Earmuffs for Everyone! How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs

Abigail Packard

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Earmuffs for Everyone! is the fun story of how Chester Greenwood “invented” earmuffs. You see, he technically wasn’t the first person to invent covers for people’s ears. But he was the one to improve earmuffs so that they stayed snugly on people’s heads. McCarthy has filtered through the folklore surrounding Greenwood to bring us the chronology of the invention of the earmuff, Greenwood’s eventual patent of the earmuff we know now, and Greenwood’s journey into Maine folklore and even into Maine’s holiday calendar.

Meghan McCarthy’s illustrations are fun and witty. Her people are especially fun. The writing is easy to understand and McCarthy crafts the story in such a way as to highlight the improvements that Greenwood made to earmuffs even though he didn’t invent them. The flow of the story is a little clunky and the way she presents information is patched instead of woven. Her notes about the book and patents at the end are very well done, although maybe a bit too blocky and heavy on the text considering the audience. Overall, an inspiring book about a young inventor and the importance of curiosity.