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Hooray For Inventors!



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Synopsis

Hip, hip, hooray! Marcia Williams wields her witty comic-book style to applaud the creators of inventions that changed the world – and to inspire the inventor in us all. What are your eight favorite inventions, and who were the persevering minds behind them? In a style as vivacious and accessible as ever, Marcia Williams honors the fine folks who brought us the printing press, the steam condenser, the steam train, the electric light, all of them stepping stones to ever more awesome inventions to come. Interspersed are brief snapshots of more than a hundred other inventions, from toothpaste to toilet paper rolls, the World Wide Web to, yes, sliced bread. There's also a tribute to women inventors – the force behind such indispensable items as windshield wipers, submarine telescopes, and bulletproof vests.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6 – This oversize, entertaining book provides the stories behind some of the world's greater and lesser inventions. Beginning with a dedication to Leonardo da Vinci, it includes Johannes Gutenberg and the printing press; James Watt and the steam condenser; the Wright brothers; Guglielmo Marconi and the radio; and John Logie Baird and the television. In addition, there are chapters on useful inventions like toilet paper and postage stamps as well as one on the women responsible for coffee filters, teddy bears, and windshield wipers. Another chapter covers

the author's favorite inventions, such as hula hoops, Legos, pencils, and the sandwich. Using a comic-book format, Williams reveals how the inventors got their ideas and sponsors as well as their obstacles and failed attempts. Readers may find some of the information surprising; for instance, in 2002 the U.S. Congress proclaimed Antonio Meucci the true inventor of the telephone. Williams also emphasizes how many inventions build on earlier ones. Without the radio, no TV. Without the TV, no video. Without the video, no DVD. The pen-and-ink and watercolor cartoons are crammed full of clever and humorous details. Animals appear on the borders, offering droll asides and assorted trivia. While the overall effect is appealing, the pages are already quite busy without them. Still, children will enjoy the format and learn some valuable lessons about the history and spirit of invention.

Barbara Auerbach, New York City Public Schools Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 3-5. In contrast to the many earnest books on inventors and inventions, Williams' large-format volume takes a light approach, presenting information in small parcels and illustrating it with cartoon-style ink-and-watercolor drawings. A few inventors, such as Gutenberg, Marconi, and the Wright brothers, are featured in two- or four-page spreads, which include frame-to-frame narratives about their lives and their most famous achievements. Others are named and briefly identified in small, illustrated boxes as part of a multiperson presentation. For example, the double-page spread on "Inventors of Useful Things" includes 26 boxes spotlighting inventors of devices such as eyeglasses (1280), the toothpaste tube (1892), and the personal computer (1977). The pages bustle with activity, often marked with a certain zany humor. Characters featured in the longer biographies act out roles and speak bits of dialogue within the frames, while below, a running commentary tells the story, and in the margins, little birds and turtles remark on the stories and add humorous quips. Pair this with Judith St. George's *So You Want to Be an Inventor* (2002) and give both to budding inventors. Carolyn Phelan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My grandson was so interested in this book that he didn't put it down until he was more than 1/2 way through it!

An absolute joy for my grandson, an very inventive person himself! Lively text and even livelier illustrations. Thoroughly recommended.

Our favorite inventors book is "Great Inventors" by Gillian Clements. This book by Marcia Williams is full of her trademark happy illustrations and conversational asides. It is cute, and packed with information. Some of the pages become distracting, there is so much owl conversation and turtles frolicking, etc.

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