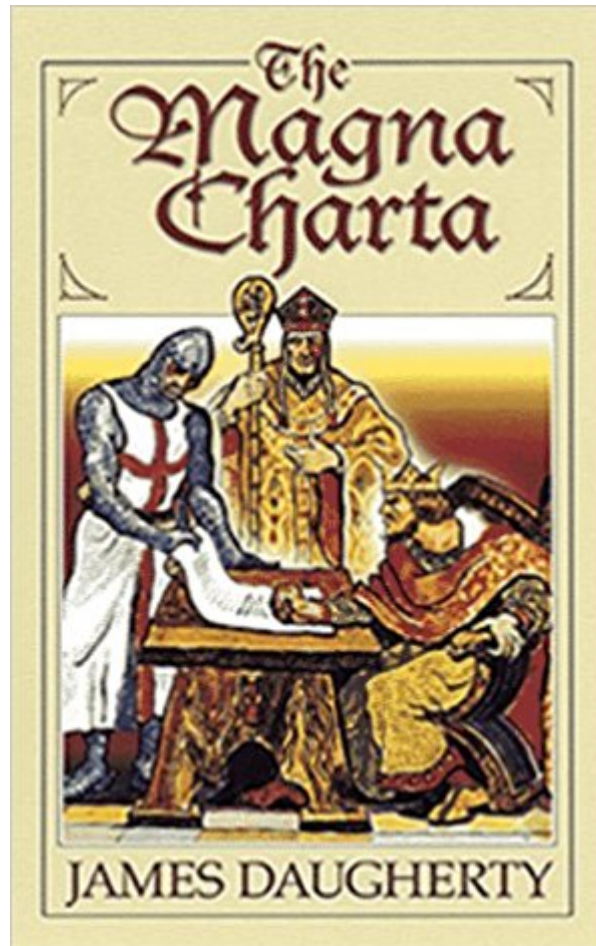




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The Magna Charta



Synopsis

It was Ben Franklin who coined the phrase, "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God," and if any historical drama fulfills that maxim, it is surely the saga of King John and the drafting of the Magna Charta. Out of the rich turbulence of English history, June 15, 1215 stands apart as a significant milestone in the progress of human liberty. On that day, a brave band of barons, led by the noble Stephen Langton, and calling themselves the Army of God, stood up to the wicked King John and demanded that he restore the ancient laws of England that he had so unabashedly trampled underfoot. The era is a rollicking one filled with colorful characters like Robin Hood and his Merry Men, Richard the Lionheart, Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, and many more. Newbery and Caldecott medal-winner James Daugherty brings his own passion for freedom's story to this wonderful saga of the thirteenth century. Daugherty devotes the last part of the book to a history of the "documents" of freedom; what he calls the "Children of the Magna Charta"; demonstrating how liberty has progressed over the ages. Two-color illustrations by the author enhance the drama of this text.

181pg

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Customer Reviews

Before James Daugherty (1889-1974) became a noted author, he was a well-established artist having illustrated more than forty books by other authors. In Mr. Daugherty's own books, the art and text combine gusto, exuberance, rich detail and a masculine style singing a song of America. When receiving the Newbery Award in 1940 for Daniel Boone, Daugherty summed up the spirit of his major lifework: "Wit and taste, beauty and joy are as much a necessary part of the democratic

heritage as economics and the utilities...Children's books are a part of that art of joy and joy in art that is the certain inalienable right of a free people." Mr. Daugherty is primarily remembered for his inspired expression of the American spirit in both visual and literary form, a spirit characterized by appreciation for the heroes of democracy. In publishing three of his titles we have painstakingly preserved his two and three color drawings so that you may enjoy his books in their original context.

My 13 year old and I have read "The Magna Charta" together and both learned an enormous amount of information concerning not only the Magna Charta but the history surrounding this document and the rulers who opposed or were forced into the signing of this Charta. This book is written for the Middle School level and my son needed some help with pronunciation, definitions and discussion as we read. Many new concepts were introduced including how Kings ruled their lands during the Medieval time period, relationships between the Pope and King, the transfer of lands and dictatorship, relationships and fighting between rulers of different lands, the development of laws to protect the Kings people, and the progression and refinement of Charters which lead to the Magna Charta. Although the focus of this book is primarily on King John's life and his influence on the Magna Charta, this book is highly recommended for middle schoolers who would also like to learn about past rulers including King Henry, King Richard, King John, Stephen Langton, and other interesting subjects such as the Crusades, The Sheriff of Nottingham, Castles, Runnymede, the Siege of Rochester, the Pope, Hubert de Burgh, the Treaty of Lambeth, and very early American History related to the Magna Charta.

Truthfully, I was a bit worried that my kids would balk at having to read this book. I bought this to go along with our Medieval Times history curriculum. I wanted to introduce the Magna Charta and the impact it had/has on us today. This is an interesting read. Believe it or not, both children DD(10) and DS (8) ask for more chapters. So... not bad for introducing a dry subject. I was pleasantly surprised how Mr. Daugherty managed to make a dry subject interesting.

Excellent

The Magna Charta is an excellent resource for middle school students or anyone interested in a very readable historical narrative of The Great Charter. The first 130 pages cover events leading up to the signing of the charter while the remainder of the book describe more recent charters of freedom that can trace their roots back to the Magna Charta. Don't be put off by the negative review

of the author's positive analysis of the U.N. Charter. This is in reference to the very last page of the book and in no way tarnishes the other 168 pages of great reading.

My eleven year old son loves the middle ages and wanted something to read that was not historical fiction. I had a hard time finding age appropriate material. I bought this not sure if it would be interesting enough, or too old-fashioned, but he loves it. He thanked me for buying it for him. Highly recommended.

This is such a great way to learn about The Magna Carta and the very interesting character of King John, as well as the other prominent people involved in this landmark historic event. Daugherty's writing style is very entertaining with its large dose of humor & light sarcasm. I am looking forward to reading more of his books with great expectations. The best way to learn history is through wonderful storytelling just like this. Both I and my 12 year old son loved it. Recommended highly!!

This was for my grand daughter who was studying Medieval Ages in History. Book's print is easy to read.

great shape

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