



Clara and Davie

Patricia Polacco

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Clara and Davie Patricia Polacco

From bestselling author Patricia Polacco's family tree -- the true story of young Clara Barton.

Animals and flowers were Clara's best friends. She had a special way with critters and found joy in the beauty that sprang from the soil. But whenever Clara talked, her words didn't come out right. As hard as she tried, she could not get over her lisp.

Clara's older brother Davie understood that his sister was gifted. When folks made fun of Clara's stilted words, Davie was always at her side reminding her that she had a talent for healing creatures.

Davie told his sister, "Some day you are going to be a very great lady." And that's exactly what happened. Clara Barton became one of the most famous medical practitioners of all time, and founded the American Red Cross.

Clara and Davie Details

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Author : Patricia Polacco

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Genre : Biography, Childrens, Picture Books, History, Nonfiction, Historical

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From Reader Review Clara and Davie for online ebook

Heidi says

Another winner from a prolific and talented author/illustrator, Clara and Davie introduces the reader to Clara Barton as a young girl. I especially enjoyed reading about her relationship with her brother, Davie. Not many brothers ten years older would take the time to help and befriend his younger sister the way Davie does. It's clear that Clara had a gift for healing from the time she was very young. But like everyone else she faced her own challenges including a prominent lisp. This lisp led many of those around her to make fun of her causing her to withdraw, but thanks to the efforts of her brother and other family members she was educated at home. When Davie suffers a devastating injury, Clara is just the one to help him face his own heart-wrenching challenges. Like all her other family stories, Polacco shares the experiences that helped people grow and become the people they were. Keep in mind that biographical picture books like this one often have made up dialogue in them, after all nobody was around to record everything that someone may have said at some point in his/her life.

Nicole Raabe says

1) Awards: none

2) Age range: 3rd-5th grade

3) Summary: This book follows the story of young Clara Barton, who was made fun of in school for the way she talked. After being taught in her home, she grew an interest in medicine. When her brother/caregiver, Davie, falls and breaks his leg, Clara heals him with her magic hands.

4) Review: I thought the book was interesting. Children may find it inspirational that a young girl who was picked on became such an icon in medicine. I don't think I would do a read aloud with this book, but I'd probably keep it in the class library for children to read.

5) In class use:

-history lessons

-reports on heroes

-place it in the library for children to read during free time

Cara Wilson says

Clara and Davie by Patricia Polacco

Cara W., Spring 2015

Nonfiction #1: Biographical Picture Book

Clara and Davie is the story of the famous Clara Barton and her older brother Davie. Davie understood that Clara was different but that she would go on to do great things in her life. But Clara felt discouraged due to

her lisp. Clara went on to be a fantastic nurse and the founder of the Red Cross.

This story holds a special place in my heart. My mom was a nurse for over 30 years and medicine has always been a special interest to me (even though I'm studying to be a teacher. Second career anyone?). I loved this story and I even did a project on her in 4th grade. I love this look on her life and I found out she had a lisp! Who knew!

I rated this book, though, at 3 out of 5 stars. This content of this book is for a little older audience for a picture, but the picture book format is too young for the target audience. But this would be a great book to talk about different people.

Barbara says

Young readers are likely to be familiar with the actions of the adult Clara Barton who became known as a healer and founded the American Red Cross. But they are unlikely to know the story of young Clara and her struggles as a child. Because she lisped, Clara endured teasing from many of her classmates. Her older brother Davie protected her and saw potential in her that others might have failed to acknowledge. He encouraged her love for animals and for healing. When Davie is injured severely after a fall from a beam in the barn, Clara nurses him back to health and encourages him to walk again. Readers will be moved by the strong bond between these two siblings and smile at how Davie honored his sister's encouragement every year. The book's back matter includes photographs and authorial information about the connection between the subject of the book and the author. As this talented storyteller returns once again to her family for material for her books, young writers will be reminded that each one of us has a story or two to tell, and often those stories are right in front of us. The illustrations, created in pencil, Pentel markers, and acrylic paints, are filled with lively family snapshots of rural life as well as gorgeous depictions of the flora and fauna that filled Clara's days. May the well of creative inspiration never run dry for this author/illustrator!

Caryn Caldwell says

Long before Clara Barton became a legendary medical practitioner and started the Red Cross, she displayed an acuity for healing. She was also brave, damaged, and exceptionally smart. This book tells the story of her early years, showing her talents and her struggles, as well as her close relationship with her older brother Davie.

This is an interesting insight into an amazing woman. It was inspiring to see Barton overcome her speech difficulties and tense relationship with her domineering older sister in order to become the healer she was destined to be. I also enjoyed seeing how big a role her brother played in her history; one key person really can make a difference in someone else's life. This story is quite long and detailed for a read-aloud, although it would be helpful for individual students' research projects or for encouraging children who also wish to grow up and do great things despite any personal difficulties.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

I can't believe it took Patricia Polacco so long to write about someone so famous who's related to her! I loved

this true story from Clara Barton's childhood, and, now that I've read it, I'd like to read more about her. Polacco carefully referred to these people by their first names only until the end, when she revealed that she was writing about Clara Barton. (However, if you read her dedication on the verso in the front of the book, you'd be able to guess it was Barton.) How cool to be related to her! I would love to know if/how Clara ever overcame her lisp. The author's note at the end of the book does not say. It does, however, contain a photo of a lovely nosegay holder (so that's what those things were for!) that was owned by Barton and now belongs to her. I hope that Polacco has more anecdotes about her famous relative that she will soon turn into another picture book. Highly recommended--a sweet story!

Jennifer Peterson says

Polacco, P. (2014). Clara and Davie: The true story of young Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. Scholastic Press.

Biography!

Clara and Davie is a beautiful story book about the childhood of Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross. The story talks about the families hardships when Clara was young as well as Clara's struggle in school. The story expresses the bond that Clara had with her older brother Davie and how important caring for others was to Clara. It is sad, yet uplifting and powerful. Clara makes you proud to be a woman. Highly recommend.

1. What sibling did Clara have the strongest relationship with?- 2.1.1.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
 2. What major struggle did Clara have as a child? - 2.1.1.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
 3. What was Clara's passion?- 2.1.1.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
 4. What did Clara do to help her brother Davie? - 2.1.1.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
 5. Why is Clara known as a major woman hero in the medical community?- 2.1.1.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
 6. What history did you learn from Clara and Davie?- 2.1.5.5 Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
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Laura says

Patricia Polacco describes the childhood and major influences of Clara Barton, the woman who grew up to be known as the 'Angel of the Battlefield.' I love that Polacco describes Clara's lisp in a way that evokes

sympathy and portrays the reality of being made fun of.

Recommended for grades 3 - 5.

Maggie Joyce says

I think this book is a warm-hearted and inspiring story. Patricia Polacco does a spectacular job both writing and illustrating the story. Polacco makes the story come to life and makes her readers feel connected to the characters. When Clara was trying to help Davie overcome his negative outlook on his legs she said “Davie, I know you can walk. You have always told me that I have a gift of healing. Unless you try to walk, I’ll never believe that again.” That moment in the story brought tears to my eyes. At that point, I have grown so fond of Clara’s perseverance, that it just broke my heart to see her so defeated. Polacco’s writing can bring emotion and inspiration to each and every one of its readers. This story is not only exceptional for teaching students about a historical figure, but also about everyday themes. For example, when Clara goes to school, and the girls explain that when she talks she “sounds like the hiss of a snake” this would be a great time to speak to your students about teasing, speech impediments, and how to not judge a person by the way they look, talk, or walk. Clara and Davie is a phenomenal book, and one I will be using in my future classroom.

Carol Royce Owen says

In typical Polacco style, we are told the story of Clara and Davie, the True Story of Young Clara Barton Founder of the American Red Cross. Clara and Davie are two siblings who are always there for each other, helping and encouraging each other through difficult times. Clara is born the fifth child to a weak mother, so Davie, the youngest of her siblings, but ten years older, takes on the responsibility of helping with her.

When Clara goes to school and is teased by other girls because of a speech problems, Davie is instrumental in convincing his parents that she be homeschooled. This kindness is later repaid when Davie falls off of a porch and is expected to die. Clara, who has always had a talent for healing the farm animals, takes over the challenge of nursing Davie back to health.

The Reading Countess says

Fascinating tale about Clara Barton and her healing hands. Children will surely see a glint of themselves reflected in her struggles as a young girl. Interesting and inspirational sidenotes at the end tell the reader how Polacco is directly descended from this important historical figure.

Adams Eagles says

Rachel L.

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Review:

Clara was born on Christmas Day everybody loves Clara was a beautiful baby girl. Davie loved Clara he taught her stuff she needed to know but she could not walk. She loved to swing with Davie and they loved to feed the farm animals. Davie got hurt because some farm guys came and said he didn't take care of the farm they broke his two legs. Clara would bring him flower then he started to walk and healed and got better.

I really like this book because it tells teaches you not to be a bully to anyone and I also like how Clara loves to spend time with Davie. Clara loves to feed the farm animals and likes to be nice to everybody. I don't like how Davie was hurt for no reason and how random farm guys broke Davie legs.

I recommend kids from 3rd,4th and 5th grades read this book it is a really good book because it and help someone to stop bully. If you bully you will hurt someone feeling because you don't want someone to move school. You don't want someone to be away from there best friend you don't want that person to be sad.

Margo Tanenbaum says

Patricia Polacco is one of our great contemporary picture book authors, and specializes in picture books with serious content such as racism, disabilities, and even cancer, making them appropriate for older elementary school readers. In her newest book, which fits in perfectly for Women's History Month, she explores the girlhood of one of the most famous female figures of the 19th century, Clara Barton.

Clara was the fifth child to be born into the Barton family in Massachusetts, and with her mother in ill health, she was virtually raised by her siblings, particularly her older brother Davie, whom she adored. Joyous illustrations in Polacco's signature style show Davie showing Clara how to ride on a horse while she flings her arms in the air in delight. She helped Davie with his chores on the farm, and had an immediate affinity for nature and particularly with animals. But she had a speech impediment that made her shy and afraid of people; because no one understood this sort of problem in that day, her older sister punished her for not speaking correctly. School was a nightmare for her, and finally her parents agreed she could be taught at home. Even as a young girl, Clara had healing hands and neighbors let her treat their farm animals. When Clara's beloved brother Davie breaks both legs in an accident, she becomes his nurse and with her coaxing, urges him back to health, giving him the courage to try to walk again.

This is a touching introduction to a famous woman from history from a unique perspective--her love for her brother. Children will be able to easily identify with Clara's inhibitions, her love for nature, and animals, and her desire to help her brother heal. An author's note tells more about Barton's career as a teacher, nurse, and founder of the American Red Cross. In an intriguing author's note, we learn that Patricia Polacco herself is distantly related to Clara Barton, on her mother's side of the family, and they own a vase which is reputed to once have belonged to Clara Barton herself.

Kelly says

Clara and Davie by Patricia Polacco is a nominee for the 2015-16 South Carolina Picture Book Award. This moving book tells readers of the early life of Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross.

Clara, the youngest of five children, had a very special bond with her brother, Davie. Davie encouraged Clara to be herself, he listened to her troubles, and he was always there for her. Even when others called

Clara lazy or stupid because of her lisp, Davie looked for ways to make his little sister happy.

As Clara grew into a young woman, it became clear to all that she had a way with nature and healing. She loved working with flowers and spending time with animals, but her true gift was healing. She tended to animals and humans alike...and she was soon tasked with caring for her beloved brother, Davie.

Just as Davie supported her through difficult times, Clara was determined to help him during his troubles. She did everything she could to nurse him back to health, and her care worked wonders.

Clara Barton not only helped her brother to walk again, but, with his support and her own desire to help others, she also went on to become one of the greatest and most beloved medical practitioners in history.

Clara and Davie is a great addition to elementary library and classroom collections. This book would be a wonderful selection for women's history studies, and it may even be an excellent gift for school nurses.

I also think *Clara and Davie* is a must-read for students who may struggle with speech (or any other) issues. This book demonstrates that those obstacles (for lack of a better word) don't have to get in the way of doing something that truly makes a difference.

Eden Grey says

The true story of a young Clara Barton is an inspirational look at the childhood of an American legend.

CLARA AND DAVIE tells the story of Clara's childhood struggles with a speech impediment, bullying, and family illness. It is a heart-warming look at how the lonely girl became a strong healer and force to be reckoned with in American medicine.

The illustrations, done by the well-know author-illustrator Patricia Polacco, are warm and colorful renditions of scenes from Clara's life. Frankly, the style may be a little too grown-up for a picture book audience, but the nature of a picture book itself isn't great for older readers.

The story itself is wordy and quite long, which will make it difficult for its intended audience of ages 3-5. The book would be better suited to reading aloud to 2nd and 3rd grade students during a unit on American History - because of it being a picture book, it wouldn't really be appealing for students to read on their own. CLARA AND DAVIE would be a good classroom or storytime book when paired with a short film or non-fiction selection.

While a good story with a great true history behind it, as a historical picture book CLARA AND DAVIE is ill-suited for its intended audience.
