



# Mary Wears What She Wants

*Keith Negley*

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## **Mary Wears What She Wants** Keith Negley

Inspired by the true story of Mary Edwards Walker, a trailblazing doctor who bucked the gender expectations of her time, this is a fresh, charming picture book about a young girl who decides to wear what she wants: pants!

Once upon a time (but not too long ago), girls only wore dresses.

And only boys wore pants.

Until one day, a young girl named Mary had a bold idea: She would wear whatever she wanted. And she wanted to wear pants!

Inspired by the true story of Mary Edwards Walker, a trailblazing doctor who was arrested many times for wearing pants, this fresh, charming picture book encourages readers to think for themselves while gently challenging gender and societal norms.

## **Mary Wears What She Wants Details**

Date : Published January 15th 2019 by Balzer + Bray

ISBN : 9780062846792

Author : Keith Negley

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Biography, History, Feminism, Nonfiction

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## **From Reader Review *Mary Wears What She Wants* for online ebook**

### **Emily says**

The illustrations are bright and beautiful, and I like that Mary is based off of a real person: Mary Walker, one of the first women to wear pants. It teaches to stand up for what you believe in, even when facing adversity. I do wish the story didn't imply that pants are *better* than dresses. Instead, the lesson ought to be that you don't have to wear dresses *if you don't want to*, nor pants for that matter.

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### **Elizabeth says**

I love the woman this book is about. She is the definition of a feminist, and the fact that she stood her ground is amazing. Even more impressive, she graduated from medical school and became a surgeon, then still fought for women's rights to vote! She just may be my new idol.

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### **Sam says**

Loosely based on Mary Walker's life. Girl chooses to wear pants and wins her right to do so.

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### **Alyson says**

A great story about being yourself despite the odds, and it's based on an actual historical figure! Could be great in storytime.

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### **Andrew says**

This picture book is the true story of Mary Walker, who shocked the world by wearing... pants!?! Back in the mid-1800s, this was unheard of, and it made many people upset! That didn't stop her, though, and in doing so, helped defy the notion that all girls and women must wear dresses-- and reminds us all to wear what we feel comfortable in.

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### **Briony says**

This is loosely based on Mary Edwards Walker. Walker was a trailblazer by wearing pants instead of dresses, attending medical school, volunteering as an army surgeon during the Civil War, and so much more.

*Mary Wears What She Wants* is a standout in the field of picture books breaking gender stereotypes. While

Mary breaks social protocol by wearing pants, she also experiences social backlash and doubts her decision. However, her decision ultimately paves the way for other girls in her class to wear pants (tiny bit of a stretch for the time period, but gives reader the idea of what eventually happens when people fight against social norms). Great book for standing true and proud for your beliefs.

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### **Jillian Heise says**

I wish there was a bit more of the back matter info incorporated into the actual story, as it seemed to lack a bit of depth - I wondered as I was reading if this was a fictional story or that of a real person. But I liked the idea of telling Mary Edwards Walker's story, though was surprised it was a male author telling it.

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### **Melanie says**

Young Mary hates wearing dresses all of the time. It's so restricting! She can't bend over to pet her cat or play on the playground with the boys. One day she decides to wear pants to school. This causes such an uproar that Mary isn't sure she made the right choice. Her father helps her understand that she must do what's right for her. Thus, the pants-wearing continues!

Fantastic picture book bio of Mary Edwards Walker!

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### **Annalisa says**

This book tells the story of Mary Edwards Walker, a woman who, aside from her various accomplishments, elected to wear pants at a time when it was unheard of and even illegal. I loved this book! I didn't feel like it was trying too hard to sell a message. I liked that the text was simple yet very honest. Though the book is based on a true historical figure, it has a bit of a fantastical feel. This is partly because of the graphic, striking illustrations that use bright pinks and drab blues. Partly, it's because today, pants can be worn by people of any gender without raising an eye, so it feels a bit outlandish to think that anyone would stop a girl from going to school for wearing pants. I like that when read today, it reads like she was harassed over something that's now a non-issue. This contrasts a lot of the more controversial picture books with gender equality motifs. I think that this is a great book for introducing social justice and feminist concepts to children.

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### **Brooklyn Cribdon (Kemp) says**

This is such a fantastic non-fic picturebook!! The artwork is simple yet gorgeous and uses a lovely colour pallet. The story is fun, engaging, and inspiring, and I feel like it would start an awesome conversation if read in a group like storytime or a classroom. I also appreciate the back matter that shares the story of the real Mary ;)

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### **Kristina Jean Lareau says**

A delightfully imaginative and entertaining mini-bio of Mary Walker, the woman who wore pants. Not only is the text concise, the use of color and white space is expertly illustrated. An informative author's note gives more info about Mary Walker's life. Truly a delightful book.

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### **Emma (Miss Print) says**

Would have liked a little more backmatter about the real Mary Negley. And I admit it's a little weird to me that the author is a man. BUT I think it's fun, it's timely, and the artwork is stunning.

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### **Laura Harrison says**

2019 is already beginning with some pretty amazing picture book biographies. *Mary Wears What She Wants* is one of them. Well written, entertaining and with some eye popping, creative and beautiful illustrations. I love it!

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### **Rita says**

I loved this book! Plus, I hated dresses growing up so I could totally relate! Thank goodness for Mary paving the way!

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### **Cecilia Rodriguez says**

The color illustrations are cheerful and funny. The story addresses gender identity based on clothing. Inspired by Mary Edward Walker

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