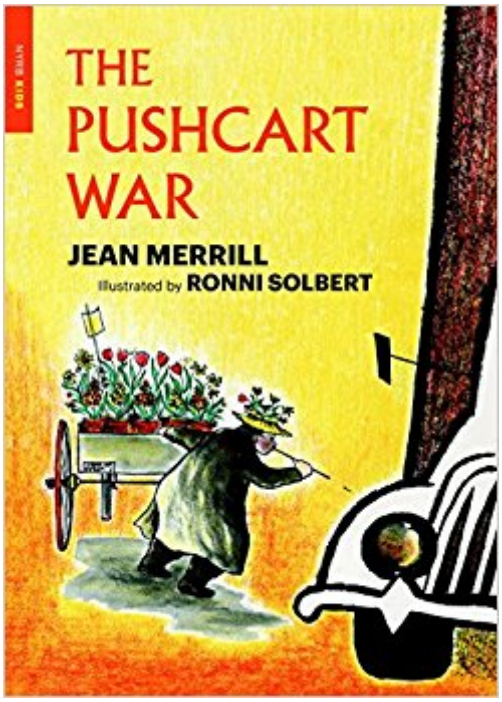
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The Pushcart War (New York Review Children's Collection)



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Synopsis

"The best book about politics ever written for children." Ã¢â ¬â •The Washington Post 50th Anniversary Edition, now in paperbackDO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF THE PUSHCART WAR? THE REAL HISTORY?Ã Â ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a story of how regular people banded together and, armed withÃ Â little more than their brains and good aim, defeated a mighty foe. Not long ago the streets of New York City were smelly, smoggy, sooty, and loud. There were so many trucks making deliveries that it might take an hour for a car to travel a few blocks. People blamed the truck owners and the truck owners blamed the little wooden pushcarts that traveled the city selling everything from flowers to hot dogs. Behind closed doors the truck owners declared war on the pushcart peddlers. Carts were smashed from Chinatown to Chelsea. The peddlers didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have money or the mayor on their side, but that didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t stop them from fighting back. They used pea shooters to blow tacks into the tires of trucks, they outwitted the police, and they marched right up to the grilles of those giant trucks and dared them to drive down their streets. Today, thanks to the ingenuity of the pushcart peddlers, the streets belong to the peopleÃ¢â ¬â •and to the pushcarts. The Pushcart War was first published more than fifty years ago. It has inspired generations of children and been adapted for television, radio, and the stage around the world. It was included on School Library JournalÃ¢â ¬â„¢s list of One Hundred Books That Shaped the Twentieth Century, and its assertion that a committed group of men and women can prevail against a powerful force is as relevant in the twenty-first century as it was in 1964.

Book Information

Series: New York Review Children’s Collection

Paperback: 232 pages

Publisher: NYRB Kids; Reprint edition (September 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590179366

ISBN-13: 978-1590179369

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 117 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,017 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Jobs & Careers #51 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #102 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Cars,

Trains & Things That Go > Cars & Trucks

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4Ã¢â ¬â œ6Ã¢â ¬â •It’s war! The battlefields are the streets of New York City, and the weapons are pea shooters. Up in arms because traffic jams slow down their deliveries, the truck owners aim to get the pushcarts out of the picture. But the pushcart peddlers won’t go down without a fight. The setting of this 50th-anniversary edition has been updated to 2036 (the book originally was set in 1974, and each edition has updated the year in which it takes place to reflect a not-too-distant future). An unusual children’s bookÃ¢â ¬â •few children actually appearÃ¢â ¬â •SLJ included this innovative work on its "One Hundred Books That Shaped the Century" and lauded it as "social satire for children in its finest form." As with many of the late author’s books, Merrill tells with dexterity the tale of underdogs who persevere in the face of injustice. This strikingly original work should continue to find fans among children and adults alike.Ã¢â ¬â •Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal

Ã¢â ¬Å“The Pushcart War had a profound impact on me; when I was a kid I devoured it several times, and IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve carried it deep inside me ever since. The book gave me a point of entranceÃ¢â ¬â œmy first, I imagineÃ¢â ¬â œinto the world of resistance to political and economic injustice and chicanery. It made opposition, even nonviolent civil disobedience, seem fun and right and necessary and heroic, and something even someone as powerless as a kid could and should undertake.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Tony KushnerÃ¢â ¬Å“Finally, parents can get their hands on new copies of the best book about politics ever written for children. . . . This lively, lovely novel is an argument for staying hopeful about the possibility of bringing about change, even when you are going up against entrenched and powerful interests.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Alyssa Rosenberg, The Washington Post Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A book about friendship and sticking together and sticking up for yourself, especially against The Man. Plus itÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll just make you feel all warm and fuzzy.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Emily Temple, Flavorwire Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“This is one of the great childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s classics. . . . Part of its charm is its oldÃ¢â ¬â œNew York quaintness, but the exciting story, set in the pressure-cooker of city traffic, is timeless.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Sonja Bolle, Newsday Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“MerrillÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story, full of unexpected reversals and understated witticisms, feels exceptionally modern. And by the endÃ¢â ¬â •after the two sides have hammered

out a peaceful and deeply reasonable compromiseÃ¢â ¬â •one can only hope that weÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll catch up to MerrillÃ¢â ¬â„¢s future one day.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Adam Mansbach, NPR, You Must Read This Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“This is satire on almost every conceivable aspect of modern urban life. . . .To all it should be funny, and to many it will have the disturbing ring of truth.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •School Library Journal, starred review Ã¢â ¬Å“The tale of New YorkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s pushcart peddlers waging war against the monstrous, bullying trucks is drollÃ¢â ¬â •as are Ronni SolbertÃ¢â ¬â„¢s illustrationsÃ¢â ¬â •but its message remains urgent.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Nicole Rudick, The Paris ReviewÃ Â blog Ã¢â ¬Å“ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book that was of great help to me, The Pushcart WarÃ Â by Jean Merrill. It is quite a wonderful description of how to run a campaign.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Bill McKibben, The Boston Globe

Subtle expression of community organizing against powerful bullies. Well written - it pulls you through, all the way to the end.I bought it for my gifted (and extraordinarily beautiful, of course) pre- or early-teen grandchildren, but found myself having toread it first. So they didn’t get it for Christmas. But I’ll try to get them into it in the next month or two, whenever a teachablemoment comes along.

This is my third (maybe fourth?) time through this book, but the first time in roughly 25 years. The story is still good, although I have somehow gotten hold of a book where all the dates have been changed around, which I presume happened on purpose, but which doesn’t make too much sense.The characters are very good -- mostly poor immigrants for the pushcart people and tough-guy types for the truckers. There’s a bit of stereotyping there, but it’s still well done. How about this for a wonderful character analysis: "Of The Three, it is Louie Livergreen that I would be afraid of, and I think that is because his voice is as good as a smooth grade of motor oil, whether he is saying something perfectly pleasant or something terrible. If somebody says something terrible in a pleasant tone of voice, I get very nervous. I would feel better if they yelled."This is the classic powerless-people-holding-true-to-their-principles,-willing-to-fight story. This book is Atticus Finch... It is the Battle of Thermopylae (but with a happier ending)... It is Tianenman Square... It is Braveheart... It is the Warsaw Ghetto uprising... It is Patrick Henry... It is the Tea Party movement... It is Polish solidarity... It’s Budapest in 1956 and Prague in 1968... It’s David vs. Goliath...The underdog pushcarts stand up against the brute force of the truckers, and through ingenuity and decency, strike a blow against corrupt, indifferent thuggishness.It’s good.Along the way, Jean Merrill

gives us lovely literature (but bad economics). The story just moves -- reading it out loud to my kids was a joy. And there is humor! Everything the trucks deliver begins with the letter P. Maxie turns out to be an expert poker player. The author herself makes a cameo, through a letter to the editor.Give it a shot.***update *** I read aloud to my whole family, and younger children may not always follow a story like this very well. I just read the book "Castle on Hester Street" by Boris Kulikov, that shows being an immigrant (like the pushcart folks), and may give some visual grounding to younger children.

I wish that the dates were not changed. I read this book as a child the first time in 1975 a year before it was to take place and I though that I was seeing into the future. Although when I just read it with my eight year old daughter to her with the new dates it didn't feel like looking to the future , but looking back to the time of my youth. I is a humorous read that should be shared with your child

This is an excellent book for a young person. It is thought provoking and fantastic for discussions. It also transports a child back to a time when trucks were a new thing and pushcarts made up retail life, something hard for them to fathom. The characters are varied, a little crazy and fun, and the story include emotional attachment to ideas and politics.

Frank the Flower, Morris the Florist and many of the their pushcart-owning friends on the streets of New York City are being grazed, nudged, and even smashed as the trucks take up more and more of the streets. A mayor who favors the shady Big Three trucking company owners won't do anything, so the peddlers and Maxie Hammerman, the Pushcart King, decide they must fight back themselves.Note: early versions of this book set the time frame of The Pushcart War as being years after the book was written, but being told as if in the past. I'm assuming that as time went on, they continued to change the years, as the latest version I have seen lists a more recent decade than the 1970s for when the war took place. I find it a little harder to place this in current-day Manhattan, so I would rather have seen an explanation in the front of the book and kept the dates of the war the same as originally written. I'd take off a small fraction of a star for that.Loved reading this in grade school. My husband and middle-school daughter loved it when we read it aloud years ago, and I recently introduced and adult friend to it who like it as well.

A relative introduced me to this book when I was young and on rereading it twenty years later, it is still a charming story full of humor and whimsy. I recommend this story to children and adults alike,

both as a gentle satire on wars in general and a fun romp through the streets of old New York and the heyday of pushcarts.

It is pretty funny to watch an adult belly laugh and cry while reading a children’s book, this is one of those books. If you read it as a child, you will learn about some of the inner workings of politics, about organizing against a bigger foe, and about how public opinion gets swayed and manipulated.If you are beyond the age of twelve and reading this book, you get a pretty good picture of old New York City. You will also notice that many (if not all) the characters that play significant parts in the Pushcart REVOLUTION (yeah, I bet that’s what the author really wanted to name this book) belong to various minority groups - the only hint might be their names or the way they form certain phrases in dialogue, but if you look for it, it is there. Of course, whoever lived in NYC during that time knows from experience that most of the pushcart vendors were immigrants or somehow different from the majority, so it won’t come as a surprise; but Jean Merrill works it in artfully, without being obvious.This is a book that I enjoy rereading every few years.

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