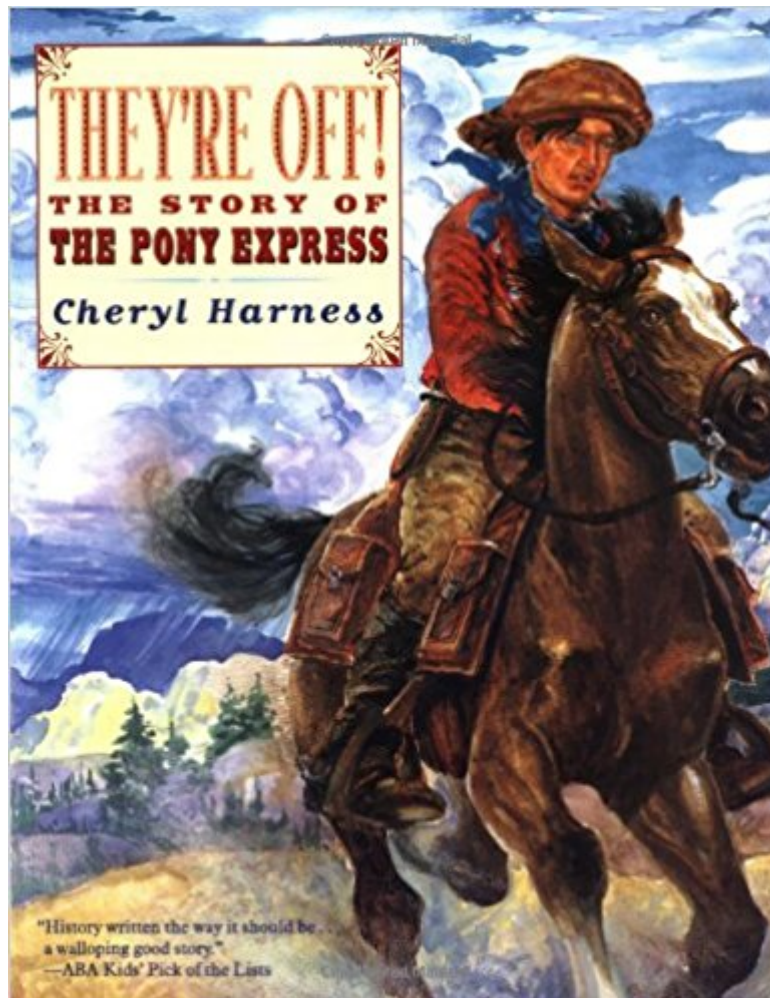




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They're Off! : The Story Of The Pony Express



Synopsis

In 1860, with North and South about to be divided by war, East and West were united through an extraordinary venture -- the Pony Express. Over the course of ten days in April, eighty riders and five hundred horses delivered mail between California and Missouri -- a mission that took three weeks by stagecoach. Although it existed for only a year and a half, the Pony Express remains a legendary chapter in American history and a symbol of the bold, adventurous character of the Old West. The spirit of the brave riders and their ponies is captured perfectly in Cheryl Harness's lively, brightly illustrated, and information-filled account.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (July 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689851219

ISBN-13: 978-0689851216

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #274,640 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #174 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#) #334 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #546 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States](#)

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4-A history of this unique form of mail delivery with an emphasis on the historical events leading up to, surrounding, and eventually causing the demise of the Pony Express, as well as an introduction to many of the people involved. Harness's text is involving and filled with lively detail. Her busy and elaborate illustrations also create a panorama of the age. Tidbits of information such as the definition of mochila are given in many hand-lettered asides in the pictures. A list of all 182 riders is appended, and a one-page pictorial presentation of happenings around the world at the time should help children get a broader historical perspective. While much of the material here is

similar to that in Steven Kroll's *Pony Express!* (Scholastic, 1996), Kroll offers more of a close-up presentation, with less historical context. The high appeal of the subject matter suggests that there may be room on most library shelves for both titles. Readers of both books may be puzzled since Harness says the rider leaving Missouri was Johnny Fry, while Kroll says it was Bill Richardson. Kroll's note explains that there is disagreement on this matter; Harness doesn't mention it. Bibliographies in both titles are totally different as well. Louise L. Sherman, Anna C. Scott School, Leonia, NJ Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 3[^]-5. Beckoned by the promise of California gold in the mid-1800s, Americans ventured west by the thousands. This lively and beautifully illustrated picture book for middle readers tells the history of the Pony Express, bringing to life the excitement of a period in our nation's history when rapid expansion increased the need for a fast method of communication between the East and the West. The text discusses the political climate (the Civil War was brewing) and the economic forces behind the birth of the Pony Express and describes the extreme hardships endured by the dedicated riders. Animated watercolor paintings--colorful scenes of stagecoaches, steamboats, and encounters with hostile Indians--capture the flavor of the Wild West, and visual learners will benefit from the illustrated and annotated maps sprinkled throughout the text. Lauren Peterson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I haven't given it to the kids yet, but I was curious to read through it myself first. It was fun to read, and I learned interesting facts about the Pony Express (they weren't in existence very long, for example). It's written in a friendly, easy-to-read way. My kids love all things horses and about the West, so I'm sure they will be fascinated by this.

Loved this quick-paced and information-packed book! So much to learn about the Pony Express and it's significance in the history of this great country. Another great read-aloud to younger children or entirely appropriate for your older children/adults =)

This is a very informative book. I wanted to use it as a read aloud but sadly it had way too much text per page and my kiddos got bored.

I got this to read to my second graders but its a little too wordy for them. I think it would be a good

book for 5th grad or higher.

This was supposed to be hardback book and it was not. Not happy at all.

We have been reading and studying about westward expansion and frontier living all summer; this book is valuable in the context of connecting the continent. The book captures the history of the overland mail, as well as many of the legends and lore surrounding the Pony Express, too. My second grader is ga-ga over this book; the illustrations are terrific. If you enjoyed the early reader "Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express," then this is a natural follow-on for more advanced readers. Great for historical context and in-depth maps, diagrams, and drawings. This is a wonderful learning tool. Having read "Orphans Preferred" I can happily say that this is a much better book on the topic, even though it is geared toward a young readership.

Our 8-year-old son loved this book. It was purchased for a homeschool social studies curriculum regarding westward expansion and it caught his interest right away. He even wants to keep the book after "school" is over. Short, quick read with great illustrations. Good snapshot of the Pony Express and the mail system in the U.S.

This story is about the first Pony Express ride in 1860. There is pre and post historical information and discussion about the influence of the telegraph. The illustrations accompanying the middle-later elementary text are beautiful.

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