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Epic Fails #3: Not-So-Great Presidents: Commanders in Chief

Amanda Morgan

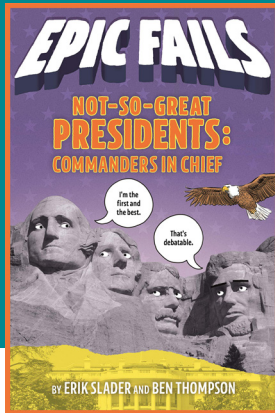
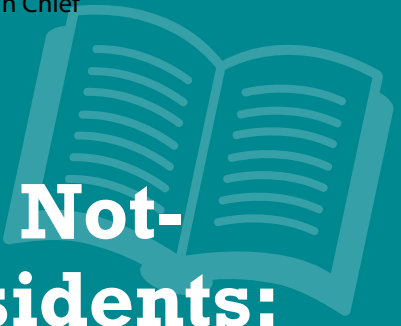
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Book Review

Epic Fails #3: Not-So-Great Presidents: Commanders in Chief

Author

Erik Slader and Ben Thompson

Reviewer

Amanda Morgan

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary, Intermediate,
Young Adult

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Pages

151

Year

2019

ISBN

9781250150592

Publisher

Roaring Brook Press

Many of the United States presidents have served their country honorably, but all have made mistakes. This book gives a brief history on every U.S. president, including the things that show they're only human. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams dueled, argued, and name-called for years before becoming friends. John Quincy Adams approved an expedition to find mole people in the center of the earth. William Howard Taft got stuck in a bath tub. Andrew Johnson was the first president to be impeached. William Nixon liked eating cottage cheese with ketchup. Oh yeah, and he was a part of the Watergate Scandal. From little quirks to huge mishaps, no president was perfect. But America is what it is today because of them.

This book takes on an informal tone to teach kids about history. It's full of humor and personality, from Star Wars references to snarky commentary by the author. It is written in chapter book format with small illustrations and historical photographs here and there, making it suitable for older primary-aged children and intermediate children. While the book focuses more on the quirks of the presidents than a regular history book, it still includes the most significant facts about each of the presidents' lives and terms. It explains complicated things like political parties and the duties of the U.S. president in a simple way. Even the Watergate Scandal is laid out in such a way that a child could understand it. This book could be utilized to teach young readers about government and U.S. history in a fun and exciting way.

*Contains mild violence