



2008

Washington at Valley Forge

Ruth-Anne Brown

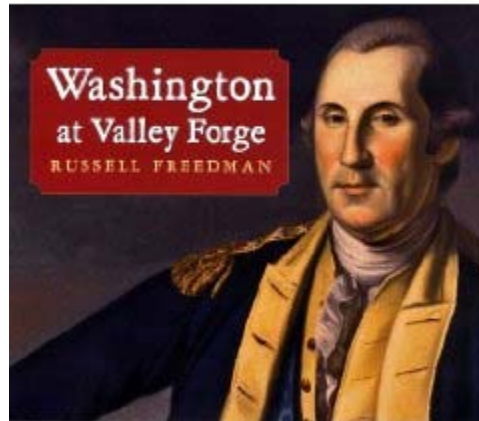
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Freedman, Russell. *Washington at Valley Forge*. New York: Holiday House, 2008.
ISBN9780823420698. \$24.95. 100p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Biography; Informational

Subjects: Washington, George, 1732-1799 -- Headquarters -- Pennsylvania -- Valley Forge -- Juvenile literature ; Washington, George, 1732-1799 ; United States. Continental Army -- Military life -- Juvenile literature ; United States. Continental Army -- Military life ; Valley Forge (Pa.) -- History -- 18th century -- Juvenile literature ; Books--Reviews

In the cold winter of 1777, newly appointed General George Washington selects Valley Forge as the army's encampment for the next six months. The men lack food, blankets, and even clothing. Washington faces the difficulties of obtaining supplies for the army, training his rag tag men for battle, and keeping his position from jealous American officers who attempt to slander him. Not only does Washington keep his tattered, starving army alive, but he sees to it that they become skilled militia men. Valley Forge was the turning point in the war. America would face a larger, stronger, more capable enemy and win their freedom.

Teachers and parents can share this history of the Revolutionary War full of illustrations from pen and ink sketches to oil paintings to photographs. The personal accounts of those who experienced the events weave a rich, relatable history. Little known details make it a compelling read, such as Washington's best spies were washerwomen. They did laundry for British officials in Philadelphia and informed Washington of the British retreat when they were ordered to have their laundry delivered at once "finished or unfinished." The hardships and victories help readers realize how much was sacrificed for the freedom of the United States of America.

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