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Ada Byron Lovelace And The Thinking Machine



Synopsis

Ada Lovelace, the daughter of the famous romantic poet, Lord Byron, develops her creativity through science and math. When she meets Charles Babbage, the inventor of the first mechanical computer, Ada understands the machine better than anyone else and writes the world's first computer program in order to demonstrate its capabilities.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Creston Books (October 13, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1939547202

ISBN-13: 978-1939547200

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten and up

Customer Reviews

Originally reviewed for YA Books Central: <http://www.yabookscentral.com/kidsnon...> This book is essentially a 40 page illustrated biography, suitable for children ages 6 and up. Offering a bit of childhood background to help set the stage, it brings to life the true story of how the estranged daughter of a famous (and infamous) poet became a mathematical visionaryâ ”became one of the founding influences to modern computer programming. The obvious female-empowerment potential aside, the story also contains an inspiring emphasis on persevering in the midst of physical disability. With no orienting date given for Adaâ™s birth, parents may feel the need to expand on parts of this book with a bit of independent research. The transitions toward the beginning are somewhat choppy, but successfully convey the passion Ada felt for the idea of a flying machine just before her debilitating bout with measles. But the childhood background isnâ™t accompanied by her specific age during various events. The first mention of her age occurs halfway through when, at 17, she is introduced to the inventor Charles Babbage. Her collaboration with him is certainly the

highlight of the storyârelaying not only a friendship built on a mutual understanding of the numerical, but the fact that their significant generational gap made her thoughts no less respectable to him. The book mentions that Charles Babbage never finished building his âAnalytical Engine,â and so Ada never got to see her program run. Unfortunately it isnât explained why Babbage didnât finish, and the way it wraps up so quickly after divulging this may feel a bit unsatisfying to some readers. I would advise reading the Authorâs note at the end.

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