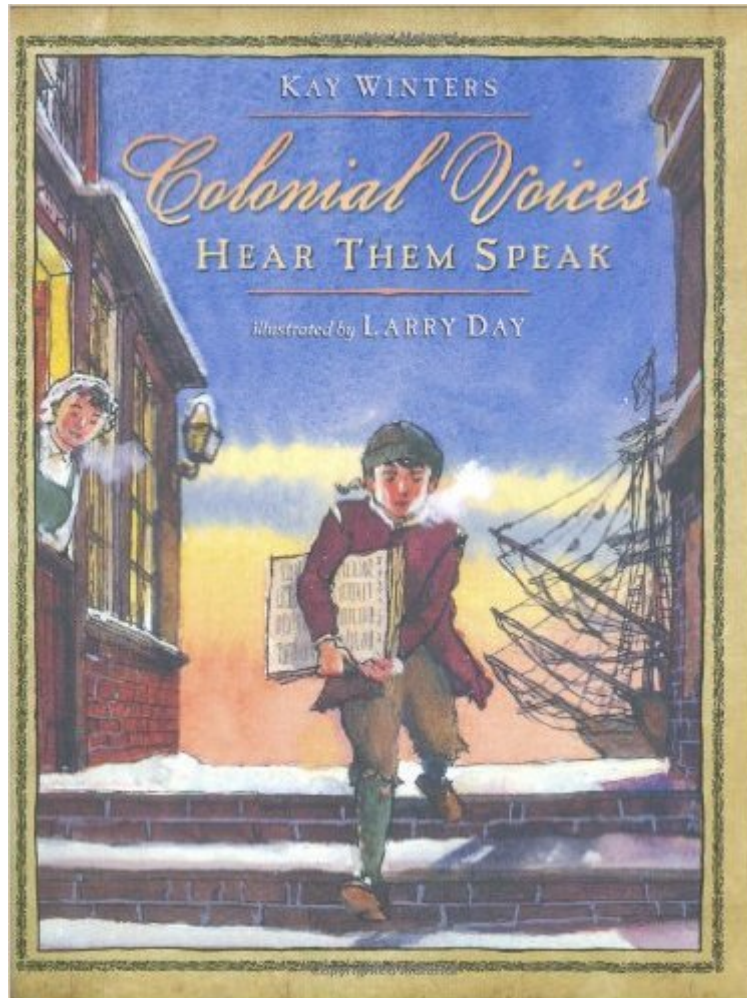


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# Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak



## Synopsis

Follow an errand boy through colonial Boston as he spreads word of rebellion. It's December 16, 1773, and Boston is about to explode! King George has decided to tax the colonists' tea. The Patriots have had enough. Ethan, the printer's errand boy, is running through town to deliver a message about an important meeting. As he stops along his route at the bakery, the schoolhouse, the tavern, and more, readers learn about the occupations of colonial workers and their differing opinions about living under Britain's rule. This fascinating book is like a field trip to a living history village.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Dutton Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (May 15, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525478728

ISBN-13: 978-0525478720

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #398,057 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #242 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #250 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary #357 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Shoemakers who pull teeth for customers with toothaches, and barbers who apply leeches to bruises and let blood drain to cure a fever. These are but two of the many interesting tidbits about occupations during the Colonial period that make this book an enjoyable read for children and adults alike. As the central premise of the book, young Ethan, a printer's errand boy, makes his way around a number of local businesses in Boston on that fateful day in December 1773 leading up to the Boston Tea Party. He is charged with delivering news about the tea tax, Governor Hutchinson's decisions, and the protest meeting that evening in the Old South Meeting House. At each of Ethan's

stops, the reader hears about the political views and job responsibilities of the colonial merchants through their own voices. The stunning watercolor-and-ink illustrations, the themed typeset and layout, and the map of Colonial Boston inside the book's covers reinforce the book's historical theme. A concerted effort to add vocabulary from the Colonial era and detailed occupational descriptions in the historical notes further contribute to the book's high marks on substantive content. Although *Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak* mostly covers the economics concept of jobs, its focus on the Boston Tea Party also make it a useful vehicle for teaching about monopolies and taxes. Most readers will finish the book more informed about this pivotal event in Colonial history, and relieved that we do not need to visit the shoemaker and barber for our healthcare needs.

\*\*\*Note to publishers and authors: That's enough free verse.\*\*\* We parents want our kids to READ. Kids can handle paragraphs -- go ahead and write in standard English. I'm working on a summer 2012 homeschool unit for my gang of boys on colonial/pre-revolutionary days in New England, then visiting Boston and surroundings on our summer trip. So I've read a lot of the children's books that are available on this time period, and will be reading still more. This book is great in the illustration department -- the illustrations are well-researched and historical. Very nice. The written portion of this book is a yawner -- the text is so superficial (and in free verse!) that it's not instructive or memorable. Instead of this, I recommend: Betsy Maestro's "Liberty or Death" Dennis Fradin's "Let it Begin Here" Rosalyn Schanzer's "George vs. George" Pamela Duncan Edwards' "Boston Tea Party" Good historical notes section in this book, a map, and a surprisingly good glossary. And very fine illustrations.

"Colonial Voices" is an imaginative and eye-catching way to introduce children to American history. Kay Winters does this by creating stories "told" by children who lived in Boston just before the American Revolution. I was especially impressed that these stories didn't avoid some of the hard truths about being a child in Colonial Day -- the Errand Boy who was on his own when his mother died in childbirth and his Dad was at sea; the Silversmith's Apprentice who was orphaned, as well. The Tavern Keeper tells her story when, with her daughter, she takes over the tavern upon another loss. Winters doesn't mince words in "The Basket Trader" or "The Blacksmith's Slave," but does so at a level that children can appreciate. This book is a perfect example of Kay Winters' ability to write gripping stories for children without talking down to them. She gives her young readers a chance to take a trip through colonial Boston in an exciting --and dangerous -- time so often rushed through in normal history classes. Larry Day's illustrations beautifully capture the mood and color of the period,

and show a huge amount of research in his use of clothing, household details, and tools of the time.

When needing a user-friendly and enjoyable Colonial Boston occupations resource, this is a great find! Interwoven in the prose are subtle messages about the undercurrents of those turbulent times in Boston, spoken by the characters whose jobs you learn about. Colorful and clear illustrations enhance this knowledge. I first located it in our school library, but I knew I immediately wanted my own copy!

This book was written by a friend of mine whose talent I much admire. It gives the young reader a different perspective of the events leading up to the American Revolution - through the eyes of an errand boy who, while delivering an important message to Boston Patriots, gives the reader an inside view into the lives of some of the colonists. It is an interesting and beautifully illustrated book. I bought it for my granddaughter who is nine, and will be studying the American Revolution next year in 4th grade.

This is a wonderful find. The information is enough to hook a kid into reading quick history, but not enough to fill an essay. The illustrations are great

History is history the illustrations make it come to life. Illustrator Larry Day known for his many ads, is so superb in these kids books.

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