

Synopsis

Teedie was not exactly the stuff of greatness: he was small for his size. Delicate. Nervous. Timid. By the time he was ten years old, he had a frail body and weak eyes. He was deviled by asthma, tormented by bullies. His favorite place to be was at home. Some might think that because of these things, Teedie was destined for a ho-hum life. But they would be wrong. For teedie had a strong mind, as well as endless curiosity and determination. Is that all? No. Teedie also had ideas of his own--lots of them. It wasn't long before the world knew him as Theodore Roosevelt, the youngest president of the United States.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #654,051 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #168 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > U. S. Presidents & First Ladies](#) #221 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Government](#) #232 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Political](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

We all know about TR, right? Rough Riders, teddy bear, once was shot in the middle of a speech and kept on talking for a whole HOUR AND A HALF, using his bleeding arm to gesture with? Made of pure, 110% unadulterated awesome? Also a conservationist and, you know, president? (One of the big ones, not like Polk or Fillmore or somebody.) Well, you may not believe it, but back before he was awesome Teddy Roosevelt was a puny, weak, asthmatic little boy. (Apparently he never recovered from the asthma, he just lived around it. Fair enough.) No, it's true! So here is this whole book about TR as a kid and young adult and how he triumphed over his weaknesses through sheer force of will. He rides horses (and doesn't even notice his arm is broken once until several jumps

had gone by, as a well-timed quote from the man himself indicates), he learns to box, he becomes a cowboy to recover from the death of his wife and his mother on the same day... well, the list goes on and on. One note - "inspirational" tales about disability abound. Not everybody who is asthmatic or physically weak or disabled is going to be able to overcome these problems by "trying hard", and neither will all of them especially want to. This is a great book, and pretty accurate, but if you're giving it to inspire a disabled/weak/asthmatic friend, reconsider your motives. Then, when you're back to viewing this as a great true story, give it with an open heart. It's a great book. (It's a pity I even have to say this, but if you've ever been disabled you'll know how annoying it is to be told, in alternating breaths, both that you could get out of your wheelchair and walk if you wanted to/tried harder/prayed better and then that you're brave and inspirational for venturing out of the house at all.) Also, please note that this is a lengthy book. Your younger children might not sit still long enough to get through it all. Save it for reading alone or for reading to an older crowd.

Teedie was a puny kid and about the only thing he had going for him . . . well, I'll have to think a while to figure out even one thing. He was a sickly asthmatic boy who couldn't even attend school and had to have tutors come to his home to give him lessons. The Roosevelts were a very wealthy family and could afford to do things like take their children on foreign vacations and best of all, take them to spend their summers in the country. Teedie, his brother and two sisters enjoyed their time in the country, but even being in the fresh air couldn't help him nor would the "Roosevelts' wealth." Ah, that thing Teedie had going for him was determination and a "strong mind." That would take him far in life. His father and mother would worry about him and they even tried experimenting with fanciful cures such as having Teedie "gulp coffee or puff on a cigar." He exhibited insatiable curiosity and his father indulged him and let him grow in his own way. His frailty was a concern and his father encouraged physical fitness, something he readily embraced despite his physical limitations. Teedie's body, in the years to come, began to become strong. His tenacity was unmatched. Teddy "claimed he was just average." Would Teddy Roosevelt ever attain the expectations he had for himself in his mind? This story and the artwork blended together superbly to make the young Teddy Roosevelt come to life. I suspect it was not an easy accomplishment because most people think of him as a Rough Rider and would never think or nor believe he was a sickly child. In the back of the book there is an illustration of Teddy with a brief timeline biography, an author's note with additional biographical information and a bibliography. You're going to simply fall in love with Teedie, the "undersize boy" who became a "larger-than-life man!"

-----"Teedie: The Story Of Young Teddy

Roosevelt"Written and illustrated by Don Brown(Houghton Mifflin,

2009)-----A brief but excellent picturebook biography of Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, telling his story from the point of view of Roosevelt as a small child, growing into manhood. TR's early years hold a perennial appeal for younger readers: when he was quite little, Roosevelt suffered from asthma and was a bit of a wallflower, pale, thin and withdrawn, but in his adolescence he subscribed to a program of rigorous physical improvement, and remade himself as the rough, tough, blustering. larger-than-life character who come to dominate American politics at the dawn of the 20th Century.This book is a quick read, but may help spur interest in Roosevelt's life and times; one drawback is that his major accomplishments in life -- trust-busting, regulatory reform, spearheading the Panama Canal -- are mentioned only quite briefly at the end. Still, it's a compelling narrative, and the tone of the text is nicely complimented by Don Brown's expressive yet economical artwork. If you enjoy this book, Brown has made about a dozen other biographical books of equally high calibre, including ones on several less well-known historical figures. (Joe Sixpack, ReadThatAgain children's book reviews)

A fact filled fun picture book about one of our most distinctive U.S. leaders, Theodore Roosevelt. This book focuses mostly on young Roosevelt's childhood, struggling to overcome asthma and a rather scrawny physic. The rest of the narrative flows a bit to quickly, only lightly mentioning the key points of Roosevelt's life. An entertaining read aloud when covering presidential history with your child or just for fun.

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