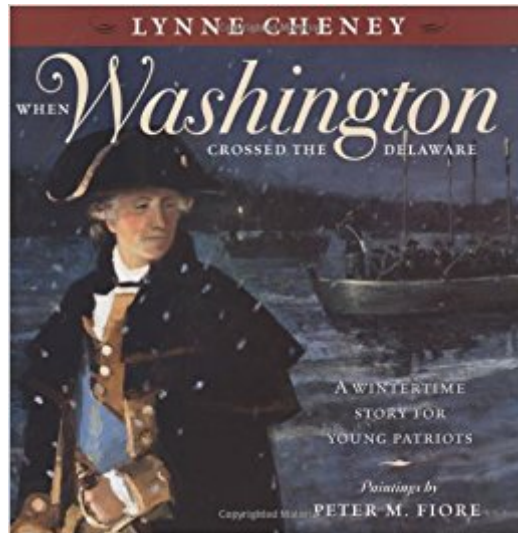




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# When Washington Crossed The Delaware



## Synopsis

"This is the story that I tell my grandchildren at Christmas. I hope that this book will bring the tradition of sharing history to families all across America." -- Lynne Cheney

Christmas night, 1776, was a troubled time for our young country. In the six months since the Declaration of Independence had been signed, General George Washington and his troops had suffered defeat after defeat at the hands of the British. It looked as though our struggle for independence might be doomed, when Washington made a bold decision. He would lead the main body of his army across the Delaware River and launch a surprise attack on enemy forces. Washington and his men were going against the odds. It seemed impossible that the ragtag Americans could succeed against the mightiest power in the world. But the men who started across the icy Delaware loved their country and their leader. Under his command they would turn the tide of battle and change the course of history. Best-selling author Lynne Cheney tells the dramatic story of the military campaign that began on Christmas night in 1776. *When Washington Crossed the Delaware* will teach the young about the heroism, persistence, and patriotism of those who came before them.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (October 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689870434

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 10.5 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 78 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #467,355 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #123 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > U. S. Presidents & First Ladies](#) #255 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars](#) #315 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary](#)

Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4 — Cheney chronicles the general's courageous leadership in the Battles of

Trenton and Princeton, including his famed crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas 1776. The story is clearly told, although the organization falls apart slightly in the second half. Primary quotes decorate each page, adding visual interest but occasionally disrupting the flow of the narrative. Done in oil paints on canvas, the large, dramatic illustrations create a sweeping feel that captures the mood of the text. While the picture-book format necessitates some simplification of the events, the account is accurate and interesting. A source page cites only the quotes used, and not the information presented, and the book's preface includes the recommendation that grandparents share this book with their grandchildren at Christmastime, which needlessly excludes those "young patriots" who do not celebrate Christmas. This title is more straightforward, but less comprehensive, than Louise Peacock's *Crossing the Delaware: A History in Many Voices* (Atheneum, 1998). Cheney's offering makes an adequate supplement to history collections, and will appeal to families wishing to read inspirational picture books about America's past.

—â œSuzanne Myers Harold,  
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Gr. 2-4, younger for reading aloud. Cheney delivers a stirring account of this pivotal event in the Revolutionary War, from Washington's Christmas crossing to the Battle of Trenton and the ensuing Battle of Princeton. Framing her narrative with very brief quotes from eyewitnesses, she describes how the retreating, ragtag Continental Army, first bucked up by Tom Paine's rhetoric, then inspired by Washington's example and leadership, turned to defeat "the greatest military power in the world" twice in nine days, thus allowing the Patriots to "imagine that their great struggle would have a glorious end." Fiore's carefully detailed, full-page oils capture the chill of that night on the icy river, as well as the heroism of the American troops (African Americans among them) as they march, gravely celebrate their victory over the Hessians, and, finally, pursue fleeing Redcoats. Young readers or listeners can't help but come away with a clearer understanding of the event's significance, as well as a greater appreciation for Washington's heroism. Source notes are included.

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I wanted to give my nieces a piece of history and this is actually perfect. Cheney's story takes place during a tough time in American history where Washington barely saved the Army during a harsh winter and then marched his troops to two victories during the Christmas holidays. His men were freezing, they were hungry, and they left bloody footprints in the snow.

loved to read about are early american history.

A story that has been retold which portrays the reality of the obstacles & difficulties that Washington faced & successfully navigated by nature (God) being on his side, making the impossible achievable in the Revolutionary War! A great Read!

If you don't have a lot of time but want to be sure your kiddos are aware of the great history of this country, this is the perfect read to brief up on the story of just what those men went through during that cold, cold winter. Cheney does a great job of painting a mental picture, and the illustrations are great as well. Read it yourself to be able to tell the story to your children or let your older children read it themselves. I'm guessing most 3rd-4th graders could read and understand it just fine.

Looked promising, but the text and the abstract concepts this book discusses are not at the right age level for a picture book at this reading level. I'm not sure who this book is FOR, but it won't work for early elementary kids looking to understand some of a complex subject at a more concrete level. This would be really nice to have if it were done well, because it's an important story!

THIS IS A GREAT BOOK, LYNNE DOES A GREAT JOB GETTING THE STORY OUT. I'M A FAN OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CAN RARELY PASS UP AN HISTORICAL NOVEL, ESPECIALLY REVOLUTION AND CIVIL WAR STORIES. IF HISTORY BOOKS WERE WRITTEN AS STORY BOOKS, KIDS WOULD LOVE HISTORY.

No problems.

I bought this to give away to a home schooled child. Any of Rush's books are better though.

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