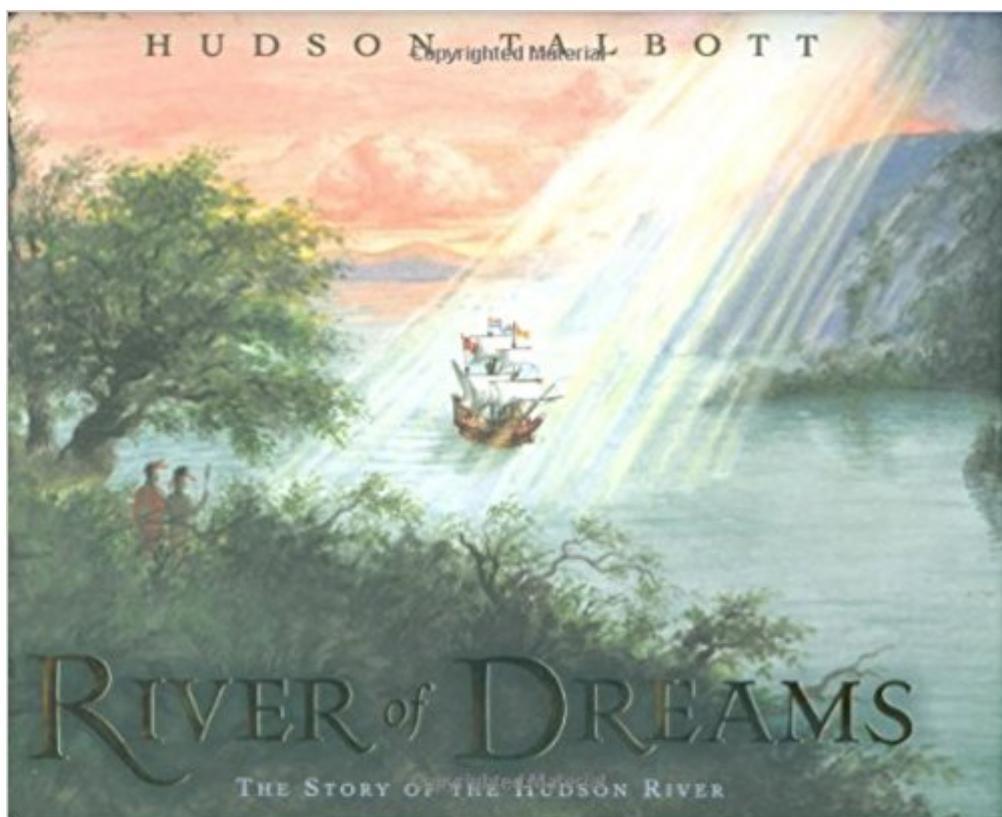


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# River Of Dreams: The Story Of The Hudson River



## Synopsis

The Hudson River has been a source of inspiration and a means of livelihood to all who have lived along its shores. It played a key role in the settling of the New World and the outcome of the Revolutionary War, and was the birthplace of the environmental movement. Now Hudson Talbott pays homage to the river that shares his name in a gorgeously illustrated, fascinating account of the river's history. Each appealing spread sheds exciting light on the river's strategic, economic and cultural significance. Packed with facts, timelines and maps, this is a wonderful introduction to a wide range of topics including the Age of Exploration, the Erie Canal, the Industrial Age, American arts and literature and the environment. River of Dreams is truly a book with something for everyone.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1050L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #620,327 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #194 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Oceans & Seas #233 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Water #235 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > State & Local

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Putting his powers of visual explanation to the test, Talbott (United Tweets of America) presents a staggering amount of information about the Hudson River without ever overwhelming or confusing readers. A series of watercolor spreads, unified by the image of the river flowing across each one, traces the Hudson's role in the colonization of New York, the Revolution, the era of steamboats, the building of the Erie Canal; its fate as railroads eclipsed shipping's

importance; its environmental degradation; and its rebirth. The image of the river often doubles as a timeline, helping to organize the information and make room for extra details. Side tours explore the river's literary and artistic history. Striking trompe l'oeil devices enliven many of Talbott's paintings; on one page, a locomotive appears to hurtle full steam ahead through a bucolic river scene toward the viewer, a terrific visual pun on the railroad's social and economic effects. Talbott makes good use of irony (the Native Americans' stewardship of the Hudson River Valley was great while it lasted), but does not avoid emotion (immigrants at Ellis Island represent another river.... a river of dreamers). Ages 6-8. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Grade 4-6 "A boy gazes from his nighttime window, dreaming of New York, "the great city on the river that bore my name" Hudson." This personalized opening has the look of a bedtime story and may deter some readers, but Talbott uses dreams as a theme around which he winds an engaging history. He adroitly utilizes the picture-book format to chronicle the Hudson's course through the experiences of various dreamers. He describes the long period of habitation by Native peoples, settlement by Holland and then by England, the "American" revolt against English rule, the post-Revolution boom in shipping traffic, the building of the Erie Canal, and more. Watercolor, colored pencil, and ink illustrations are filled with scenes that are sometimes realistic, at other times more fanciful. A few spreads have color blocks, vignettes, information bits, and a winding river that bears significant dates. The river hit hard times as the rush to commerce made it a dumping ground; it is now in recovery. Echoing the opening tone, he closes with a romanticized and personal note: "It's now my turn to help in keeping the river of dreams flowing, for all those dreamers yet to come." The further reading list and Web sites are of adult interest, but the well-crafted story is an informative and interesting account for personal reading or classroom units in history or environmental issues. Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

My 13 year old granddaughter, who lives in NJ, recently read, *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George and became enthralled with the Catskill Mountain area. I have lived in the Mid-Hudson Valley, just below the Catskills, for my entire 65 years. I am well acquainted with the Hudson River. As a child, my father and I frequently went boating on and fishing in the waters of the Esopus Creek and the Hudson River. To this day, I live just a few miles west of the Hudson. I bought this book for my granddaughter for Christmas. It gives a wonderful historical account of the

river and it's surrounding areas. The charming illustrations, intertwined with the storyline, holds one's attention as no history book could. One can tend to take for granted the place where they have lived all their life. This book gave me a new appreciation for just how historic and important this area is and how it played an important part in the forming of our nation. Everyone, young and old, who lives in the Hudson Valley or is interested in early colonial history, should read this book. I am now ordering a copy for myself. This is one that I want in my own personal library!

This is a beautiful book detailing the history and importance of the Hudson River to America. The illustrations will keep children interested, while the historical facts will engage adults. It covers the Native Americans, Henry Hudson's discovery, the role in the Revolutionary War, the building of NYC, the role in American art and literature and more. It is a great gift for history buffs, children or as a coffee table book. Recommended.

This wonderful book brings to life the history of New York state, from glaciers to Native Americans, to the chaining of the Hudson during Revolutionary times, how travel by water gave way to travel by train, as well as concepts of ecology including pollution, fish migrations & eagles. This exceptional work also features inspiring artwork. Teachers especially can use this work to cover many areas of their curriculum. It is very readable for kids and parents as well, and may inspire you to take a trip to see this great river which helped shape America.

Having grown up in the mid-Hudson River valley, I was familiar with many of the legends and reading this book brought many fond memories back. The art work is enchanting and charming - a perfect compliment to the script. This book is a great addition to anyone's library who is familiar with the complex history of the region.

Simple transaction, book as described, used for daughter's book report at school.

I love the Hudson river and live right by it. This is a cute very informative book a bit more childrens book than I'd imagined but I did learn alot and will keep it on my mantle

"On the Hudson there was always the opportunity to be educated deeply in the heart. The beauty of the landscape did the rest, along with the magic of the moon, the river's hot and reedy bays, the glittering silver ice, days of summer or days of snow submerged in an ocean of clear blue air, fields

never-ending, the wind from Canada, and the great city to the south."-- from WINTER'S TALE by Mark Helprin (1983)"...Down the Valley one million toilet chainsFind my Hudson so convenient place to drainAnd each little city says. 'Who, me?Do you think that sewage plants come free?'"-- from "My Dirty Stream (The Hudson River Song)" by Pete Seeger (1961)"The water turned greenish brown, except by the GM plant, where it turned red or yellow or whatever color that they were painting the cars that day."I grew up knowing of the Hudson as a river that was dead and only getting worse, the tainted lifeblood of a region that must have been awfully beautiful at some point in a previous century. As a Boy Scout I was occasionally in the vicinity of the river, participating in weekend campouts at Bear Mountain and, once, touring the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy. In my early years of raising and showing dairy goats, I would glimpse the river as I drove Upstate to fairgrounds in the Hudson Valley and beyond."When George Washington made his headquarters on a steep cliff overlooking the river, it became the most important military post in the country. Known as West Point, it had views of all boat traffic in both directions. The river wrapped around its base, forcing ships to slow down and to come into easy range of cannon fire. Washington called West Point the 'key to America.'"In RIVER OF DREAMS, Hudson Talbott, who illustrated Jacqueline Woodson's beautiful Newbery Honor book SHOW WAY, leads readers on a four-century visual tour de force of the River with whom he shares a name. Incorporating natural history, colonial and American history, art and literary history, science, technology, and the environmental movement into a visual celebration of all things Hudson, Talbott demonstrates repeatedly how this river has played a unique and pivotal role in America over the four centuries since Henry Hudson first navigated it in September of 1609.The river's importance has grown in step with the nation:"George Washington had once envisioned a canal across New York State, connecting the waters of Lake Erie to the Hudson. Governor Dewitt Clinton picked up the dream, and finally saw it completed in 1825. Three hundred and sixty-three miles long, forty feet wide and only four feet deep, its nickname switched overnight from 'Clinton's Ditch' to the 'Eighth Wonder of the World.'"Suddenly the great, untapped heartland of America was connected to the world by water. New York-to-Cleveland travel time went from ninety days by land to thirty days by water. The price of grain dropped from ninety cents a pound to nine cents as Midwest farm products flooded eastward...The Hudson became America's first superhighway, and it made New York City into the greatest marketplace on earth. Money was pouring into the city from all directions."The river has given and Americans have taken. Over the centuries, businessmen and business concerns large and small benefited -- in the short run -- from exploiting the Hudson River, but the long term effects to health and to the quality of life have been well-documented (if not as obvious as the tip of one's nose)."From approximately 1947 to 1977, the

General Electric Company (GE) discharged as much as 1.3 million pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from its capacitor manufacturing plants at the Hudson Falls and Fort Edward facilities into the Hudson River."-- from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency websiteThe U.S. environmental movement began in the sixties in the Hudson Valley, thanks to the way the river was mercilessly exploited, and while it has taken the better part of a lifetime to turn things around, many things are now getting better. Toward the end of RIVER OF DREAMS we learn of the increasing fish, osprey and bald eagle populations and how there are people actually swimming in the Hudson these days."I would explain that the Hudson was a 'drowned' river, up to about Poughkeepsie. The Ice Age had depressed the river bed to a depth that allowed the Atlantic Ocean to flood inland. Consequently, the lower Hudson was really a saltwater estuary."--from MY AMERICAN JOURNEY by General Colin Powell (whose undergrad was Geology)Hudson Talbott's paintings flow through the 400 years of "civilization" on the river. The illustrations include maps, depictions of the various sailing and steam vessels, the process of ice harvesting, the work of the Hudson River School of painting, and images of important characters in the story of the Hudson such as King James II, Washington Irving, Franny Reese, and Pete Seeger. An exceptionally notable two-page spread reveals a bucolic scene of sloops plying the river and cows in a meadow into which a coal-burning locomotive comes (literally) ripping through the page charging toward us.A visual love song for all who have first-hand experience with the Hudson, for all who have read stories set along the Hudson, and for all who know it up to now only as a thick line of blue on a map of America, RIVER OF DREAMS is an inspiring and beautiful picture book for older readers who -- with a little luck and the help of librarians -- will hopefully become the next generation of Riverkeepers.

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