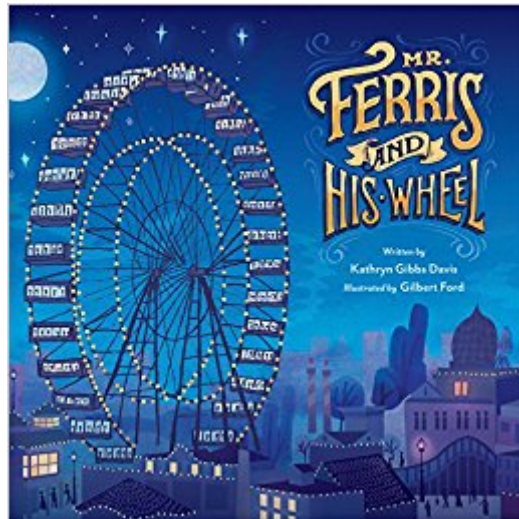




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# Mr. Ferris And His Wheel



## Synopsis

A Junior Library Guild SelectionOrbis Pictus Honor for Outstanding Nonfiction for ChildrenCapturing an engineer's creative vision and mind for detail, this fully illustrated picture book biography sheds light on how the American inventor George Ferris defied gravity and seemingly impossible odds to invent the world's most iconic amusement park attraction, the Ferris wheel. A fun, fact-filled text by Kathryn Gibbs Davis combines with Gilbert Ford's dazzling full-color illustrations to transport readers to the 1893 World's Fair, where George Ferris and his big, wonderful wheel lifted passengers to the skies for the first time.

## Book Information

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Lexile Measure: 900 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547959222

ISBN-13: 978-0547959221

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #55,479 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Inventions & Inventors #28 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work #30 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Physics

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3 • It's almost time for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, and American architects are hoping to design a star attraction to rival the French Eiffel Tower. Mechanical engineer George Washington Gale Ferris Jr. has a daring idea: a huge, round, moving structure made from steel, a new metal unrivaled in both lightness and strength. After overcoming obstacles ranging from mockery to quicksand, Ferris and his team finally complete their wheel, which delights fairgoers and goes on to become a staple of fairgrounds around the world. Librarians familiar with Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City* (Random, 2002) already know this story, but the focus here is less on the Chicago World's Fair and more on the process involved in building a mechanical marvel. Details

such as why support structures were necessary and how tension wheels work will engage emerging engineers, while those with a less scientific bent can nevertheless appreciate the excitement felt by the Ferris Wheel's very first passengers. The primary story is told in an easy-to-read serif font, and secondary details are added in smaller sans-serif sections. A purple-dominated color scheme contrasts with occasional greens and yellows. Overall, the modernist look, inherently interesting topic, and strong documentation (including quotations from primary sources) make this title a positive addition, especially those looking to enhance their nonfiction offerings in view of new Common Core standards. —Jill Ratzan, I. L. Peretz Community Jewish School, Somerset, NJ

**\*Starred Review\*** Ten months before the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, there was still no centerpiece to rival that of the previous fair's Eiffel Tower. Enter young engineer George Washington Gale Ferris Jr., who had a vision of a structure not only tall but also rigged for motion. Having no better choices, fair organizers begrudgingly accepted his proposal but offered not a cent of funding. With but four months to go, George scrambled for funding and materials, most of it a newfangled metal called "steel," including a 70-ton axle, "the largest piece of steel ever forged." The harried workers struggled with frozen Chicago ground, unexpected quicksand, more than 100,000 parts, and, most of all, the derision of onlookers who found the spindly-looking contraption undignified and sure to collapse in high winds. But it didn't; rather, it ascended heavenward into both day and night skies, offering unparalleled views from its posh living-room-sized passenger cars. Like Mr. Ferris's invention, Davis's picture-book bio soars, inspires, and keeps (the pages) ever turning, matching the gregarious text to smaller, often tech-based side comments. Ford's impressionistic, wine-colored washes blend a fantastical mood with a staggering sense of mechanical scale. It's tough to awe readers with a ride with which they are so familiar, but Davis and Ford pull it off. Grab your tickets; here we go. Grades 1-3. --Daniel Kraus

I love a good non fiction picture book, especially one about a lesser known person or event. Mr. Ferris and His Wheel is about George Ferris, and the Ferris wheel, invented by Ferris and named after him. This picture book combines story, non-fiction tidbits, ink and watercolor illustrations, and an occasional quote to tell the story of how George Ferris dreamed up the idea for the Ferris wheel which was first introduced at the Worlds Fair in Chicago in 1893. Kathryn Gibbs Davis goes through the steps that Ferris went to in order to make his dream become a reality. The designing of his invention and his need for donations to cover the cost are explained in a way young readers can

understand, and his race to complete the Ferris Wheel by the World's Fair adds some suspense to this picture book. Many children have ridden a Ferris wheel, but even those who have not, can recognize the structure and appreciate the story of how this came to be an amusement park staple. I've purchased this for my own library already, and am definitely adding it to my next school library order. There are many students who will enjoy this story, and appreciate the fact that it is a non-fiction book about something they can relate to.

Wonderful combination of engineering and historical facts told in an easy-to-understand and interesting way for all readers. After reading this book to my students, they wanted to research Mr. Ferris and the times he lived in, as well as the process of invention. For educators, I recommend showing this beautifully illustrated book using the Kindle app on a Smart Board or computer projector. It looks great on the "big screen!"

Well written and very informative about a great American inventor. The illustrations are beautiful and reflective of the time period of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. School age children and adults will love this book.

Absolutely one of my favorite books. Dare to dream. And dare to think big. It's an inspirational lesson for kids.

This was a cute way for people to learn about the history of something we still use today.

Well written children's book on the invention of the Ferris Wheel. My grandsons ages 9 & 7 enjoyed the book. Now for a summer field trip to the fair and a ride on the Ferris Wheel.

This book jumped to the top of my favorites list! Such an entertaining, inspiring, and educational book all at the same time! Great for children and adults alike!

It was a good educational book about ferris wheels. I bought it for my 3rd grade for the VA Reading Program and we both liked it.

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Dancing with the Wheel: The Medicine Wheel Workbook Tchaikovsky, His Life And Works - With Extracts From His Writings, And The Diary Of His Tour Abroad In 1888 The Patriot: The Stunning True Story of Aaron Hernandez: His Rise and Fall as a Football Superstar, His Two Explosive Trials for Murder, His Shocking Death My Traitor's Heart: A South African Exile Returns to Face His Country, His Tribe, and His Conscience Marc Blitzstein: His Life, His Work, His World Jerome Robbins: His Life, His Theater, His Dance Genghis Khan: His Conquests, His Empire, His Legacy Alexander the Great at War: His Army - His Battles - His Enemies (General Military) The Child With Down's Syndrome: Causes, Characteristics and Acceptance, for Parents, Physicians and Persons Concerned With His Education and Care ... and Persons Concerned With His Education) Jesus the Son of Man: His Words and His Deeds as Told and Recorded by Those Who Knew Him (Kahlil Gibran Pocket Library) A Man and His Ship: America's Greatest Naval Architect and His Quest to Build the S.S. United States The Single Girl's Guide to Marrying a Man, His Kids, and His Ex-Wife: Becoming A Stepmother With Humor And Grace The Life and Travels of Mungo Park: With the Account of His Death from the Journal of Isaaco, the Substance of the Later Discoveries Relative to His Lamented Fate, and the Termination of the Niger Mess: One Man's Struggle to Clean Up His House and His Act Old Records Never Die: One Man's Quest for His Vinyl and His Past The Prisoner in His Palace: Saddam Hussein, His American Guards, and What History Leaves Unsaid The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology of His Writings on His Life, Work, and Ideas

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