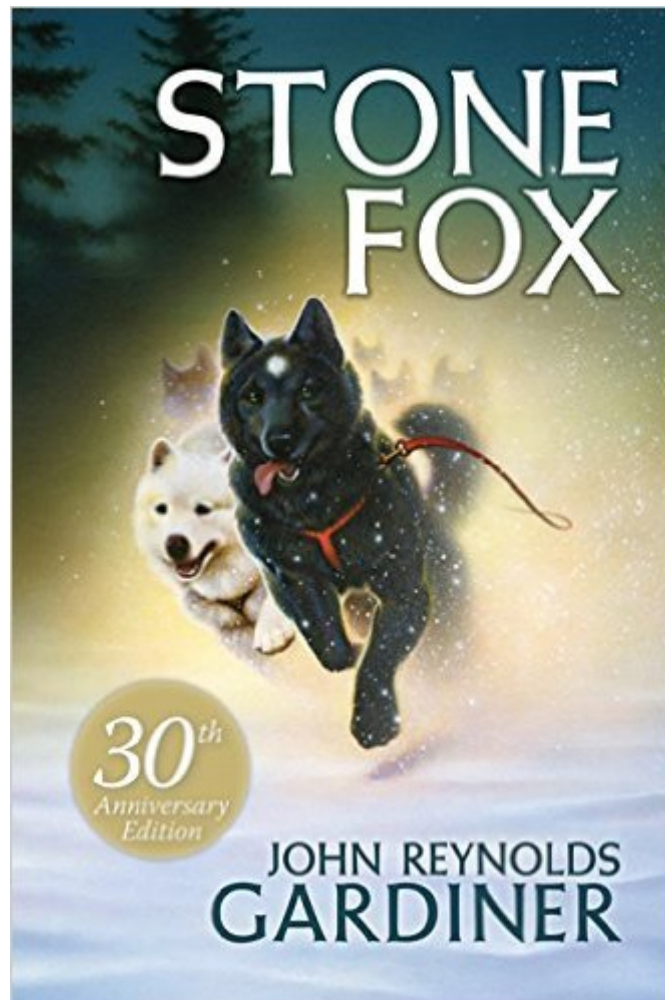


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# Stone Fox



## Synopsis

John Reynolds Gardiner's action-packed canine adventure story of a thrilling dogsled race has captivated readers for more than thirty years. Based on a Rocky Mountain legend, Stone Fox tells the story of Little Willy, who lives with his grandfather in Wyoming. When Grandfather falls ill, he is no longer able to work the farm, which is in danger of foreclosure. Little Willy is determined to win the National Dogsled Race—the prize money would save the farm and his grandfather. But he isn't the only one who desperately wants to win. Willy and his brave dog Searchlight must face off against experienced racers, including a Native American man named Stone Fox, who has never lost a race. Exciting and heartwarming, this novel has sold millions of copies and was named a New York Times Outstanding Children's Book. Supports the Common Core State Standards

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550 (What's this?)

Series: Harper Trophy Book

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 30 Reprint edition (April 27, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064401324

ISBN-13: 978-0064401326

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (569 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,564 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports #5 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #14 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 6

## Customer Reviews

This is a surprising, quick read written for children, grades 3-6. I would classify it as a chapter book because it has chapters (ten of them), simple, easy to read language, and an elementary plot that children can follow. I read Stone Fox because it was selected by the teens in my Teen Reading Club that I lead. In the beginning, I was interested in the book because of its premise. My enjoyment

lessened as Grandfather's situation clarified, and Doc Smith was introduced, both characters I found lacking. In fact, the teens voted them as their least favorite characters in the novel. The story picked up when Stone Fox was introduced, a Shoshone Indian who lives on a reservation with another Indian tribe, the Arapaho. Stone Fox was the teens' favorite character, second only to Willy's dog Searchlight. The ending ruined the book for me, and almost everyone agreed minus a few of the guys in the reading club. Stone Fox is based on a Rocky Mountain legend told to the author, John Reynolds Gardiner, by Bob at Hudson's Cafe in Idaho. The historical roots intrigued me.

Unfortunately, everything is fictional minus the dog Searchlight and the ending. This really surprised me since the title of the book comes from Gardiner's fictional character rather than the actual historical legend. In Gardiner's version of the legend, the main action takes place on a potato farm in Wyoming and the nearby small town. The seasons change from potato harvest to winter, all important details for the plot.

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