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# George Vs. George: The American Revolution As Seen From Both Sides



## Synopsis

There are two sides to every story. Rosalyn Schanzer's engaging and wonderfully illustrated book brings to life both sides of the American Revolution. The narrative introduces anew the two enemies, both named George: George Washington, the man who freed the American colonies from the British, and George III, the British king who lost them. Two leaders on different sides of the Atlantic, yet with more in common than we sometimes acknowledge. We are lead through their story, and the story of their times, and see both sides of the arguments that divided the colonies from the Kingdom. Was King George a "Royal Brute" as American patriots claimed? Or was he, as others believed, "the father of the people?" Was George Washington a scurrilous traitor, as all the king's supporters claimed? Or should we remember and celebrate him as "the father of his country?" Who was right? History teaches us that there are two sides to every story. Rosalyn Schanzer's book is an accessible account of one the most vital periods in American history. It is also a timeless lesson in seeing history from different points of view. The author spent two years researching books, paintings, cartoons, and descriptions of Revolutionary times. She uses art, text, and first-hand accounts to illustrate how history should never be reduced to simplistic conflicts between the "good guys" and the "bad guys." Her illustrations, and her engaging quote bubbles, bring the Revolution to life again, and allow the characters of the period to speak for themselves. Through its lively text, detailed illustrations, and fully authenticated quotes, George vs. George shines fresh light on both sides of the story of our country's formative years.

## Book Information

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Historical

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 3-6 – A carefully researched, evenhanded narrative with well-crafted, vibrant, watercolor illustrations. Schanzer states that her challenge was to "cram 20 years of history, biography, and philosophy into a picture book that kids could grasp and enjoy." She has been entirely successful. The introduction sets the tone, introducing both George Washington and King George III, mentioning their differing views, and noting that every story has two sides. The remainder of the book presents these two sides on spreads that alternate between the man and the monarch, with comparisons of the American and British governmental forms, views on taxation, the Boston Tea Party, and coverage of most of the major battles of the Revolutionary War. True to the author's intent, both Georges come off as decent men, with the interests of their respective countries at heart. The illustrations are amazing. Almost Brueghelesque in their detail, they show the major players as they actually looked. Speech balloons reproduce the exact words of the speakers, with appended "Quote Sources." This is a lovely book, showing historical inquiry at its best: consideration of both sides, a sound research basis, attribution of sources, and interesting writing. Written at a higher level than Jean Fritz's *Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?* (Putnam, 1977), this book provides the perfect meld of instructional tool and general-interest reading. – Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 5-7. With its attractive jacket, its sustained effort to report both British and American points of view, and its fully illustrated overview of events, this colorful book has many qualities that make it a good introduction to the American Revolution. Schanzer lays the groundwork well, profiling England's King George III, America's George Washington, and their respective governments before chronicling the course of the Revolutionary War. Occasionally cartoonlike in their dramatizations and speech balloons, the lively illustrations take up more space than the words, but the text is clearly written. However, near the end the question is asked, "So what was happening to American civilians all this time?" The answer seems to be mayhem: people were tarred and feathered, women raped. Indians "tortured . . . whole families, and scalped the dead" and "honored their bravest

victims by eating them." The American troops "showed off pairs of legging made from the skin of dead Indians." Given the book's highly illustrated format, this is too sensationalized for the age group, a jarring note in an otherwise solid offering. Carolyn PhelanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Again a great book for children old enough to read well. It tells a non-biased version of history from both the colonial and the British points of view. Adults may actually enjoy it too.

With grandsons born and raised in UK of American parents, this is the ticket to showing the two sides of their heritage. Having been in UK for July 4th, even the Brits now celebrate...how odd it seems...those radicals, who as B. Franklin said, would hang alone or hang together. But even if you're in USA, this a lovely introduction to our shared histories.

I especially value this book as part of my Social Studies Colonial Boston Independence Unit, because it contains an extremely clear explanation on comparing/contrasting Britain's Government with the Colonies' Government, both under King George III. I was having difficulty finding information on this exact topic. There are other compare/contrast structures throughout the book that are also invaluable. The headings guide you well and guard you well from going further in a read-aloud than you may want to, so as to not spoil a future event! I used the book for clarification of concepts we had learned about on the previous day, because the book is so well laid-out.

This is one of the best Revolutionary War books for elementary students I have seen. It includes dates and battles, but also good explanations of the causes and conduct of the war. Presenting both sides, British and American, gave depth and a much better understanding of the issues. My fifth-grader and I both came away with a deeper respect for Washington and the King, and the complexity of their responsibilities. There are lots of illustrations, the text is easy to read and short.

I originally borrowed this book from the library for project in a literacy class. I ended up buying it here because it is such a wonderful book. Kids have so few opportunities to hear "both sides of the story" in history class, and this book really does a great job of explaining why King George III and British Parliament acted the way they did. The illustrations are true to life and vivid; I love that the author has included quotations from famous historical figures. This book will be part of my classroom library when I become a teacher!

Fantastic book! Well written with facts, interesting quotes, and I think a fair description of both British and American perspectives of the American Revolution and the two George's. It's been a wonderful resource to use with my middle school students to help them see the two perspectives and be able to argue the issues of the day from both sides. It is also beautifully illustrated with great little bubble quotes, which keeps my not so strong readers engaged. I love this book and I'm so glad I found it!

This isn't your typical picture book. It is long and detailed, not something you would likely read in one sitting. Great for teaching American Revolution and multiple perspectives.

Good to use when teaching U.S. History to see both sides.

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