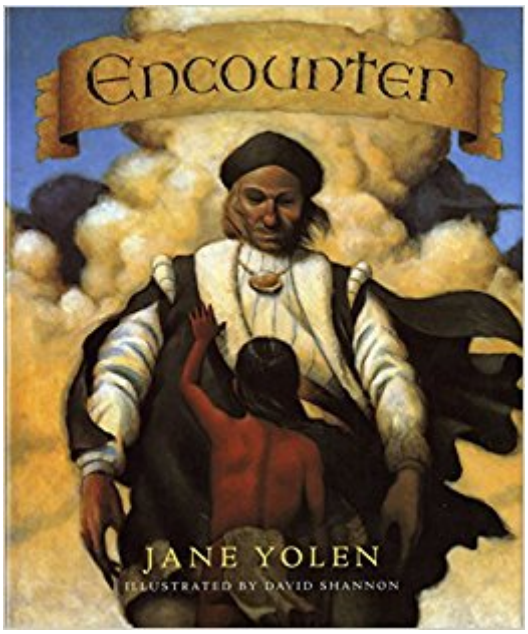
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Synopsis

When Christopher Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador in 1492, what he discovered were the Taino Indians. Told from a young Taino boyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s point of view, this is a story of how the boy tried to warn his people against welcoming the strangers, who seemed more interested in golden ornaments than friendship. Years later the boy, now an old man, looks back at the destruction of his people and their culture by the colonizers.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Harcourt Children's Books; 1st edition (April 15, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152259627

ISBN-13: 978-0152259624

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #831,022 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #149 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries #480 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #2385 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States

Age Range: 6 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

PW's starred review described this "stirring" book as a look at the dark underside of Christopher Columbus's adventure. "The message is blunt but the language in which it is couched is vintage Yolen, lyrical and impassioned. Shannon's visionary style is an ideal complement." Also available in a Spanish-language edition, Encuentro ($6, -201342-3). Ages 6-12. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2 - 5-- Readers weary of materials celebrating Columbus and his voyages will be refreshed and intrigued by this thought-provoking picture book. The imaginative story examines the first meeting between Columbus and the indigenous peoples of San Salvador (the Taino) through the

eyes of a young native boy. The unnamed narrator has been warned in an ominous dream that the strangers may bring trouble to his people. His concerns are ignored, however, and the Taino greet their guests with customary feasting and gifts, only to be repaid by the abduction of several of their young people. Taken among the captives, the boy escapes and slowly makes his way home, trying to convince others along the way that the Spanish pose a threat, but to no avail. Yolen acknowledges in an author's note that no record of the Tainos' reaction to Columbus's arrival is available; this account is instead an evocative imagining of how things might have been. The haunting story is perfectly complemented by Shannon's powerful acrylic paintings. He mentions that, in fact, the Taino did not wear clothing, but feels that his decision to clothe them does not interfere with the plausibility or effectiveness of his presentation. A book that offers readers an alternative perspective on a well-known and much-celebrated historical event. --Lisa Dennis, The Carnegie Library of PittsburghCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Having borrowed the book from my local library, I noticed that the Kindle edition was available and at a low price. I bought it yesterday evening, and returned it this afternoon. Regardless of what you think of the book (and there are some fascinating points of view in other people's reviews), the Kindle edition is not just disappointing but incomplete. The illustrations, as someone else has pointed out, are in black and white, even when read on the cloud reader on my laptop, but even worse there are illustrations and whole pages of text totally missing, and that's just in the first few pages! Shameful quite honestly.

Aside from the shameful black and white copies of David Shannon's beautiful illustrations, the text is out of order which diminishes the impact of the story. I have a copy of the book in Spanish that I have treasured. The English text on the Kindle does not match thethe order of the pages. I have to scroll back and forth on the kindle to follow the books' pictures and storyline.

gift, wasn't what I expected but ok

I love the way Jane Yolen tackles tough topics in such an accessible way for young readers. It's a great book to help young people think through what has, what can, what could, and what should happen when cultures collide.When I taught Social Studies this was my go to book for discussions about some of the sad, somber outcomes of European exploration and greed. You can even draw connections between this story and other groups that are being currently displaced or

disadvantaged by other groups' progress.Also the book contains a great deal of figurative language. When I used it for ELA, I would read a portion.It's a very long book to read in one sitting. And then later or the next day I would pick out sentences/phrases from the text and have students identify the type of figurative language.There are also several moments that require readers' to make inferencesThis is a strong mentor text, on so many levels.

What a great book for showing both early exploration from the Native point of view. As a teacher, I don't just want to teach that Columbus was a hero. Yes, he accomplished some amazing things, but the cost to civilizations that were already in place was catastrophic. This book is short enough to present quickly, but serious enough to begin some real discussions on the changes that took place as a result of Columbus and the rest of the explorers.

Love this book. I used it to pair together social studies and reading to teach different points of view for famous historical events, and it just works so well as a beautifully illustrated alternative to the story most students hear about the arrival of the European explorers.I had to translate the book for my immersion students, but I felt the base text is very appropriate for upper elementary students.

A well-written story and beautifully illustrated account of Columbus' landing on San Salvador. Perfect for discussing Point of View and imagery with children from very young to very old. Worth the purchase

I use this book in my social studies classroom. Most exploration books and textbooks are written from the explorer perspective. I love that my students are shown other perspectives when we read this book.

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