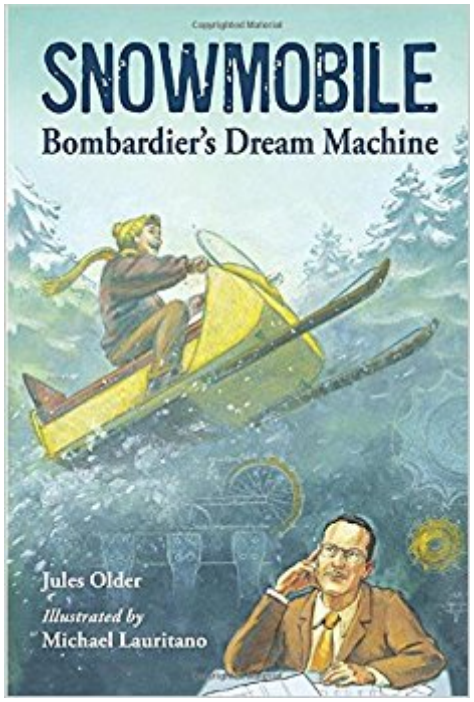
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Snowmobile: Bombardier's Dream Machine



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Synopsis

In 1922, when Joseph-Armand Bombardier was fifteen years old he built his first snow vehicle. He had always loved to tinker with motors and make things go, and he dreamed of building a vehicle that could go over snow. His first attempt, using a Model T Ford engine and a wooden propeller, worked well. To Joseph-ArmandÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mind, anyhow. Not so much his father, who made him take the contraption apart. Over the years, Joseph-Armand dreamed of becoming a great mechanic and inventing machines. But when his young son died of a fever because it was impossible to get to the hospital over the snow-covered roads, Joseph-Armand applied his single-minded determination to building a vehicle that could go over snow. It took years, but he accomplished his goal. His invention changed the way people in snow country lived. Inaccessible roads could now be travelled, taking patients to hospitals, doctors and priests to the needy, children to school, and even mail to residents.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

When Jules Older isn't skiing or snowmobiling, he's writing children's books. His books include PIG, COW and ICE CREAM. He lives in San Francisco, California.

I wanted to learn about the history of the snowmobile and I got that and a wonderful story too. What a great book.

My son read this book fast with lots of interest and did well on his biography book report!! He talked about it for days!

Although it's a children's book, it is well written and a nice summary of how bombardier invented the Sk-Doo snowmobile.

As a youngster, Joseph-Armand Bombardier already stood out from his peers for his intense desire to fix things and study hard at school. People considered him a mechanical genius, albeit an odd one who was not afraid to stand apart from the crowd. Growing up in a small town in Quebec in the early 1900s, Joseph-Armand experienced first-hand the isolation that came from transportation difficulties during the winter months when snow covered the ground.In his teenage years, he built a rudimentary propellor-driven device that allowed him to glide across the snow. Unfortunately the contraption was rather dangerous and extremely noisy, so it had to be dismantled. It would take many more years of hard work, experimentation, and even a tragic personal loss before Joseph-Armand built a working model of the first snowmobile. He ultimately created his own successful company, Bombadier, and developed different types of tracked vehicles and snowmobiles.This interesting biography offers a good opportunity to introduce young learners to the concept of innovation and the important lesson that successful inventions improve people's lives in very tangible ways. In emphasizing that Bombardier's interest in working on mechanical contraptions started at a young age, the book can encourage readers to think about how their own talents can ultimately transform into a career.

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