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# Genghis Khan

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Demi. *Genghis Khan*. Illustrated by Demi. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. ISBN 9780761455477.  
\$19.99. 53 p.

Reviewer: Megan Harris

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Biographies; Picture books;

Subject: Genghis Khan, 1162-1227--Juvenile literature; Mongols--Kings and rulers--Biography--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Temujin was just a small boy, growing up fatherless and alone on the planes of Medieval Mongolia, but despite great danger, he grew up to become the leader of the largest empire in the history of the world, as the indomitable Genghis Khan. As the son of tribal leaders, Temujin grew up hunting, riding, and training to fight. His father was unexpectedly poisoned when Temujin, the next head of the large Mongol tribe, was only nine. Proving himself through acts of courage, wisdom and harsh loyalty, Temujin soon became the leader of the world's most powerful army. After conquering much of Europe and China, Temujin fell from his horse during a hunt and was attacked by a wild bore. The resulting infection from his wounds killed him, and he was buried back on the peaceful plains where he grew up.

This new edition of Demi's biographical picture book (previously published as *Chingis Khan* in 1991) is a dazzling interpretation of Asiatic art. In the style of woodblock prints and brushed color familiar to Asian culture, the pictures benefit from an extra element of metallic overlay which gives the images an authentic gold-leaf embellished feel. Demi's Asian interpretation goes so far as to include traditional red ink signature stamps, marking her work and adding legitimacy to the images. *Genghis Khan* is an excellent simplified historical text with stunning images. It would be a good shared reading in the middle and upper elementary school grades. This book would also be great for English language learners because it has a high level of interest and content at a low reading level.

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