



Balto and the Great Race

Elizabeth Cody Kimmel

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Balto has a quiet life as a sled dog—until tragedy strikes. Dozens of children in Nome become sick with diphtheria. Without antitoxin serum, they will perish—and the closest supply is 650 miles away! The only way to get the serum to Nome is by sled, but can the dogs deliver it in time? Heading bravely into a brutal blizzard, Balto leads the race for life.

A Kansas City Children's Book Award for Grades 1–3

Balto and the Great Race Details

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From Reader Review Balto and the Great Race for online ebook

Morgan says

I read this book because when I was little I loved the cartoon film and feel in love with it then In 5th grade I read this in class and its amazing to read what they went through to save little kids I know I would try to do this but I don't thing it would go this good I love this book.

Moonkiszt says

Listened to in Yachats, Oregon by 6 of 8 grandkids. . .it was early and cold and was great atmosphere to accompany the telling of this tale! And then the sun came out as the sled rounds the bend. . .and the day is saved and we are warmed. A Kodak moment!

Ariel says

A love, stirring account of the famous trek 1926, in which dog sled teams brought diphtheria antitoxin from one end of Alaska to the other to save a whole village of sick people. This is the basis of the Iditarod. It's also a wonderful celebration of the dogs who worked so bravely and so hard to make their way through blizzards, treaties well below zero and hazardous cracking ice underfoot. The bond between people and dogs is a mysterious and inspiring thing, and this story brings it home to young readers. The book is aimed at grades 1-3; but some of the ideas and the vocabulary felt a bit more sophisticated, more like grades 2-4 to me. Still, I hardly ever enjoy books for this age (I tend to prefer picture books or older middle grade books by far); I think it's awfully hard to do so well. Really nice.

Terri says

A really fun read about the Famous Balto who led his team through the last leg of the great serum race to get serum to those sick with Diptheria in Nome through absolutely horrible storm conditions.

Erin Kelley says

What I like about this book is the very first couple of pages. You want to learn more about this dog and the rest of his crew. Once diphtheria struck the town of Nome it was up to these courageous dog to deliver medicine to the town before they all died. There are many lessons that this story teaches-history, geography, courageousness, teamwork, and the bond between man and dog.

Amelia says

Balto and the Great Race is a non-fiction chapter book that engages children in learning about the story of Balto, the sled dog who helped save people of Nome from diphtheria. The language used in this story is powerful and can challenge many students to expand their vocabulary knowledge. In addition the sketched illustrations depict the sadness, excitement and triumph that occurs throughout this story.

I found this to be wonderful book to use for literacy groups. Since, this culture was one that many of my students were not familiar with, the characters, plot and vocabulary offered a great deal of material to engage them in small group discussions. Additionally, this story can be used to integrate literacy into social studies. It can be used as a part of a social studies unit to teach students about the arctic, specifically the Iditarod and other sled dog races.

Todd says

IF YOU LIKED THIS TRY...

Also: "Abby" by Wolfram Hanel

Amanda Denter says

Balto and the Great Race was a very interesting book with a lot of information on an event that courage and skill to meet the needs of the people that were getting sick and dying. I would definitely recommend reading this book to children; as I did to my daughter.

The Man Who Walked between the Towers is an astonishing book about a young boy named Philippe Petit with a will to be extraordinary. In 1974, Petit believed he could go anywhere that two object lined up vertically. He set out on a mission and despite all odds he walked on a rope between the Twin Towers over a quarter mile in the air. Later, that day he was arrested for his actions and he went willingly. The judge ordered Petit to community service to perform for the children in the park. Petit felt accomplished and completed his community service willingly and graciously.

Kelsey says

This book provides a good overview for young readers who might be interested in the true story of Balto and/or the origins of the Iditarod. I picked it up because it was the only Kindle book about Balto available from our public library and I wanted a better sense of the history to help support a unit of study some of our 7th graders are doing. Balto and the Great Race would be a fun read aloud with younger students.

The story is enhanced by explanations of what happened to Balto after the famous run to Nome, as well as by the author's admission of conflicting information about the details of the event. Ms. Kimmel managed to convey the danger and intensity without too much speculation or embellishment, allowing the events to speak for themselves. My only concern was the assertion that, "Every Alaskan dog with a breath of life in

him dreamed of running the great northern sled races," made in the opening chapter of the book.

Liam says

Simple, beautiful, and an important story to keep in mind.

Shao Pheng says

Balto and the Great Race is about a race using dogs and sleds to get the diphtheria vaccine to the city of Nome, Alaska. The train couldn't get to Nome because of the snow.

Balto was the lead dog used by Kassen Gunnar to lead sled dogs. Balto was the lead dog because he knew the track the best and was the fastest. The plot is about helping others. Balto and Kassen had to run 53 miles across Alaska because the sled team at Point Safety who was supposed take over wasn't there. Balto and Kassen gunnar went threw ice cracking, snow falling and blizzards to get the diphtheria vaccine to Nome.

This book is geared towards both children and grownups because its non fiction. A strength in this book is a picture on the map of the way they were going from Anchorage to Nome. Another strength is that i has lots of details. A weakness of the book is some chapters had a few of pages and other chapters had short pages. Another weakness is they have hard words to say. Overall this book is great it sends a message about helping others.

Anthony chilton says

Balto is the sled dog leader. He lives in the coldness of Alaska. The person who is taking care of him ,hears something on the radio. he called the radio and said he do it. It was a relay race, and he had the team to do it.

One of the characters in the book is Togo. He changes a lot through out the book. Togo goes from being one of the best dogs. In front of the other dogs, to getting hurt and not being able to lead. And being the leader makes them feel good. so it's sad he got stuff in his paw's.

I liked this book because it reminded me of my cousin. My cousin lives in Nome Alaska. He has a sled team. His lead dog got hit by a snowmobile on accident. so his lead dog couldn't lead for about 6 months.

Patricia Holland says

Response: I feel that Kimmel did a great job researching and delivering this story. This is a classic story that I fell in love with when I watch the movie rendition when I was younger. It is a great story about perseverance and a wonderful way to introduce the history of Balto.

Teaching Implication: This would be a great introduction to a research project. In teams they could research

the history of sled teams and why they were created, diphtheria and Alaskan terrain and so on. They can then present their information in a creative way of their choosing.

Jacklyn Nicklin says

This was a nice telling of the story i feel like u can learn from this story and how everything true hopefully and everything it met be for kids but I enjoy.

Tessa says

I sat down to read a chapter or two with the kids and they were so enthralled that we ended up reading the whole thing in one sitting! This is a great tribute to a wonderful group of people and dogs who worked so hard to help children they didn't even know. Later, it would be children who helped rescue Balto and his team. Dogs are wonderful creatures!
