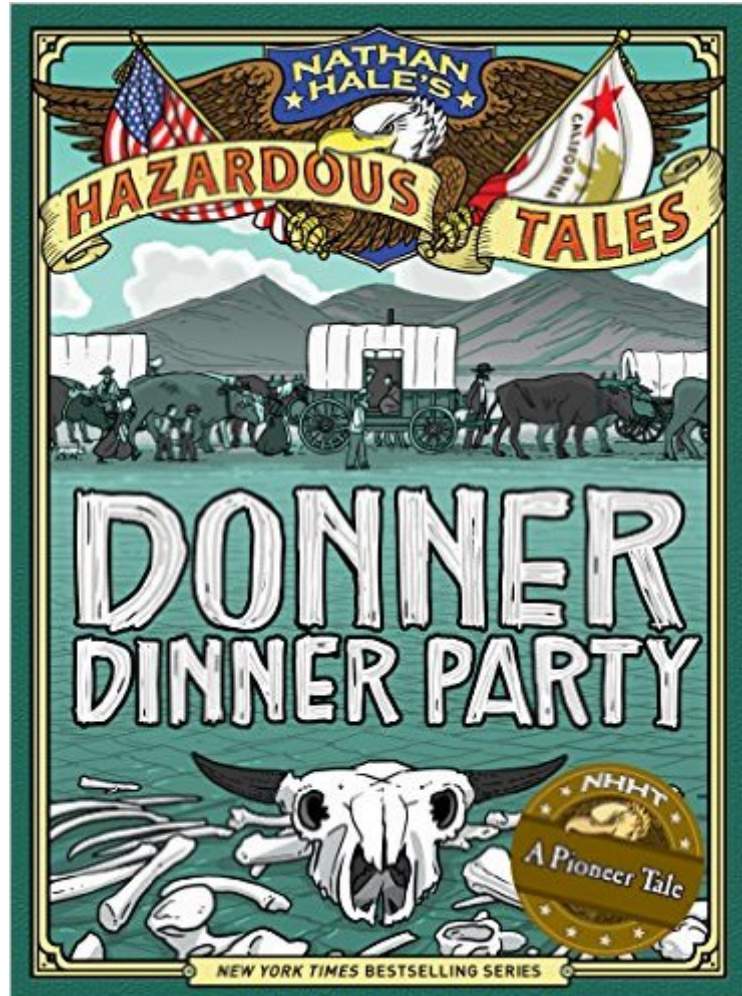


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# Donner Dinner Party (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #3)



## Synopsis

Â The Donner Party expedition is one of the most notorious stories in all of American history. Itâ™s also a fascinating snapshot of the westward expansion of the United States, and the families and individuals who sacrificed so much to build new lives in a largely unknown landscape. From the preparation for the journey to each disastrous leg of the trip, this book shows the specific bad decisions that led to the partyâ™s predicament in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The graphic novel focuses on the struggles of the Reed family to tell the true story of the catastrophic journey. This popular topic is a perfect addition to the Nathan Haleâ™s Hazardous Tales brand, and a great showcase for Haleâ™s storytelling skills. Â Praise for Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Donner Dinner Party "This informative graphic novel capitalizes on enticingly gross history to great effect, balancing raw facts with strong storytelling." --Booklist Â Awards YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens List 2014 New York Public Libraryâ™s list: Childrenâ™s Books list: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing 2013 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2014

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 330L (What's this?)

Series: Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams; 7.2.2013 edition (August 6, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419708562

ISBN-13: 978-1419708565

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (64 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,889 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History #13 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #34 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Humor > General

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

2012 saw the debut of a new line of children's history books, told in graphic novel format. The books are written and illustrated by a guy with the historically fortuitous name Nathan Hale. Taking a cue

from his own name, Mr. Hale has the books narrated by the historic Nathan Hale, executed by the British for espionage in 1776. Nathan Hale, his own Hangman, and the British Provost form a kind of triad narrator, chiming in with their own opinions and asides as the historic tales unfold. The first two books were *One Dead Spy*, telling Nathan Hale's own story as part of the American Revolution, and *Big Bad Ironclad* about the first ironclad ships used in the American Civil War. The third book just came out in 2013, and I've read it a few times, and recommended it to every teacher and parent and history buff I can find. And now you. With a title like "Donner Dinner Party," I'm guessing adults will cringe, and kids will um...eat it up. The book tells the story of the doomed Donner-Reed Party, who was traveling from the midwest to California in 1846. As with the previous two books, "Donner Dinner Party" is about more than just that expedition, but about Westward Expansion on the whole--in brings in information about the Black Hawk War, the Gold Rush, the Oregon Trail and Mormon pioneers, and just how dangerous it was for any group to move west, not just the Donner Party. From the first chapter, Hale establishes that James Reed is something of a buffoon, pretentious and preening, and making foolish choices. He's able to do that in a fairly even-handed way, balancing the foolishness with the sort of "pioneering spirit" that we like to think Americans have.

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