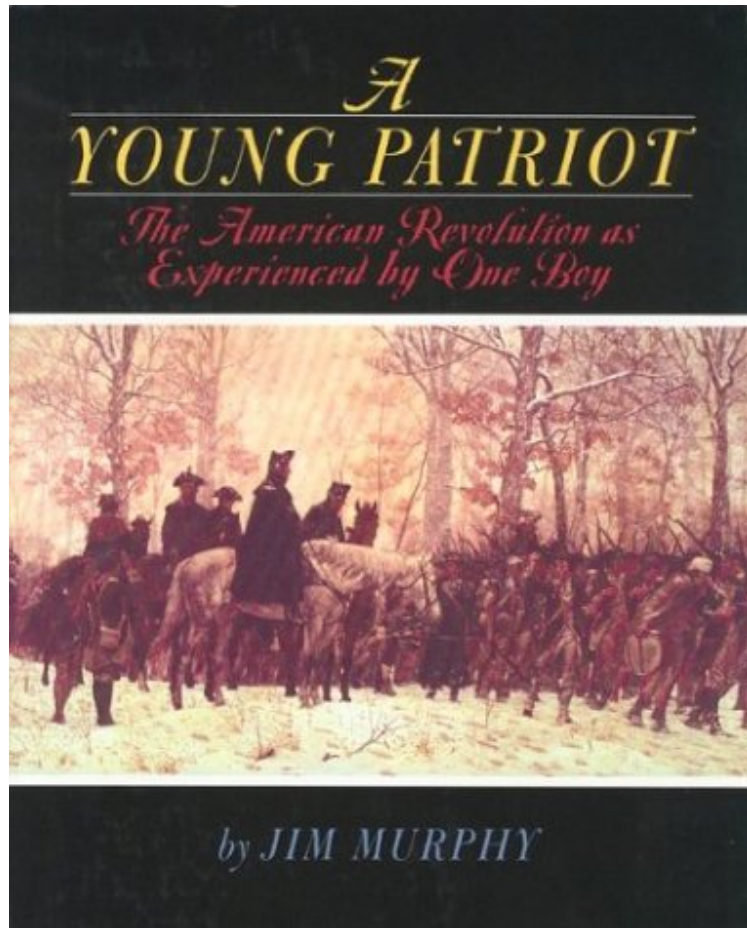


[Mobile book] A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy

# A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy

Jim Murphy

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**Jim Murphy : A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Young Patriot: The American Revolution as Experienced by One Boy:

35 of 36 people found the following review helpful. This is a great book!By A CustomerI'm 12 years-old and I thought this story was very exciting. My older brother read it also, and he said it was great. It is about a fifteen-year-old boy who is eager to go to war. However, it ends up being the most horrifying life a young man could have. I would give six stars if I could. Since I can't, I'll write it down: six stars!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Short but Powerful BookBy Robert A. BraytonIf you like studying and reading about the American Revolution in short snippets without a lot of extra words, then these short stories are just what you need. I love it.0 of 0 people found the following

review helpful. Five StarsBy G manA great read from an actual young man from the Revolutionary War as he encountered the British Army.

In the summer of 1776, Joseph Plumb Martin was a fifteen-year-old Connecticut farm boy who considered himself "as warm a patriot as the best of them." He enlisted that July and stayed in the revolutionary army until hostilities ended in 1783. Martin fought under Washington, Lafayette, and Steuben. He took part in major battles in New York, Monmouth, and Yorktown. He wintered at Valley Forge and then at Morristown, considered even more severe. He wrote of his war years in a memoir that brings the American Revolution alive with telling details, drama, and a country boy's humor. Jim Murphy lets Joseph Plumb Martin speak for himself throughout the text, weaving in historical background details wherever necessary, giving voice to a teenager who was an eyewitness to the fight that set America free from the British Empire.

From School Library JournalGrade 6 Up?Murphy presents the life of Joseph Plumb Martin, a 15-year-old Connecticut farm boy who enlisted in the Continental Army in 1776. Through well-selected quotes from Martin's self-published memoir, *A Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier*, readers experience the young soldier's excitement and fear during battle, his boredom while marching, and the deprivation of a winter encampment. The author's compelling writing intertwines major events of the American Revolution with Martin's own story, rendering historical events and military strategy readily comprehensible. The book is generously illustrated with black-and-white maps and reproductions; captions present information that complements rather than repeats the text. Unfortunately, there is neither a map of the colonies from the Hudson to Yorktown, nor a glossary of military terms. Important figures such as Burgoyne, Cornwallis, and Washington are portrayed as individuals as well as military leaders. The index is comprehensive. This volume compares favorably to Doris and Harold Faber's *The Birth of a Nation* (Scribners, 1989) and is certainly more accessible than *Yankee Doodle Boy* (Holiday, 1995), an abridged version of Martin's memoir edited by George F. Scheer. An outstanding example of history brought to life through the experience of one individual.?Lisa Von Drasek, Brooklyn Public LibraryCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistGr. 5<sup>^</sup>-8. Murphy tells the story of the American Revolution through the eyes of Joseph Plumb Martin, who enlisted in the army in 1776, at the age of 15. Murphy frequently quotes Martin, evidently drawing from Martin's book *A Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers, and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier* (1830), listed in the extensive bibliography. The lively quotations give Murphy's account a feeling of immediacy, heightened by the many details of life in the army. For instance, few history books for children even mention the mutinies among the American troops, but Murphy vividly explains their causes and consequences, or lack of consequences. He quotes Martin on the mutinous soldiers: "venting our spleen at our country and government, then at our officers, and then at ourselves for our imbecility in staying there and starving . . . for an ungrateful people who did not care what became of us, so they could enjoy themselves while we were keeping a cruel enemy from them." Many black-and-white reproductions of period engravings, paintings, and documents appear throughout the book. Although source notes would have been a welcome addition, young readers researching the military and social history of the American Revolution will find this an excellent resource. Carolyn PhelanFrom Kirkus sA brief history based on the privately printed memoirs of Joseph Plumb Martin, who, at the age of 15, signed up for the Connecticut state militia on July 6, 1776, and stayed with the army for the next seven years. Murphy (*The Great Fire*, 1995, etc. ) maintains Martin's perspective through many of the major battles and events of the war, filling in background history, larger strategy, and information about the British enemy when relevant. This work offers a view of the Revolutionary War missing from most books--instead of the broad sweep of dramatic events and change, readers see the daily misery, boredom, confusion, terror, and only occasional triumph of army life. Murphy provides the best of both, the drama and the grind, appeasing readers' fascination with war without romanticizing it. (bw reproductions, bibliography, chronology, index) (Nonfiction. 9+) -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.