



Noah Webster: Man of Many Words

By Catherine Reef

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Noah Webster may be best remembered the enormous and ambitious task of writing his famous dictionary, but for him, this accomplishment was a means to an end. His true goal was to streamline the language spoken in our newly formed country so that it could be used as a force to bring people together and be a source of national pride. Though people laughed at his ideas, Webster never doubted himself. In the end, his so-called foolish notions achieved just what he had hoped.

Here, in the only account of Noah Webster for teens, the seasoned biographer Catherine Reef guides us through Webster's remarkable life, from boyhood on a Connecticut farm through the fight for American independence to his days as a writer and political activist who greatly influenced our Founding Fathers and the direction of the young United States.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—Many people take the dictionary for granted, rarely stopping to think of how it began. This well-written, impeccably researched book tells the story of Noah Webster (1758–1843), who was responsible for the first dictionary. Webster was fortunate to have a supportive father who mortgaged his farm so his son could afford to attend Yale. Webster saw the American Revolution unfold around him while a college student. He went on to work as a teacher, eventually opening a school and even offering classes to girls (a rarity in early America). It was his experiences as an educator that led him to pen an early version of the dictionary, a primer aimed at young children, teaching them spelling, language, and basic history. An ardent proponent of independence from England and a strong federalist, Webster believed that the language spoken in the New World differed significantly from British English and "ought to be a source of national pride." Reef expertly emphasizes the link between her subject's fervent desire for a strong central government and his commitment to a unified language. Though Webster was ridiculed for his ideas, he persisted. Reef not only crafts a clear picture of the man but provides readers with a glimpse at historical figures such as Thomas Paine, George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin and effectively integrates Webster's own words into the text. Featuring a large font and images throughout, this attractive offering is an excellent look at a noteworthy individual. VERDICT A first-rate addition to biography and history collections.—Jessica Lorentz Smith, Bend Senior High School, OR

Review

* "Featuring a large font and images throughout, this attractive offering is an excellent look at a noteworthy individual. A first-rate addition to biography and history collections."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Thorough, well-documented, and smoothly written."

—*Kirkus*

"Reef capably weaves Webster's biography into the history of America's early years."

—*Booklist*

"Historical background gives context to this cradle-to-grave biography, and an epilogue discusses how our language continues to change."

—*Horn Book Magazine*

About the Author

Catherine Reef is the author of more than 40 nonfiction books, including many highly acclaimed biographies for young people. She lives in College Park, Maryland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fred Dean:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what your own problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They should answer that question due to the fact just their can do that. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this kind of Noah Webster: Man of Many Words to read.

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Lorretta Cox:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Noah Webster: Man of Many Words, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Alice Weaver:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got learners? We believe that that concern was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And you also know that little person just like reading or as looking at become their hobby. You have to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update in relation to something by book. Numerous books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is actually Noah Webster: Man of Many Words.

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