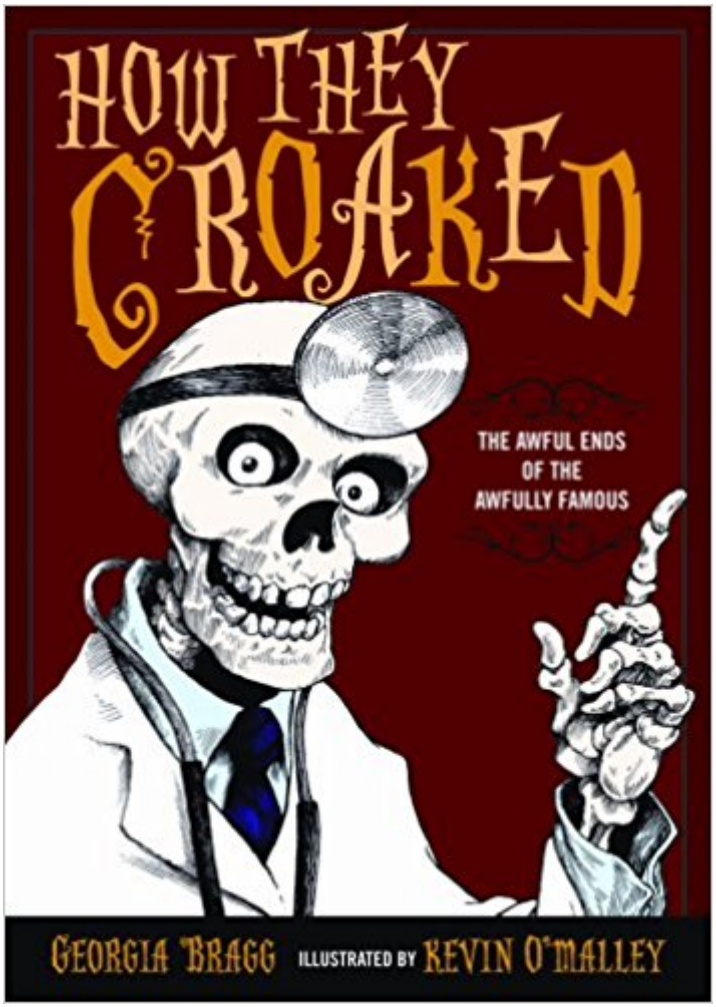
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How They Croaked: The Awful Ends Of The Awfully Famous



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Synopsis

Over the course of history men and women have lived and died. In fact, getting sick and dying can be a big, ugly mess-especially before the modern medical care that we all enjoy today. How They Croaked relays all the gory details of how nineteen world figures gave up the ghost. Readers will be fascinated well past the final curtain, and feel lucky to live in a world with painkillers, X-rays, soap, and 911.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 950 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; Reprint edition (July 3, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802727948

ISBN-13: 978-0802727947

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.6 x 256 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 133 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #29,032 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #47 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States #170 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Starred Review From George Ã Â¿Â Little Mouth of HorrorsÃ Â¿Â Washington to Marie Ã Â¿Â You Glow, GirlÃ Â¿Â Curie, Bragg chronicles with ghoulish glee the chronic or fatal maladies that afflicted 19 historical figures. Nonsqueamish readers will be entranced by her riveting descriptions of King TutÃ Â¿Â s mummification (and the brutal treatment that mummy has received in modern times); the thoroughly septic Ã Â¿Â doctoringÃ Â¿Â that hastened or at least contributed to the deaths of Mozart, Napoleon, James A. Garfield, and others; the literal dissolution of Henry VIIIÃ Â¿Â s body (Ã Â¿Â While lying in state, it is believed that his toxic remains exploded, and some of his royal splendidness dripped out the sides of the coffin overnightÃ Â¿Â); and the outrageous fates of EinsteinÃ Â¿Â s brain, GalileoÃ Â¿Â s fingers, and other

coronersÃ Â¿Â souvenirs. The author tucks quick notes on at least marginally relevant topics, such as leeching, scurvy, presidential assassins, and mummy eyes (Ã Â¿Â If mummy eyeballs are rehydrated, they return to almost normal sizeÃ Â¿Â), between the chapters and closes with generous lists of nontechnical print resources on each of her subjects. OÃ Â¿Â MalleyÃ Â¿Â s cartoon portraits and spot art add just the right notes of humor to keep the contents from becoming too gross. Usually. Despite occasional farfetched claimsÃ Â¿Â itÃ Â¿Â s hard to believe that Charles Darwin puked four million times, even though he was fanatical about keeping personal health recordsÃ Â¿Â this all-too-informative study deserves the wild popularity it will without doubt acquire. Grades 5-8. --John Peters --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"O’Malley’s cartoon portraits and spot art add just the right notes of humor to keep the contents from becoming too gross. This all-too-informative study deserves the wild popularity it will without doubt acquire." - Booklist, starred review"The most reluctant of readers will find it difficult to resist this consistently disgusting chronicle of the gruesome deaths of 19 will famous people. Bragg’s informal, conversational style and O’Malley’s cartoon illustrations complement the flippant approach to the subject; the energetically icky design includes little skulls and crossbones to contain page numbers. Engaging, informative and downright disgusting." - Kirkus "Bragg holds forth on nineteen Big Names whose demises have raised eyebrows, questions, and probably a few lunches... Carried away on a swift-flowing stream of body fluids, medical ineptitude, and O’Malley’s deliciously snarky artwork, kids will agree they got exactly what they came for." - BCCB

My soon-to-be 8 year old daughter has a bit of a macabre streak -- she saw this book at the mall and immediately put it on her birthday list. The rest of the family thought it a bit odd, but this IS the same girl that carries around a skeleton doll for the entire month of October...’How They Croaked’ goes further than just describing the "How" of the way some famous folks’ lives ended -- there’s also quite a bit of insight into some of the other medical issues they fought. And it doesn’t just end at death... the book also reveals some surprising stories about missing body parts, thievery, etc. I learned quite a bit having it read aloud from the backseat during a roadtrip! Note: The book doesn’t mince words when it comes to slicing, dicing and decomposing, so you can also expect this to lead to more conversations about anatomy, etc. Heed the notice at the beginning that says "If you don’t have the guts for gore, do not read this book."The publisher listed the book as appropriate for ages 10 to 14, but even at 8, my daughter was okay with it. YMMV. You’ll definitely get used to hearing "Ewwwwww! Hey, did you know _____?"

The subtitle says it all: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous. Some the awfully famous whose ends Georgia Bragg tells her readers about are King Tut, Albert Einstein, Galileo, Charles Dickens, Marie Curie, and James Garfield, among others.Bragg spares no detail in telling us how the people she chose to be included in her book died.In addition to the details of their deaths, Bragg also includes other interesting tidbits of history. For instance, after telling us about George Washington's strange end, she adds a section on Presidential Death Facts. She provides the readers information on the presidents whose faces appears on US money, from Washington to U.S. Grant, and the presidents who died in office, etc.Adults may find the descriptions too detailed, but the age group that the book is written for, will love every little detail. It may be hard for adults to read the book to their kids, but the kids are going to love the book.The bottom line is that both adults and kids will love this book. It is a given that the kids will want to share the facts they learn and the book itself. Adults will find themselves wanting to share the facts as well. The problem for the parents is that their kids won't let them borrow their book.

I bought this for my son the summer after 5th grade when he was 11 (it was one of the options for him to pick from a required reading list for 6th grade). He's a slow reader so he doesn't enjoy reading much, but he liked this book. The great thing about this book is that it's made up of many short stories rather than long chapters.The stories are very brief summaries of the lives and deaths of famous people like King Tut, Henry VIII, Christopher Columbus, Albert Einstein, and Edgar Allan Poe. There's a total of 19 famous people listed in the Table of Contents.This book was easy for my son to read without feeling overwhelmed because each mini story is only about 5-7 pages.Plus I enjoyed the facts he shared with me each time he read about someone.I have friends whose 10-11 year olds are reading the Twilight series of books. My son would have a panic attack if he had to read a 500+ page book. Granted, he'll eventually need to get used to the idea of reading big books as school progresses, but for now this is good for him.

This book provided interesting information about authors that had lost their lives.

I saw my grandson reading this book and it looked good. So much so, I did not want to wait for him to finish so I bought my own copy. It is a bit gory in parts as you might expect from the title but kids like that kind of thing. So far, it has been a fun, easy read.

great book

I read this aloud to my high school class in some free minutes and they love it. So funny and historical. This has led to some great discussions. Who would ever have guessed?

I volunteer with a group of retired ladies who read with middle school students. Many of the students have a poor view of reading "whole books", but "How They Croaked" intrigues them from the first time they look through the table of contents. Some of the 'naughty' words used by the author surprise these kids, but also make them want to keep reading. They learn useful facts about famous people as they work on their reading comprehension and fluency. Really fun for kids and adults.

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