



2013

Around the World in 100 Days

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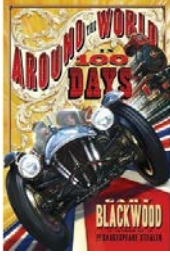
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Author: Blackwood, Gary

Title: *Around the World in 100 Days*

Illustrator: Stead, Erin E.

Year of Publication: 2010

Publisher: Dutton Children's Books

ISBN: 9780525422952

of pages: 358

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate; Young Adult

Keywords: Historical Fiction; Automobiles; Voyages around the world; Reporters;

Review:

Harry Fogg, son to the famous Phileas, has caught automotive fever so he and his friend Johnny construct a steam-powered motorcar they call the Flash. After several unfortunate accidents, Harry impulsively wagers to drive the Flash around the world in 100 days. Accompanying Harry and Johnny on the trip are two other passengers: Charles Hardiman—son to one of the men who set up the wager—and Elizabeth—an independent but mysterious journalist. Along the way the group encounters many different harrowing incidents from prairie fires in the United States to kidnappers in Siberia. Thanks to his unflinching determination Harry makes it to his destination on time and with the money he wins, he decides to go to school to become an engineer so he can help Johnny try to construct an electric car.

Blackwood acknowledges that this is a sequel to Jules Verne's 1873 story, *Around the World in 80 Days*. Blackwood even adds extra background on the closed life of Phileas Fogg by explaining how Phileas gained his wealth and what happened to his parents. This trip takes longer because Harry can only use his motorcar's power, except on water, to get him to his destination. In the midst of Harry's adventurous trip, Blackwood addresses more sobering topics such as racism and rebellion against technology in the 1890s. Overall, the story is a fun, fast-paced read that will have readers cheering on Harry and his gang as they circumnavigate the globe.

Reviewers Name: Tessa McMillan

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