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W is for Webster: Noah Webster and His American Dictionary

Nicole Clark

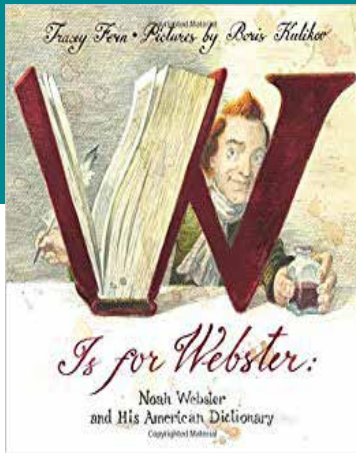
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Book Review

W is for Webster: Noah Webster and His American Dictionary

Noah Webster has a way with words - big words. He spends his childhood “playing roguish tricks” and hopes never to be sent to war because he is “ill able to bear the fatigues of a soldier.” As a young adult during the United States’ Revolutionary period, Webster feels strongly that the new country needs its own lexicon to reflect new American ideals and ways of living. He works tirelessly to collect and compile words and their histories from a myriad of sources, and after twenty years of work, *An American Dictionary of the English Language* is finally complete.

W is for Webster provides some interesting insights into the eccentric and quirky personality of Noah Webster, such as the fact that he took his heartbeat after every important discovery. However, stylistic inconsistencies in the writing and some confusing sentences occasionally draw attention to themselves and away from Webster’s story. The pacing feels sometimes too slow and at other times too quick, and at the end of the story, the reader is left wanting to know how life turns out for Webster. Readers looking for additional information about Webster’s life may find the Author’s Note somewhat lacking.

Author

Tracey Fern

Illustrator

Boris Kulikov

Reviewer

Nicole Clark

Rating

Dependable

Level

Primary, Intermediate

Pages

40

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