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Space Race: A Graphic Novel (Campfire Graphic Novels)



Synopsis

A substance from Earth that would carry man into space...How did charcoal, one of the key ingredients in gunpowder, alter the course of warfare and make it possible for us to build giant structures in space? This question, and many more like it, are answered in this thrilling historical story. Join Chet Riley and his grandfather as they relive the story of the Space Race -- an event that was contested by the two greatest powers on Earth, and involved some of the most brilliant and inventive minds the world has ever seen. From gunpowder in ancient China, to inventions in Russia and the United States of America, the story of the Space Race is one that takes the reader all over the world... and beyond! Suitable for readers of all ages, Space Race combines beautiful artwork and a gripping story.

Book Information

Series: Campfire Graphic Novels

Paperback: 68 pages

Publisher: Campfire (July 12, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9380028628

ISBN-13: 978-9380028620

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

"I highly recommend Campfire's comics. They do what they are intended to do and do it in a way that excites kids about classic literature." • Chris Wilson, The Graphic Classroom (a resource for teachers and librarians)

Christopher Welsh is an American freelance writer who owes comic books a great deal. Through comics he learnt a lot about heroism, literature, storytelling, and writing. Beginning with writing short stories of all kinds, Christopher became a full-time writer in 2005. He utilised the Internet to find

clients in Russia, England, Germany, and Canada. When the opportunity came along to write graphic novels for Campfire, India was added to the list. Christopher has worked all over the world, without leaving his home in Orlando, Florida. He is currently working on his first novel and, of course, his next graphic novel from Campfire.

Reason for Reading: Ds is finishing up his study of the 20th century with a space exploration unit and I pre-read this to see if it would be more satisfying than the previous "Space Race" book we had read, and it was. A unique combination of science fiction and fact. We are presented with the factual story of the US/USSR Space Race from the early days of simply sending a satellite into orbit, to sending animals into space, then men and so forth until the ultimate landing of men on the moon is reached. This non-fiction story is framed within a science fiction story which takes place "many years in the future" as a grandfather takes his son fishing and relates the history to him, but it is all aiming for a surprise ending which is a thrilling, thought-pondering finale. I really enjoyed this book which told the history of the space race in great detail; though of course with the limited medium and page numbers managed to hit all the major and many minor lesser known facts, providing a very entertaining version of the facts as they are known today. The science fiction story adds some extra adventure to a factual book and straight from the beginning we know there is going to be some sort of reveal given at the end and it is exciting waiting to see what it will be. I found it to be quite entertaining. The illustrations were fine in and of themselves and I had no problem with them, but some famous personages were represented, fortunately scientists and such I had no idea what they really looked like but a phone conversation between Khrushchev and Kennedy has made no attempt whatsoever to depict Kennedy's likeness. Khrushchev on the other hand bears a very slight resemblance, at least he's bald. But that's a nit-picky fault with an otherwise fine factual book on the topic with a fun fictional twist.

I can't believe this was as good as it is. I came in skeptical but ended up believing. The story is actually gripping. Well done, what's-ur-name.

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