



Eleanor, Quiet No More

Doreen Rappaport , Gary Kelley (Illustrations)

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Eleanor Roosevelt was raised in a privileged but stern Victorian household, with an affectionate but mostly absent father and a critical mother who made fun of her daughter's looks. Alone and lonely for much of her childhood, Eleanor found solace in books and in the life of her lively and independent mind. Her intellectual gifts and compassionate heart won her the admiration of many friends -- and the love of her future husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. While other young women of her class were spending time at dances and parties, Eleanor devoted her energies to teaching children in New York City's poorest neighborhoods. Later, she became the most socially and politically active -- and controversial -- First Lady America had ever seen. Ambassador, activist, and champion of civil rights, Eleanor Roosevelt changed the soul of America forever.

In her eloquent prose, Doreen Rappaport captures the essence of Eleanor's character and the deep significance of her legacy. With beautiful paintings by Gary Kelley and selections from Eleanor's own writings, *Eleanor's Big Words* is an extraordinary tribute to an extraordinary American.

Eleanor, Quiet No More Details

Date : Published February 3rd 2009 by Disney-Hyperion

ISBN : 9780786851416

Author : Doreen Rappaport , Gary Kelley (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Biography, Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction, History, North American Hi..., American History, Historical, Juvenile, Biography Memoir, Middle Grade

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From Reader Review *Eleanor, Quiet No More* for online ebook

Robin Raines-Bond says

Excellent book about Eleanor Roosevelt. Love the pictures and this not-in-any-way-boring factual text.

Kathryn says

This book tells Eleanor's story so poignantly, gently and true. Eleanor is someone I do think I would have enjoyed having a cup of tea with and listening to her share her thoughts and ideas. She truly was a remarkable woman.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

This has got to win a Caldecott next year! Gary Kelley's illustrations are a beautiful accompaniment to Doreen Rappaport's description of the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. I love the way she puts a quote from Eleanor on each page to accompany the text. Eleanor Roosevelt has long been one of my heroines, and this book brings out her most admirable qualities. I've read that she always felt herself ugly and unattractive, but I think she was beautiful. I think I'll have to buy a copy of this for myself. Very highly recommended!

Jill says

Eleanor: Quiet No More by Doreen Rappaport follows the pattern Rappaport has used in her other biographies for children: her biographical passages about the subject are punctuated with actual quotes by the biographee.

Rappaport's book gives biographical data about ER, describing her unhappy childhood (her mother thought Eleanor was "ugly and too serious"), the death of both parents before she was ten, and how Eleanor then grew up in the loveless house of her grandmother.

When Eleanor was 15, she was sent away to boarding school, and was fortunate to have a teacher who believed in her and encouraged her. When Eleanor came home at 18, she was a different person, and one who had developed compassion for those with less than she had.

A distant cousin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, proposed to her, and she became a politician's wife, and then a behind-the-scenes politician herself. She continued to crusade for poor and minorities even after her husband died, meeting with world leaders and advocating for human rights.

End notes add a list of important dates in ER's life, selected research sources, and suggested further reading.

The muted pastel illustrations by Gary Kelley are adeptly done.

Evaluation: Generally in her biographies Rappaport emphasizes the positive and elides the negative, but she does a more balanced job here (and in truth, there isn't much negative to say about Eleanor Roosevelt).

Alison says

*****NOTE: While the publication date of this book was 2009, it won an award for 2010, so I used it. Just wanted to clarify, thanks!*****

Audience: primary

Genre: non-fiction - biography

Fiction Twin Text: Pearl, S. & Sheckels, A. (2012). Hope somewhere in America: the story of a child, a painting, and a president. Rockport, MA: Twin Light Publishers.

The book "Eleanor: Quiet No More" is a biographical account of Eleanor Roosevelt's life. It describes her rocky childhood. Her mother was not kind to her, and both of her parents died before she was ten years old. She didn't feel seen or heard until she went to school overseas. It was at this time that Eleanor began "to feel more sure of herself and made many friends at school (Rappaport, 2009, p.6)." What really began to inspire Eleanor was a feeling of inequality in the United States when she returned from school overseas. At this time, it was the early 1900's. She met her husband, Franklin Roosevelt, and moved to Washington D.C. for his occupation. When he was elected president of the United States, Eleanor was outspoken in defending the poor, the weak, and minorities. This was the time of the Great Depression, and she was committed to helping others. Later in her life, she was appointed to the United Nations, where she fought for human rights.

I chose to pair this non-fiction book with "Hope somewhere in America: a story of a child, a painting, and a president." I thought that it would be appropriate for students to first read the biography of Eleanor Roosevelt, because it is inspiring and paints a broad picture of what it may have been like to live during various times in our country, including The Great Depression. Following this, students can read the fiction book, which takes place in the time of The Great Depression. It follows a girl named Hope, an African-American child who lives in Harlem. It illustrates the challenges that many Americans faced at this time, but Hope also demonstrates perseverance. I think that a character like Hope would be relatable to many students. Hope eventually meets President Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, connecting the two books. I think a good follow-up activity to these twin texts would be a written assignment or drawing illustrating The Great Depression, and compare it to their lives today. Students can explain why they incorporated certain elements into their drawings or written pieces. This would be an assignment that exemplifies an evaluating question in Bloom's Taxonomy.

Elizabeth Menchaca says

This picture book biography tells the story of a resilient and kind woman who used her position power to help those in need and end injustice. Eleanor Roosevelt had a difficult childhood she lost both of her parents at a young age and was raised by her aunt. She married Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1905 and became the first lady when he became president in 1933. Eleanor was the first presidential spouse that was involved in

politics she held conferences, wrote Newspapers and stood up for civil rights. She continued to be an inspiring voice in politics even after she was no longer first lady, she is a great role model for any young girl or boy she was an intelligent, honest person who truly wanted to make a difference and deserved her position.

I really enjoyed reading this Biography, the beautiful portrait of Eleanor on the cover immediately grabs your attention and the story has a Chronological narrative structure similar to those in non fiction which makes it child friendly as well as motivational and informational. I especially liked that each page had a quote by Eleanor at the bottom in larger text which described the way she was feeling at a specific moment in her life. this increases the validity of the book and gives us a perspective into Eleanor's life and thoughts making her more relate-able. The illustrations were very visually appealing but did not cover the entire page i believe the author and illustrator did this in order to show the importance of her words. This is a wonderful book to use to introduce biographies to children it is creative and inspiring which will certainly inspire their curiosity in other influential people and historic events. This book has all the components of what makes a quality children's picture book biography.

Heather says

Wow, I really enjoyed learning about Eleanor Roosevelt in this picture book. This makes me want to read a longer, adult level biography of her. I identified with being the type of woman who always wants to please everyone--Eleanor learned when she was young that that isn't possible, and that people should "do what you feel in your heart to be right--for you'll be criticized anyway." I think a lot of women struggle with this because women are more conditioned to "fit in" with other people than men are--we're taught that disagreeing isn't "nice." It's not necessarily some "patriarchy's" fault--a lot of women are cruel to each other for not conforming, and any woman who stands out in intelligence, courage, or creativity is fodder for the grist mill. Eleanor dove into that mill head first and came out of the other side unscathed every time.

Although I felt like the quotes sort of interrupted the flow and emotion of Eleanor's story, I'm still glad the author put them in.

Eleanor started out life the daughter of an alcoholic father and a cold, critical mother. She came out of her shell when studying in Europe, and eventually married Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Though she had to deal with a freakishly possessive and controlling mother-in-law, she made it through and became her own person on the international scene in an era when president's wives normally stayed in the background and weren't supposed to have opinions of their own. She stood against any injustice that she saw, and genuinely cared about normal everyday people. Even after her husband's death, she was at work in the United Nations trying to make the world a better place. What an inspiring woman.

Anna Shepstead says

This book tells the life story of Eleanor Roosevelt, from a very early age to her dating future president Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to the end of her life. Eleanor had very little love for her mother, and the feeling was mutual, but she adored her father though he was a heavy drinker and rarely home. The story follows her through her experiences with a governess and in boarding school, then when she's older, her early philanthropy work. She meets FDR, her distant cousin, and they fall in love. She helps him progress in the political world, and encourages him to presidency, though he was stricken with polio. The rest of her life she focuses on her husband and helping others and marking a change in the way a First Lady should behave. Most of the illustrations are a full-bleed, and seem to be in either watercolor or oil pastels. The text has two forms: one smaller set that explains the story, and a second larger size that highlights famous quotes. At the end of the book is a timeline of important dates in Eleanor Roosevelt's life. Overall, I think this book has a thorough telling of the former First Lady's life, though I felt it concentrated too much on her being the wife of FDR, which wasn't all that she did.

Tammy Blackwell says

Thanks to a life-long obsession with *Annie*, I've always had a warm spot in my heart for the Roosevelts. Unfortunately, I've had very few facts to support my affection since I try to avoid anything involving politics. This well-done biography of our former First Lady, however, drew me in with its beautiful pictures and quotes that jumped off the page. By the time she had met with soldiers over-seas, promising to take home messages to their families, and saw her beloved husband die, I was in tears. Turns out, picking your favorite President and First Lady based on their willingness to sing with a precocious red-head isn't a bad way to do things after all.

Kelly says

Kelly Wiegand
April 1, 2015
EDL54500 Library Materials for Children and Youth

Title: Eleanor, Quite No More

Author: Doreen Rappaport

Plot: This book tells the story of Eleanor Roosevelt, who grew up privileged with a mother who criticized her appearance and a father who was never home. Eleanor learns the power of education and speaking up for what is right and eventually uses her position as First Lady of the United States to influence change.

Setting: New York; Washington D.C.

Characters: Eleanor Roosevelt; Franklin D. Roosevelt

Point-of-View: Third-Person

Themes: Independence; Intelligence; Perseverance; Empathy

Style: The words of this picture book were written hugging the vertical edge of the page and each page with words included a quote from Eleanor herself.

Copyright: 2009

Reflection: Doreen Rappaport is becoming a favorite author of mine with each of her books I read. She does an incredible job telling the moving stories of important people, while also bringing a humanity to them to connect with the reader. I loved the quotes she chose to include on each page, they pertained to the text and were amazing talking points. This was a wonderful and inspiring book.

Abby E says

Eleanor, Quiet No More, is a richly illustrated biography of one of the most memorable and politically active first ladies in our nation's history. This book takes the reader from Eleanor's victorian upbringing through her education, meeting her husband, and her work as first lady. This book utilizes Eleanor's own words by incorporating direct quotes on each page. This brings home many of the points in the book about Eleanor's intelligence and social conscience. Eleanor was from a time when most women did not pursue education, they focused mainly on finding a good husband. Eleanor was not content to sit by while there were social injustices going on. She was an avid support of civil and women's rights. This is an excellent and engaging biography that I would recommend to any upper elementary school teacher to incorporate in a unit about any of the causes that Eleanor was so passionate about, or a unit about influential women in our history.

Lindsay Fischer says

This biography tells of Eleanor Roosevelt and her not so perfect life. When she was younger she had a father who drank and relatives that put her down. She lived with many people and saw many conditions. When she married, her life was controlled by her mother-in-law. Later, her husband was hospitalized for polio. After this event, she decided to speak up and stand up for herself. She helped people everywhere and was firm in her opinions. Eleanor turned her life around and made it something that everyone can look up to.

An interesting thing about this biography is that it didn't focus on specific events, but her emotional journey. The story mentions factual information to begin each page. After that, the author turns to show Eleanor's feelings. She talks about how she never smiled, this makes the book more personal because some children may be going through the same experiences as Eleanor. The best part about the book is the definite shift - when Eleanor decides that she is going to speak up. This is a valuable lesson to teach youth. She is a role model to those who stand in the shadows and let people walk all over them. Doreen Rappaport teaches a lesson through the life of someone else.

The author was very diligent in finding quotes that pertained to the text. On each page, there is a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt herself. The text on these quotes are in a larger font and sometimes a different color. This technique draws attention to the quote. It reminds the readers that the story is about Eleanor and emphasizes her words.

Erin says

Eleanor, Quiet No More, is recommended by Orbis Pictus as high-quality children's nonfiction. This text

details the life of Eleanor Roosevelt from her early to final years in a picture book format. The author combines biographical information with Eleanor Roosevelt's own words to create a unique combination of text and text formatting on each page. We first meet Eleanor as a shy, shameful little girl deprived of warmth and affection. Even after her marriage to Franklin, Eleanor often lived in the shadows of both her mother-in-law and the friends and politicians of her husband. Over time, Eleanor's travels, war aid efforts, and the sudden illness of her husband began to strengthen her voice and sense of self. As first lady, she is bold, proactive, and the opposite of what so many expect the role of First Lady to be.

Doreen Rappaport's words are direct and well-chosen. They reflect the dynamic persona of Eleanor Roosevelt and capture her transition from quiet to inspiring. The blend of text types add to the authenticity of the biography and mirror Eleanor's growing strength. The illustrations are stunning and reflect the research and dedication of both the author and illustrator to the history and time period. Important dates, research sources, and additional resources are provided at the end of the text and contribute to its authenticity.

I would recommend this picture book for older readers in grades 5 and above. This text would serve well as both a read aloud or independent text to build background knowledge or accompany a unit on first ladies or influential women in American history. The text is inspiring, and in order for students to share that same feeling, they may need additional scaffolding to support their background knowledge of gender roles and other political/social issues of Eleanor's time period. It would also be a great mentor text in an expository writing unit that uses a narrative style. This is a very versatile text.

Calista says

I knew so little about Eleanor. She very much appreciate this woman now. "Do something every day that scares you." What a great philosophy she had, but that is tough. It takes a lot of energy to do that daily.

She was called many names in her life, Ugly being a word hurled at her often, but she never listened to people like that. Quote "Do what you feel in your heart to be right— for you'll be criticized anyway."

She has some great quotes. "You must do the things you cannot do." That is pretty scary too. She gave speeches all over and she got women involved in politics.

She visited all over during the depression and she saw first hand how people suffered. Her husband was in a wheelchair and she would go back and report to the president all the people she spoke with. He started all the programs after what he heard. Quote "Government has a responsibility to defend the weak." That's a fantastic one. I do believe that is what government is here to do. That's it function and why it is important and why it does not need to be drowned in a bathtub. She was the only first lady to visit with normal folks while in office.

She did her best to help African Americans during that time too. I didn't know this, but she left the daughters of the American Revolution when they refused to let Marian Anderson sing in their auditorium. She said, "To remain a member implies approval of that action." She set up Marian to sing at the LIncoln Memorial where 75,000 black and white people could hear her together.

She visited troops overseas and lifted spirits. She was against the Japanese American internment in WWII.

She went to the United nations. They came up with a world declaration of Rights. "All human beings are

born free and equal in dignity and rights.” That’s an amazing statement. Human being - all genders, all races, all people, all classes. Extraordinary. I like that they use the word dignity too.

Great book for anyone interested in learning about this fantastic lady. She was an empowered woman in a time when woman were supposed to be at home working. This is a great little story to get you into Eleanor and wanting to know more about her. I’m hooked.

I read this to the niece and she was impressed. She isn’t much into history so she still gave it 3 stars, but she had a gleaming of how much this woman did. The nephew got very squirmy as it is long and there are no elements in there he liked. He still heard it and gave it 1 star. Maybe a little something sunk in.

Ariana Thomas says

Interest Level: upper elementary

Reading Level – 670L

Genre: Biography, Picture Book

Main Characters: Eleanor Roosevelt

Setting: USA

POV: narrator

This dramatic picture book describes the major events and accomplishments in the life of one of the most influential first ladies of America, Eleanor Roosevelt. Written by author Doreen Rappaport, this biography details the efforts and contributions made by Eleanor Roosevelt to society through the use of lovely imagery to accompany the text. The book provides a deep detailing of her journey to becoming the president’s wife with rich portrayal of Eleanor’s character. The author describes the childhood and family background to paint a well-rounded picture of who Eleanor Roosevelt was to understand her incredible legacy.

Each page ends quoting actual words spoken by Eleanor Roosevelt which offers a great tool to study the form of writing, dialogue, voice, and/or text structure. This resource can be used to teach concepts such as humanitarianism and being an activist of change for the common good. With this biography of the first lady, students will be able to define what it means to be a humanitarian and identify examples from the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. I used this text last year in my previous field placement in a second grade classroom. Based on my experience, if I used this text again or recommended it to someone, I would say it would be best suited in an upper elementary grade level. The second grade students were engaged and interested, although they comprehended the text in terms of who Eleanor Roosevelt and major events in her life, I feel like there is so much more that can be done using this resource in terms of content and beyond. The theme of humanitarianism fits this text wonderfully, which I believe is also more true of upper elementary aged students.
