



We the People: The Story of Our Constitution

Lynne Cheney, Greg Harlin (Illustrator)

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America had won the Revolution, but our troubles were far from over. The thirteen states were squabbling, the country could not pay its bills, and in Massachusetts farmers had taken up arms against the government. Was our country, which had fought so hard for its independence, going to survive? In May 1787 delegates from across the country -- including George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin -- gathered in Philadelphia and, meeting over the course of a sweltering summer, created a new framework for governing: the Constitution of the United States. Their efforts turned a shaky alliance of states into a nation that would prosper and grow powerful, drawing its strength for centuries to come from "We the people" and inspiring hope for freedom around the world.

We the People: The Story of Our Constitution Details

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Author : Lynne Cheney , Greg Harlin (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review We the People: The Story of Our Constitution for online ebook

Steph says

Good book for older students. Longer book, with more content.

Myra Benedict says

A good informational book I like the way the author wrote it and the pictures are great.

Daisey says

This book tells a part of the story of how the delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 wrote the U.S. Constitution. It includes details about some of the disagreements and the compromises that were made, including the Great Compromise that resulted in Congress consisting of two houses. Each page includes a couple of paragraphs, a quote from a primary source, and a color illustration.

Jennie Smith says

This is a wonderful book full of fantastic illustrations which depict the time in our Nations history when our Founding Fathers were creating the document which formed our nation. There are many parts of history that we are taught in our schools, but having it written in a way that just gives us the essentials along with quotes from the Founding Father's and visuals helps it all come to life. Great book to use in any history class!

Clare Masullo says

This story, written by the wife of Dick Cheney, former vice president, is a beautifully illustrated work detailing the writing of the constitution. The story gives understanding to how the constitution was constructed, but seems to have a political and in some points, religious agenda. Furthermore, there are very few images of influential women or people of color. It provides a good understanding of the historical process of constructing the constitution, though. In the classroom, I might use this book as a means of showing to children the standard, classic historical version of how our country was made, but I would not neglect in my teaching to include the contributions of other groups, like women and people of color.

Heather says

I liked this better than the Fritz book and it covered much of the same information, but in less minute detail

(and a little more respectfully). My boys enjoyed it too. It provides a good, basic understanding of the convention, some of the personalities and the conflicts between large and small states and North and South. This book does not provide the Constitution at the back, which I think is sad because it would be the perfect time to read it to a child.

Most of the illustrations were well done but a few of them with the dark reddish shades and blurry features made the men look weird, even a bit evil. My boys commented that a few looked like monsters or vampires. Um, no, the Founding Fathers were not vampires.

Overall I like this book better than the Fritz but I have a few more to preview to decide on my "final" Constitution choice.

Jana Giles says

This is a solid recollection of how our Constitution came to be. I would have this in a classroom for higher level readers in the intermediate grades. The language is pretty advanced for primary elementary grades. I love that this book has quotes from our founding fathers. The images are beautifully done to show a moment in time. The story is not sugar coated, but it explains the problem of debt and being a new nation very well. I would use this to teach after the Revolutionary War in fifth grade.

Dolly says

This summer I took our girls to Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason, the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which was the model for the U.S. Bill of Rights. After our tour, we visited the gift shop and I purchased *If You Were There When They Signed The Constitution*. It was an informative book and we really liked it.

I noticed that this book was also displayed for sale, but since I knew it was available at our local library, I borrowed it instead. We read them both fairly close together and compared the different styles of the books. This book was more of a chronological description of the events that occurred whereas the other offered more of a question and answer format.

This book is a bit long and I would recommend it for older children. The narrative is informative without being overwhelming or boring and the illustrations are terrific. We really enjoyed reading this book together and I'm glad I was able to find a couple of good nonfiction books to round out the information we learned during our visit to a colonial museum.

Talea says

This book is full of amazing illustrations as it walks us through the struggles, we as a nation, went through in the making of our beloved constitution. The kids and I spent a good amount of time discussing the history just after the Revolutionary War, and how our government is set up. My daughter especially noticed the tidbit at the very back that talked about the amendments, one mentioned was women's right to vote. She and I had quite the discussion over how long it took for American women to have the same rights as the men. My

son was appalled that slaves weren't counted as individuals but as only partial men so that the same men that refused them their rights wanted to use them to boost their population numbers. Books that grab my children's interest, holds it, and then spurs them to learn more are the books I treasure. This one is a must for our book shelf.

Dawn Early says

Title: We the People: The Story of Our Constitution by Lynne Cheney

Focus: Non-Fiction/Informational

1) Problem/Solution: There is a problem and a group of individuals come together to find a solution.

Review:

This book is about the United States when it was new. The Revolutionary War had just come to an end and there needed to be some kind of document that brought unity to the states. All states needed to be represented with equity and each individual needed to have a say. This book shows how the founding fathers of the US came to write the Constitution of the Untied States.

TEACH: CCSS

W.5.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

Mini-Lesson:

I will read the mentor text to the students. We will discuss each man who was a part of writing the Constitution came up with arguments to convey their stand on the subject. We will talk about the difference between persuasive and argumentative text. We will talk about when each should be used. We will talk about our need for a "Classroom Constitution." Students will be assigned into heterogenic groups to discuss their ideas about how our classroom will run. Each group will choose a leader to represent them to the class to show their ideas to the class before we vote on a Classroom Constitution.

Expected Outcome:

Students will learn how to respectfully argue their opinions. They will learn how to write an argumentative piece with an audience in mind in order to convey their message. Students will know the difference between an argumentative piece and a persuasive piece

Carson Teitler says

I really enjoyed the argument of this book, and I think it was a really interesting analysis of the language in the declaration of independence; however, it feels a little bit long winded at times. I think that, while the book acknowledges some of the hypocrisy of the declaration's signatories and writers, it does not go far enough in taking into account their actual actions in the analysis of the text. The author makes note of the fact that the book actions can speak louder than words, but that in this case it is more murky than that; however, I think that we can not brush aside the declaration's authors' actions as easily as this book did given that equality is the central message of this book. The book, however, certainly has an interesting message and method given the fact that so many of us don't truly consider the founding philosophy of the US.

Savannah says

This book does a great job of informing students about the constitutional convention. The illustrations are beautiful and engaging and pair well with the text. The book is very specific though about the constitution and this would not be a great book to read when learning about the Revolutionary War. In class, this would be a great read aloud when discussing the branches of government and what makes the United States' government so unique.

Melissa says

Great informational book about the writing and adopting of the Constitution of the United States

Emily says

This was one I picked up to season our bedtime story time with some history, and in the end, I was the one most enlightened and inspired by it because of the timing in which I read it. It is good to be reminded of our history, our fledgling Republic and its vulnerability, and that political disagreement could be just as bitter 200+ years ago as it is today.

Benjamin Franklin's epiphany, realizing that as a nation under God, they'd neglected for months to seek Divine wisdom in their affairs, particularly spoke to me. I'm so glad that there are congressmen and officials across the plain today who still do this regularly. Surely God will come in wherever we stand in the gap and pray.

Would recommend this for older elementary age children, due to writing, concepts and text (3rd - 5th grade).

Teri says

Very well-written! Excellent!
