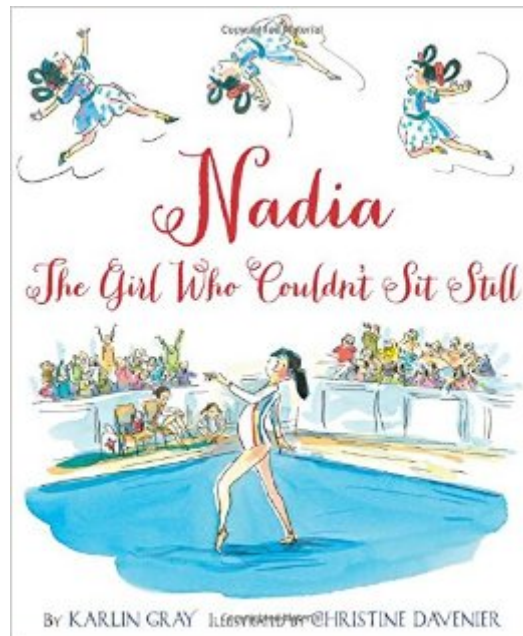


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# Nadia: The Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still



## Synopsis

Nadia Comaneci was a feisty and fearless little girl who went from climbing trees in the forests of Romania to swinging into history at the 1976 Olympic Games, where she received an unprecedented seven perfect scores in gymnastics. But as readers will see in this first-ever illustrated picture book about Nadia's journey to Olympic gold, the road from small-town girl to world-class athlete was full of many imperfect moments. Expert illustrations that capture the energy and fluidity of Nadia's exuberant gymnastic routines and referential back matter round out this inspirational story of determination and overcoming adversity. A perfect 10.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 900 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (June 7, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544319605

ISBN-13: 978-0544319608

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #26,407 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Gymnastics #8 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Olympics #21 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Sports & Recreation

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

My kids are 7 and 5! We have thoroughly enjoyed reading this book over and over! The story line is interesting, exciting and engaging! Their full attention was captured through out the entire book....leaving them wanting to know more about this incredible gymnast! I know this will be a favorite, especially with the Rio Olympics approaching! Kudos to the author and illustrator on a job well done!

Nadia: The Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still balances an endearing story of a young gymnast and her country's hopes of a gold medal. As a young girl, Nadia was said to be fearless: roller skating right

out the entrance door of a department store or riding her new bicycle before her dad had tightened all the screws. She was a ball of kinetic energy that could only be contained by a gymnastics coach and his wife. Nadia's parents enrolled her in the gymnastics school where Nadia could expend all her energy. Soon she was learning routines on all the equipment, afraid of nothing. she ran, tumbled, cartwheeled, flipped, flew from bar to bar, jumped and soared. When her team entered the Olympics in Montreal, the competition to beat was the Russia team who had two gold medalists. The crowd went crazy when little Nadia performed. She was the first gymnast EVER to score a perfect 10.0! In fact, the scoreboard could not even record her score correctly. It was designed to score only up to 9.9. She went on to score seven perfect scores of 10.0. Winning five medals, Nadia was the youngest person to win a gold medal in gymnastics history. Beautiful water color illustrations capture the energy and bounce of young Nadia and her teammates. After the Olympics when asked by a reporter if she had plans to retire, spunky Nadia replied, "I'm fourteen years old." In the afterword, readers learn that Nadia never did retire. She continued in gymnastics and later become a coach. Eventually she defected from Romania to the United States via passage through Hungary. Thi is a winner of a sports story that both boys and girls will enjoy. Children will empathize with Nadia's energy and applaud her hard work and dedication to a sport she loves. Gymnastics was like breathing for Nadia; she could not live without it. Highly, highly recommended for all collections. A real gem of a picture book biography. Read all my YA reviews at [Young Adult Books--What We're Reading Now](#)

I was so happy to share this inspirational story of Nadia with my sons. We really enjoyed reading it over and over, and they were as excited by her success story as I had been while watching her perform decades ago. I loved Nadia's energy and her youthful impatience to get things moving. Reading this book makes you want to go out and play! I like to share interesting biographies and life lessons about perseverance; this story is perfect and the engaging colorful illustrations are delightful. This book is our new favorite and one I will share with friends and family - as well as my pick to read to my son's class as mystery reader :)

There are a lot of good picture book biographies coming out, and *Nadia the Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still* is one of them. It's about a young gymnast named Nadia that worked hard for years to improve her skills and go to the Olympics. The illustrations are gorgeous in this book. They're loose enough to have personality and color and life. The story is simple and well written so kids can easily follow what's happening without getting lost. My only complaint is that some of the names in the book are

difficult to pronounce. I would have liked a pronunciation guide in there somewhere. Other than that, it's a wonderful book.

I love this new book about one of my all time, heroes, Nadia! As a child of the 1970s, I remember her flying around on the uneven bars - defying gravity - and wanting to be just like her. Now, as the mother of a young gymnast, it is great to be able to share with her this story of someone so pivotal in her sport, and in my own childhood. The messages expressed by the book - that young Nadia channeled her natural energy and abilities into athletics, but that she still had to work hard and overcome setbacks to win those perfect scores - are important ones in today's highly competitive world of youth sports. Great timing with the Rio Olympics around the corner! The words are engaging and easy for young readers to grasp, and the illustrations are beautiful.

This book is fantastic! I have 7 year old b/g twins and a 4 year old little boy who loved reading about Nadia! This book is very well written & and the artwork is great! I highly recommend this book for preschool and elementary age kids.

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10.0: The Nadia Comaneci Story (GymnStars) (Volume 7)  
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