



Diary of an Early American Boy

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Part the diary of Noah Blake, who was 15 in 1805, and part a re-creation of the life that a boy in his circumstances would have lived, this book is a loving tribute to a vanished way of life. Profusely illustrated, it will give its readers a sense of participation in the past that is all too rare in conventional histories.

Diary of an Early American Boy Details

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Author : Eric Sloane

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From Reader Review Diary of an Early American Boy for online ebook

Joanna says

Diary of an Early American Boy contains the text of fifteen year-old farm boy Noah Blake's 1805 diary, which he received on his birthday in March, and ends on Christmas Eve of the same year. Author Eric Sloane explained the more obscure historical and scientific references, aided greatly by his pen-and-ink drawings and diagrams, while constructing a fuller story around the simple daily entries. I learned quite a bit, but I'll give it to you straight - my favorite parts of the journal were when Noah mentions Sarah Trowbridge, the neighbors' hired girl!

Sylvester says

[image error]

KC says

Did you read "My side of the Mountain" by Jean Craighead George when you were in elementary school? I did, and I loved it. That book is about a young boy who goes to live in the Catskills on his own in the wild. He builds a shelter in a tree, hunts and fishes, captures and trains a Peregrine Falcon, and generally is a boy-scout-bad-ass. The story contains wonderful details on how he creates his life in the woods, and to a boy who would eventually grow up to be an engineer, this was heaven. The "how-to" aspect of the details easily engages a child who wants to know how everything works.

"Diary of an Early American Boy" contains many of the same details. In fact, that's what most of the book is: a detailed description of how a farmer in New England would have lived shortly after the revolutionary war. It's a History Channel special in book form and I would have loved it as a kid.

Eric Sloane makes the comment in the story that "in those days" people took pride in making their own belongings and fixing something that was broken rather than running out and buying something new: because often they couldn't. This comment struck a chord with me: mass consumerism irritates me, even though I know I participate as much as anyone else.

I have an electric tea kettle that my sister got for me as a Christmas gift back when I was attending grad school. Since growing in to a coffee snob, I started using it several times a day, when the mechanism that switches off the heating element once the water is boiling stopped working, I started to jump at the opportunity to spend \$100 on a new kettle with a built in thermometer and a spout specially designed for pour-over coffee brewing but I had just finished Sloane's book at the time and I took his words to heart...also, it was a gift from my sister.

So...it's working again now and I'm \$100 richer in savings :-)

Jane Dugger says

This was so very fascinating! I could not put it down. It may be one of the few books I would take with me when the zombie apocalypse occurs. :)

Ken says

Magical stuff, if you hanker for the simplicity of a "storybook" colonial life. One of those "sends me back" books that can be reread in an hour or so.

Cassandra says

This is a great book for learning what early American life was like.

Sharon Erickson says

From my 11 year old: "This book also taught me a lot! I learned about how olde machines worked! Like how water wheels worked and it even showed drawings of some machines, and they even made their own bridge! Super interesting!"

Rebecca says

This was a wonderful book based on a young man's diary in early America. Interspersed were diagrams and drawings of the things that he referenced in his diary. A great look at life during that time and the tools they used.

Camelia Rose says

I picked up Diary of an Early American Boy at the local library's winter book sale and it was a delightful surprise. It's a very nice little book to read with your child. You get a glimpse of life in early 19 century North American farm, from the eyes of a 15th years old farm boy. The book is full of pencil drawings of household objects, farm tools, maps, as well as illustrations of how things worked in the historical time. Some of these drawings are simply humorous:

"Some secrets and joys in the fine art of working in the woodshed"

"Here's how the wheelbarrow was born"

"The first American Heating Stove was fed from the next room"

and many more.

Oh, there is a hidden love story too.

Adam says

Phenomenal. I read this to my 4th grade daughter, maybe 5-8 pages per day, and we both loved it. Sloane is a master both of Americana-style line drawing and of succinct, crystal-clear explanations. The reader not only gains a strong sense of early American rural life but also benefits from a virtual primer of basic mechanical concepts. We were truly sad to see this one end. A must-read for fans of *Little House*, woodcraft in general, and those quirky *Alone in the Wilderness* videos popularized by PBS.

Erin Johnston says

My 9 year old and I loved this book as a study in science.

Michael Warot says

This book portrays life in the early United States from the perspective of a boy coming of age. The knowledge and ingenuity of our ancestors is sadly underestimated by all of us. They knew far more about things that most of us learn in our lifetimes.

Intertwined is the story of a romance... a romance so innocent and profound it moved me to tears, and made me realized that I needed to propose to Noran.

While you probably won't be proposing because of this book... you can definitely learn a lot about life, the wisdom of our ancestors, and the practical aspects of history.

I highly recommend this book.

For those of you considering marriage.... run from the idea as fast as possible....

When you can't run anymore... then it's time.

--Mike--

Jim says

Sloane found the diary of Noah Blake, a boy who wrote it when he was 15 years old in 1805. The actual journal entries are brief, but Sloane discusses what they mean in a very readable format that fleshes out the

life of this farm boy, his family, friends & the area in an amazingly thorough way given how short the book is. Even better, Sloane's amazing ink sketches convey thousands of words each starting with a map of the farm over a decade or so. Any place an image might speak better than words, he's put one. It positively pops.

If you have any interest in Colonial history, farming, wood or metal work, I highly recommend this little gem. I found it used for \$4 including shipping on Abe Books, but it is priceless.

Alison says

My kids and I read this together a few pages at a time and I enjoyed it more than they did. There is a lot of material within these pages. I enjoyed the historical & accurate portrayal of early American life documented by Noah Blake about his family and life on their farm. This is a true account of life in 1805 as recorded by 15 year old Noah. The detailed illustrations of tools & building construction highlight a way of life that has disappeared. I think that it is important to learn about the past and especially teach my children about how early generations lived.

Emily Attaway says

This was a family read aloud for my kids' school. It was fine. I found the term "Indian" to be used in poor taste and the few bible verses were taken out of context. It was interesting learning about early American life though.

Noran Miss Pumkin says

THIS BOOK GOT ME MARRIED! I KID YOU NOT!!! When i met my husband, he read only tech manuals, never anything for personal enjoyment/pleasure. I started to introduce him to art, ethnic foods, and real books--fun reads. One day in a bookstore, on a hunt for new finds, he stumbled upon this book--this edition in leather though. He bought it because it was about a boy from another century, and how he kept an illustrated journal about how he and his father built stuff. I mean barns, bridges, and the like. Well, there was also a love story recorded in the journal too, of how the boy courted and proposed to his love and how she responded with a bible verse. This moved my husband to tears. in that moment he realized the beauty of the story and knew a year ago he would not had appreciated the same , if it had not been for me being in his life. So he rushed to me crying, and asked me to marry me---i will not tell what he was wearing at the time though!?! I did say yes, on the condition he ask my father for my hand, though i was 38. It was how things are done in my family. Father was excited, but gave him a had time for awhile.

The book is a great read, and the drawings are wonderful. this is a great book for a cub scout and wood worker. Also anyone who likes to reads journals from another era.

Monorail_lime says

Fascinated my 8.5 year old. Read it aloud to him and enjoyed our discussions of the diary entries and the artist sketches.

Dave E says

I enjoy all Eric Sloane's books, but this one was unique, in that the basis of the book is a diary written by a 15 year boy/young man in 1805. The diary entries are brief, but Eric elaborates on them, including pen and ink drawings, to provide interpretation as to what the young man was really doing. An excellent, and easy read.

Cheryl says

This makes the history of an intelligent, hard-working family come alive, concisely and informatively. I don't know why we're forgetting Sloane's works, except, I suppose, that we're more and more into disposable plastic & electronic toys and less into durable wood and iron tools. What a shame that we, in our 'pursuit of happiness,' have forgotten what true happiness is. Read this if you want to be reminded.

Miss Lilli says

One of my all time favorite books. I like to use it in classes that I teach. Very informative. I love the diagrams.
