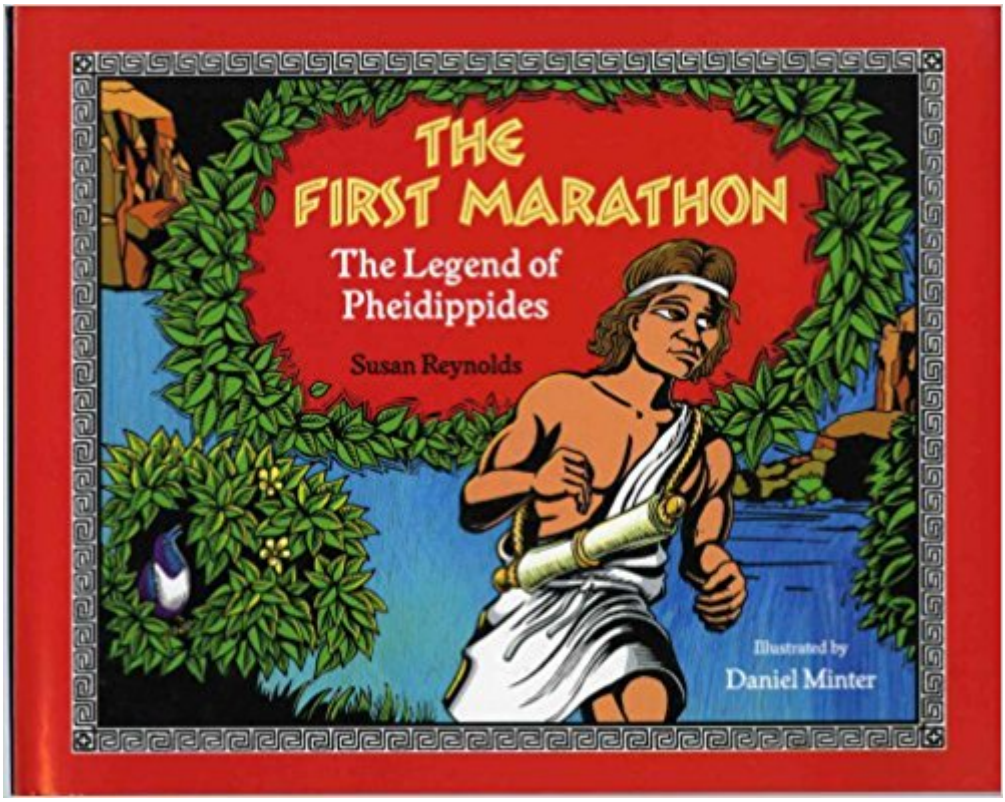
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The First Marathon: The Legend Of Pheidippides



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Synopsis

Twenty-five hundred years ago Greek soldiers faced the Persian army on the plain of Marathon. Pheidippides ran to neighboring Sparta, 140 miles away, to ask for the Spartans' aid. Afterwards he sped back to the battle, where he helped defeat the enemy.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,568,569 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Track & Field #810 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient #920 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-5Ã¢â ¬â œTwenty-five hundred years ago, a small band of Greeks faced the huge Persian army. Given the horrendous odds, help was a necessity, so a young runner named Pheidippides ran 140 miles to Sparta to request aid, and then ran back to report that the Spartans were on their way, albeit in their own good time. The boy stayed to help the Athenians defeat the Persians, and then ran to Athens to relate the news of the victory. Completely spent by his superhuman efforts, he collapsed and diedÃ¢â ¬â œbut he left a legacy in the 26-mile race named after the battle he reported on. This rather heavily fictionalized picture-book recounting presents an engaging young hero in readable, if slightly gee whiz prose. The facts of the story, as they are known, are set out clearly within the context of a tale, and the book would read aloud quite well. Minters illustrations are reminiscent of Ashley Wolffs work, with the strong black outlines and blocks of solid color. The map of Greece and the Persian Empire on the endpapers is most helpful in laying a framework for the story. An afterword includes detailed information on the historical sources the author used to inform

her story. A sound addition for most collections.Ã¢â ¬â œAnn Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 2-4. Reynolds goes back 2,500 years to tell the exciting story of how the Greeks fought off the mighty Persian army on the plains of Marathon, and how the young long-distance runner Pheidippides ran 140 miles in 36 hours to Sparta to ask for help, then ran back without stopping, fought in the battle, ran to tell Athens of the victory, and died. Now marathons are named for his heroic run. The dramatic, full-color, double-page illustrations, with heavy black accents, show the strong, rhythmic movement of the brave young athlete, the battle scenes, and then runners across the world today. Reynolds is sometimes too exclamatory, but her opening sentence, about a time "long before there were telephones, cars or computers," makes clear the crucial role of the ancient messenger. A long, fascinating afterword for older readers offers information about the research, the line between legend and history, and the struggle of women to participate in marathons. Hazel RochmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

I ordered this book for a kids' running class. This was best for age groups 2nd to 8th grade. It has beautiful illustrations and a map on the inside cover that helps to understand how big Persia is in comparison to Athens, Greece, as well as to see the distances that Pheidippedes ran. In the back few pages, the author explains how she researched for the book. She even explains what a legend is. In the past, I have just told this story. This year, the story came to life for the kids thanks to this book. I highly recommend this book for interest in running, legends, or history.

Wonderful story, the kids really enjoy hearing this many times over.

Got to say I love this book. The artwork is bright and cheerful and kid-friendly, and Susan Reynolds does a great job of retelling the classic tale of the Greek runner, Pheidippides.I'm reading it with my kids (currently 8 and 10) to fill out our studies of ancient Greece. And I particularly like the pains with which the Mr. Minter went to make sure that the 'costumes' and settings were correct. I also just love how Ms. Reynolds takes the sad ending -- Pheidippes sort of overdoes the running -- and turns it into a positive by showing that the man is still honored today, thousands of years later with the modern Marathons that take place all over the world.Pam T~mom/blogger/ancient history lover

Great map in this book, gives kids a clear idea of the places and distances, if not the mountainous terrain. This one will inspire your kids to keep going, although it may freak them out that Pheidippides' heart burst. But really, 306 miles is pretty far for any young kid to run.

I read this book to my six-year-olds and they were spellbound. By the end of the story I was bawling, but the author did such a wonderful job describing the hero and his courage that they understood why and felt the emotion, too.I love the story of Phidippides and through this book, my boys now love it. The illustrations are a bit cartoonish, but it holds their attention and doesn't detract from the story. They have asked for it to be read many times and when we go to the gym they 'run a marathon'.I'm so glad there's a book which makes the courage, bravery and nobility of Phidippides accessible to children. Most teens and adults would enjoy this book as well as it easily explains the story without dumbing it down.Read it. And then go running!

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