



Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus

Peter Sís (Author and Illustrator)

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Illus. in full color. The 15th century comes alive in this splendidly original picture book about Christopher Columbus. "The illustrations, executed in a variety of media, show scenes from the explorer's life as well as some imaginary creatures that populated the Europeans' picture of the outside world at that time. The details on each page invite individual readers to pay close attention, but the brief, clear text and framed illustrations lend themselves equally well to group sharing. Make room on your crowded Columbus shelf for this one."--(starred) *School Library Journal*.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus Details

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Author : Peter Sís (Author and Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus for online ebook

Rachel says

I think this a great book for early middle school to introduce the christopher columbus topic. This book is a fun, interesting way to share the story of christopher columbus and provides pictures to make it more interesting. This is definitely a good book for teachers to know about when teaching this subject.

Ryan says

This was a story about the journey of Christopher Colombus. It detailed his travels to what he thought was the Orient and documented his struggles with the royalty he needed the support from to embark on his expedition. The story followed his trip across the Atlantic and was full of facts and explained the importance of his impact on orienteering and the fact that even though he was looking for the Orient, he found America.

The artwork in this book was absolutely beautiful. There were maps and surrealist portraits of environments that looked like they were meant to be paintings. The people in the story were drawn interestingly and seemed to come to life. There were cross-sections, maps, and a copyright page that distinguished itself as an informational text. I think it was a pretty good read for parents to their young kids.

Kathryn Reeder says

The book starts with the birth all the way to the death of Christopher Columbus. It talks about how he had to learn to read maps, and work hard in order to become an explorer. He went to the King and Queen of Spain who eventually gave him 3 ships and 90 men. Christopher actually kept two logs while sailing one was the real log and one was the shorter log for his crew to see and keep them in control. It's very interesting to see what he was like and helps with adventure and exploration.

Diane Rhodes says

I believe that the book, Follow the Dream, by Peter Sis could be a stand in for the typical graduation gift book, Oh the Places You Will Go. This story describes how Christopher Columbus moved beyond what his expected life's work would be to the explorer that he became by following his dream and not being completely discouraged every time he received No as an answer to his quest. This is a juvenile biography which can be enjoyed by readers of all ages. You may have seen drawings of the Santa Maria, but how often do you see a cutaway showing the interior of the ship. Don't miss this one.

Charity says

Although not very detailed (or nuanced), this was a good introduction to the voyages of Columbus. The story was brief and well written, and the illustrations were delightful. My 3.5yo especially liked that the ships were "so tiny he could hardly see them" on the pages representing how large the ocean was compared to the size of Columbus's three ships. I hadn't known until I read this book that Columbus was meant to be a weaver. Nice story about the value of perseverance (even if it does involve lying to your crew about how many miles you've traveled and then claiming for Spain land that was already inhabited).

I also like the introduction in which Peter Sis tells about the appeal the Columbus story held for him as a man who grew up "behind the Iron Curtain." It's a perspective I'd not considered before.

Barbara says

Fans of this author/illustrator know that his illustrations--in this case, created with oil, ink, watercolor, and gouache--are always detailed and evoke the time and place about which he is writing. In this case, he pays tribute to Christopher Columbus and his many attempts to find a shortcut to the Orient. After briefly covering his formative years, Sis turns to Columbus's determination to sail west. His determination didn't flag even after his would-be benefactors refused to finance his voyage. It's easy to see why they would say no. The endpapers show the world in which he lived, where most folks assumed that the world was bound by huge walls guarded by monsters who would kill anyone who dared to cross them. Once the king and queen of Spain agree to support him, Sis paints two pages of thumbnail sketches showing the voyage and the two logs Columbus kept, one accurate, the other to assuage the fearful crew. This is an awestruck, sentimental view of Columbus that omits any mistreatment of the men, women, and children who already were residing in the land he "discovered." Still, it is worth perusing because Sis does such a marvelous job of describing how extraordinary the voyage was. Readers may find it interesting to notice the star-covered cloth and bunting near the beginning of this picture book too.

Elizabeth says

AR 5.1

Lana Clifton says

Help students explore the journey of a lost sailor with this picture book that introduces young Christopher as a boy who dreams of distant lands. The story integrates fact with myth. In reading this book to students, I ask the listener to consider the definition of the word "discovery" when learning about Columbus's journey. What about the people who were already there? What of the other lost sailors who came before? Perfect for critical literacy in 2nd-5th grade classrooms.

Nancy Kotkin says

Text: 4 stars

Illustrations: 5 stars

Children's nonfiction picture book about Christopher Columbus's voyage to discover America. As with all of Peter Sis's picture books, the illustrations provide talking points just as much as, if not more than, the text does.

I would have liked just a bit more detail in the text. Specifically I want to know more about the hardships faced during the actual voyage. The book mentions "the rebellious crew," but what did Columbus do to lead them to victory, other than lie about the number of miles travelled? The ending is a bit vague. Columbus never knew he had reached America, but didn't he figure out at some point in his life that he wasn't in the Orient?

But Sis does a good job of distilling the information and relating what life was like for Columbus. This book provides a good starting point to entice children into reading a fuller biography of Columbus.

Matthew says

This is an extremely simplistic biography of Columbus up to and suddenly concluding with his arrival in what he believed to be the Orient and the mention that he didn't know where he was. It does nothing to mention the subsequent back and forth journeys he made between this new land and his patronage Spain. It doesn't mention what he did in this new land. It focuses instead on his perseverance with trying to charter a commission of ships from the king and queen of Spain. It's a well written primary text though it leaves so much out that you'd have to read a second or third biography on the same guy to get a true gist of who he was and what he was all about.

Karen says

Mom rates 4 stars, kids 3 stars. Illustrations are great. Simple story with most of the important facts to keep this as a short kids book. It was fun to talk about all the other things we knew about Columbus from our studies in CC.

midnightfaerie says

A great educational book for your children over the preschool age. My 5 yr old loved it. Lots of good information with beautiful pictures that will help keep children engaged. This one won the New York Times Bests illustrated children's book award, and you can tell. The pictures are beautiful and unique. This was recommended as an additional read to my son's history lesson on Columbus. He and I both enjoyed it, and it helped solidify the basic information we had already learned in his lesson. A great addition to any children's library.

Erin Walker says

Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus (1991) -Biography

This simple biography follows Columbus from childhood through his voyage to the Americas. It highlights the struggles he faced in getting approval for the voyage as well as difficulties on the journey. It is beautifully illustrated so it would draw in even very young children.

Themes: Exploration, Overcoming Obstacles, Gaining Approval

Teaching Options: This book would be great to introduce young children to Christopher Columbus. It would be great at the beginning of a unit on explorers. It also could be a good resource for a first biography project for young elementary students.

Kaitlin says

This story is about Christopher Columbus and his fight to set sail, as well as his journey across the sea. This story gives insight of the trouble that Christopher Columbus went through to get ships, a crew, and supplies for a trip, he thought, would take him around the world. Once he had the resources he needed, Christopher Columbus took sail and found what we know today as the America's. This book includes illustrations that are very appropriate and intricate in design to represent the time. I enjoyed how the author, Peter Sis, made it apparent that people around Christopher Columbus did not approve of the idea of him sailing across the sea. I also enjoyed how the story incorporated different facts about the journey such as trying to make the crew think that the trip was shorter than they thought. I think this story is written in an easy to understand way for all readers to understand.

Holly Mueller says

This would be a great book to read right before Encounter by Jane Yolen. This gives CC's perspective, and Encounter gives the Taino's perspective.
