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The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton & Aaron Burr

Pat Frade

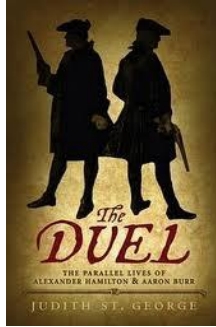
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St. George, Judith. *The Duel : The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton & Aaron Burr*. Viking/Penguin Group, 2009. ISBN 9780670011247 \$16.99. 97 p.

Reviewer: Pat Frade

Reading level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Biography; Historical fiction;

Subject: Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804--Juvenile literature; Burr, Aaron, 1756-1836--Juvenile literature; Burr-Hamilton Duel, Weehawken, N.J., 1804--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

The Duel tells the story of two of the Founding Fathers and how much their lives had in common. Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr grew up in totally different places, but they both lost parents at an early age. Education brought them to the same town as students in New Jersey. When the Revolutionary War began, both Hamilton and Burr served, with Hamilton becoming a general under George Washington and Burr becoming a colonel. After the war, both attended law school and were lawyers in New York, often trying the same case--sometimes together and sometimes in opposition. Their paths would cross time and time again as they became involved in politics. Because both men had very strong personalities and strong opinions, they were often competing against each other, culminating in a tragic duel.

St. George does a good job in paralleling the stories of these two men. The book is geared toward upper elementary/middle school in giving a reader a general introduction to Hamilton and Burr.

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