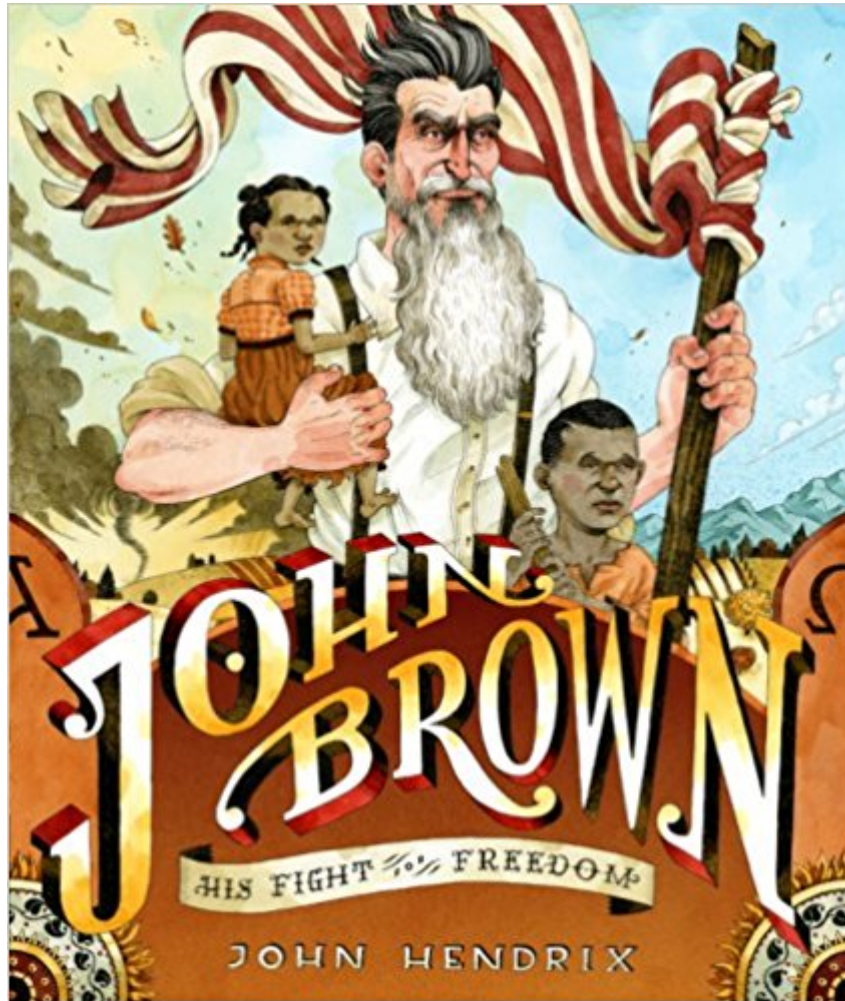




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John Brown: His Fight For Freedom



Synopsis

Published on the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, this biography explores the life of one of American history's most controversial figures. A great deal of academic study has been published recently about John Brown. This is the first book for young readers to include these new attitudes and research. In the late 1850s, at a time when many men and women spoke out against slavery, few had the same impact as John Brown, the infamous white abolitionist who backed his beliefs with unstoppable action. His dedication to freeing the American slaves made him one of the most recognizable leaders in the liberation movement to end slavery. Told through engaging, thoughtful narration and bold, dynamic illustrations, John Brown: His Fight for Freedom is a fitting reminder that all men and women are created equal, and that some things are worth fighting for. The book includes an author's note, a bibliography, and an index. F&P level: U

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

John Hendrix lives in St. Louis, Missouri, with his wife and two children, and teaches illustration at Washington University. He has won numerous awards for his drawings, and his illustrations have been featured in the New Yorker, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times. This is his first

children's book that he has both written and illustrated. He illustrated Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale, which was named an ALA Notable Book. Visit his Web site at www.johnhendrix.com.

Great children's book that didn't shy away from the frustration and exasperation of the man who tried to give folks what they wanted and found out they weren't sure if freedom was all it was cracked up to be! I wish it had been made clear that it was a children's book, I may have wanted to go for the adult version but then after reading it, WOW! Maybe I can't handle the intense, adult version. Very well done to show Brown's zealous nature which he never felt an apology was needed. I would appreciate a notation of the number of pages which would have indicated that it was a children's book. Great rendition! Thanks.

Great book. I'll use it in my 4th grade classroom.

Very innovative way to tell the story of John Brown. Very beautiful illustrations with creative use of typography. Text is very accurate and easy to read. I give 4 out of 5 stars only because of the fact that this book doesn't include other amazing John Brown illustrations by John Hendrix. You can find them on his website and elsewhere online, and I was disappointed that they didn't make it into this book. Sorry, can't get enough of Hendrix!

I got this book for the illustrations, which are wonderful, and was surprised to find the subject matter extremely interesting. It seems to be presented in an even-handed, and un-flinchingly truthy manner. Well done John Hendrix.

Thank you for this informative book. I read this to my American Renaissance class of 14 year olds to give them a foundation of information on John Brown. It was very helpful in explaining the history of the time. I then showed them a short video on John Brown and followed with Henry David Thoreau's essay A Plea for Captain John Brown. Thoreau having met Brown spoke on his strong moral and principled nature. The teenagers followed the John Brown: His Fight for Freedom with great interest. The book also did a good job to help them better process the learning that followed. In addition, my eleven year also enjoyed the story. Great artwork too!

John Brown and his family lived in Hudson, Ohio. In 1840 slavery was still going on, but John and

his father Owen, both staunch abolitionists, felt differently. John "wanted black people to be treated as equal to white people." Ohio was a "free state," but many states still considered slaves to be nothing more than property. Both father and son played active roles in the Underground Railroad. As a devout Christian John had some ideas that people thought were downright crazy. He was determined to bring the attention of his cause to the nation. It was a nation that wasn't ready to free its slave population or listen to a man who might not be quite right in the head. One time when he was at church, he noticed that his black friends were seated in the back pew. The Browns' pew was the best in the house and when he insisted they trade places the congregation "demanded that John and his family leave the church immediately." His fight did not end in a small church, but continued on through the years and around the nation. Frederick Douglass was "impressed with this mighty foe of slavery." By 1854 he was thumping on pro-slavery groups in Kansas and became a wanted man for all his efforts. He met Harriet Tubman and found an ally. He had a plan to attack Harpers Ferry, Virginia, but would he succeed or die trying? This biography is an excellent, scholarly work and an extremely fascinating read. I liked the easy pace of the story and was impressed with the amount of information contained in its pages. John Brown, a man with ideas before his time, was portrayed as a man who was so dedicated to his cause he would literally die for it if he had to. The artwork was very appealing with its bold, vibrant and no nonsense illustrations. In the back of the book the author discusses John Brown and offers some of his own opinions. There is an index and select sources, many of which could be used for additional research if a student so chose to do so. This is a sparkling biography that makes John Brown come alive and speak his piece once again!

John Brown led an attack on Harper's Ferry in an attempt to obtain weaponry for his army, an army he hoped to use to defeat slavery. The attack did not go off as planned and Brown was hung for his efforts. I've always seen Brown as a terrorist, but he is not presented this way in the book; he comes across as a man who deplored slavery, loved God, and desperately wanted to stop slavery in America. The pictures are fun and bright and add a lot to the book. The text would be perfect for an older group of readers, such as junior high or high school students. An author's note explains why Hendrix came to write the book and shows where Hendrix obtained his information. The book also includes a list of sources. A bite of the book: "Like a great fuming tornado, John swept across the plains to fight for Kansas. He fought many battles on those windy plains, but it was a dark night along Pottawatomie Creek that made him notorious. John and his sons stormed the houses of five pro-slavery settlers who had been threatening his family and other abolitionists, took the men to the

creek, and killed them with broadswords. John's ruthless tactics spread fear into the hearts of the Border Ruffians and others, but also branded John a crazed madman...."

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