



The Century for Young People

By Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, Jennifer Armstrong

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Adapted from the #1 national bestseller especially for children 8-12!

The twentieth century has been a time of tremendous change, the most eventful hundred years in human history. Join Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster for a fascinating journey back in time to experience the century's greatest moments. Through the vivid first-person accounts of eyewitnesses, the most thrilling--and the most terrifying--events of the past hundred years come to life. Here are the voices of ordinary people--children and adults--expressing their joys and sorrows, their hopes and fears, as they watched history being made. This is history as it was lived, and as it will be remembered for the next hundred years.

This lavish book, in association with the television series presented by ABC News and The History Channel, includes more than 200 exquisitely reproduced photographs with an astonishing power to illuminate history. They will delight and appall you, educate and entertain you, as you watch the century unfold before your eyes. This spectacular book is a keepsake for every family's library. It is a riveting read and an essential research volume. It is the story of our time for all time.

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The Century for Young People By Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, Jennifer Armstrong Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #173474 in Books
- Brand: Doubleday Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 1999-09-28
- Released on: 1999-09-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.75" h x .82" w x 9.57" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The 20th century brought seeds of change, global nightmares, years of doubt, and machine dreams. These are also some of the chapter headings of this stunning tribute to the past 100 years. Adapting the bestselling adult version of *The Century*, journalists Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster take an unusual approach to the overwhelming task of capturing a century in 241 pages. Rather than using a standard didactic, textbook-style method, the authors choose to focus on the lives of ordinary people--those who influenced, and were most affected by, the radical changes of the 1900s. Marty Glickman describes the effect Teddy Roosevelt had on him as a boy. Gilda Snow's father, an electrician for the 1939 New York World's Fair, took her on a "backstage" tour of the event when she was 9 years old. Inez Jessie Baskin experienced the Montgomery bus boycotts firsthand. Stacy Horn, creator of an Internet virtual community, muses on the phenomenon of online relationships. Each sumptuous spread comes alive with *Life* magazine-style photos (over 200 total), compelling captions, feature essays on historical events and people, and pale blue sidebars with the stories of ordinary men and women of the century. With a new introduction aimed at young readers, and a higher personal story to narrative ratio than the full-length version, this magnificent volume belongs in any family's collection. (Ages 10 and older) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

With Armstrong's (In My Hands) help, news veterans Jennings and Brewster here smoothly adapt their bestselling tome for adults, *The Century*, for a younger audience. They offer young Americans a unique look at the past 100 years, via not only archival material but through the eyes of the people who lived through it. The volume combines the authors' affecting storytelling style with an exceedingly appealing design to draw readers into the major events that have shaped our nation (and often the world) in the 20th century. A clear chronology emerges in 12 concise chapters that explore events from the Wright Brothers' early flights to the world's devastating wars, to racial strife and the AIDS epidemic. Each chapter contains illuminating accounts in the words of ordinary people living in extraordinary times. Victor Reuther, a 1930s labor union organizer Ernest Michel, an Auschwitz survivor; and Inez Jessie Baskin, who sat at the front of a bus with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the end of the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, are examples of the myriad personalities that give voice to familiar textbook facts. Although the title implies a global approach to the century, many of the world events are limited to the situations that acted as catalysts to drive people to the U.S. from their native countries (e.g., the Russian Revolution, the chaos leading to WWI) or that affected America directly (such as the Vietnam War). What's most noteworthy here is the sense of immediacy the authors' approach offers: the reading experience is akin to peeking at hundreds of fascinating family trees and may well encourage youngsters to inquire about their own relatives' experiences. A bounty of excellent photographs (especially those taken at the turn of the century) accompanied by ample, detailed captions rounds out this essential addition to the family library. Ages 8-up. (Oct.)

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From Library Journal

Grade 4-9-An adaptation of the adult best-seller that stands alone as a survey of 20th-century history. The respected authors use primary sources throughout the narrative to highlight the events and people of the 1900s--such as an account by a woman who witnessed the Wright Brothers' test flights as a girl; one by the son of the mayor of Warsaw, Poland, in 1939; and another by an American held hostage in Iran. The information is interesting and relevant and of a primarily U.S. focus; major themes are change and race, with little on the arts and sports. Specific dates are less important than the overall picture; there are no time lines

and chapters are not necessarily divided up by decade, demonstrating to readers that history does not always come in neat packages. It is a smooth and readable work that, due to the necessity of cramming 100 years into slightly more than twice as many pages, does not go into depth on any specific person or event, but does show their interrelationships and their effects on our world. The final chapter bookends the century with the deaths of England's Queen Victoria in 1901 and Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997. Excellent-quality, archival photos capture the moments on almost every page. This is a unique and valuable book that will complement the "America in the 20th Century" series (Marshall Cavendish) and This Fabulous Century (Time-Life). If at all possible, buy two copies, one for the reference shelf and one for kids to take home and explore.

Andrew Medlar, Chicago Public Library, IL

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Elizabeth Fischer:

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