

Shackleton's Journey

William Grill

Reviewed by: Kaden Shover, 17

Star Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Shackleton's Journey is an award winning illustrated book by William Grill. It was awarded and nominated for the following, 2015 Kate Greenway medal, best illustrated book of 2014 by the New York Times, 2014, Best Children's Book by the Wall Street Journal, and the 2015, USBBY Outstanding International Book. From a very young age Ernest Shackleton loved books but did not like school. Shackleton left school at age sixteen and went to sea and became a member of the famous Discovery expedition led by Captain Scott. When Roald Amundsen the Norwegian explorer reached the South Pole before Scott, Shackleton wanting to make a name for himself realized he wanted to make the first crossing of the Antarctic continent sea to sea. This book is the story of Shackleton and his crew both written and illustrated. The theme of this book is bravery, endurance and adventure. The book covers the expedition from raising the money to support the expedition, recruiting just the right crew members, selection of the 99 dogs who were chosen for the expedition. The design and building of the ship the Endurance, the supplies to complete the expedition, and then setting sail on August 8, 1914. Throughout the expedition the crew faced difficult conditions and dangers such as packed ice, getting stuck, spending cold winter months isolated, blizzards and finally the sinking of the Endurance. Although Shackleton failed at his attempt to cross Antarctica by land, due to the harsh and dangerous conditions the book is beautifully illustrated and written.

The part about this book I liked the most was how specific the information about the expedition was. The fact that it is true, and the colorful accurate illustrations of every aspect of the expedition really helped the reader understand all that was involved to try and make it a successful journey and the difficult conditions they faced. The part I did not like about the book was that all the dogs that had worked so hard for the crew died and the few remaining dogs had to be shot because once they decided to head back to land by boat there was no room for them.

I would recommend someone get this book from the library, buy it online from Amazon or Barnes and Nobles and give it as a gift or donate to their school. This book is recommended for age 7 and up, but I think any age would enjoy both the story and the colorful illustrations. The glossary at the end of the book is very helpful especially for younger readers.

I would suggest the following books to readers if they liked this book:

Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible voyage by Alfred Lansing

Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space by Dominic Walliman

Shackleton's Way: leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer by Margot Morrell

Endurance by Frank A. Worsley

