



Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving

By Joseph Bruchac

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Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving By Joseph Bruchac Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Most American children know the story of the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving, but the Native American side of the tale is far less familiar. Joseph Bruchac, a prolific and award-winning author of Native American descent (*The First Strawberries*, *A Boy Called Slow*) describes life in 1620 for a man who was destined to save the Pilgrims even as he was losing his family and tribe. Told from Squanto's point of view, this historically accurate and detailed story brings to life one of the most important moments in America's past. Demonstrating how much his people (the Patuxet, the People of the Falls) value honor, Squanto befriends English traders, even after being kidnapped and taken to Spain. After much hard work, Squanto manages to sail back to his homeland, where, in spite of his discovery that many of his people have died from disease brought by white people, he acts as envoy between the English and his own people, and helps the pilgrims survive in their new world.

Throughout this moving tale, Squanto's belief that "these men can share our land as friends" poignantly shines through. Greg Shed's gouache illustrations capture the warmth and dignity of Squanto and his friends. Young readers will be fascinated by this lesser-known perspective on the Thanksgiving tradition that remains strong today. (Ages 6 to 10) --*Emilie Coulter*

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-5-A picture book that focuses on the young Indian who helped the Pilgrims survive the brutality of the New England winter. When he was 24, an English captain abducted Squanto along with 20 of his tribesmen and took them to Spain to be sold as slaves. Spanish friars helped him escape to England where he learned the language and dreamed of going back to his native land. When he finally returned, he served as translator and mediator between the English colonists and the other Indian tribes. He convinced Samoset, a sachem of the Pemaquid, to accept and work with the white settlers. It was this cooperation that helped the tiny Plymouth Colony to survive. Many authors have given the Native American credit for his role in the survival of the colony. What distinguishes this first-person account is the authenticity of detail. In his author's note, Bruchac describes the research that he used to flesh out the story with dates and names. However, because of the wealth of facts, the text has a stilted quality. Shed's full-page gouache illustrations are beautifully executed in golden, autumnal tones. There is a richness of detail in the pictures that echoes the passion for historical accuracy in costume and interior-and-exterior dwellings. However, the full-bleed illustrations tend to overwhelm the text and the uniformity of their size and placement can become somewhat tedious. Still, most libraries will want to own this version.

Barbara Buckley, Rockville Centre Public Library, NY

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-8. The history is fascinating--the crucial role played by the Patuxet Indian Squanto, who helped the first New England colony survive--but it doesn't work very well in this picture book. The long, first-person, fictionalized narrative is awkwardly contrived to bring in the facts, and the full-page gouache paintings are romanticized, with all the noble Native Americans bathed in a golden glow. The facts are exciting, and Bruchac and Shed have painstakingly researched the events and the details, from the food served at the first Thanksgiving feast to the clothing worn by the Pilgrims ("Not hats with buckles on them!" Bruchac exclaims in his long, informative author's note). Squanto survived captivity and slavery in Europe, then he returned to play a crucial role as mediator in New England, living in the world of the whites and of several Indian

nations. Older readers will want to go from here to find out more about the fascinating man and about the history from the Native American viewpoint. *Hazel Rochman*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Martha Skaggs:

Do you one among people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving book is readable through you who hate those straight word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer regarding Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving content conveys the idea easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different available as it. So , do you nevertheless thinking Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

Nora Emerson:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want truly feel happy read one with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. Often the Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving is kind of book which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Violet Jarrell:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

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