Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims" by Peter Buchard.

The story of Squanto has great content for young people just being introduced to biographies being read to them. 3rd graders will read this on their own. The illustrations set a mood of realism for the child. I thought the historical content was accurate. Nice job.

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