Disasters: Natural And Man-Made Catastrophes Through The Centuries

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Synopsis

Natural and man-made disasters have the power to destroy thousands of lives very quickly. Both as they unfold and in the aftermath, these forces of nature astonish the rest of the world with their incredible devastation and magnitude. In this collection of 10 well-known catastrophes such as the great Chicago fire, the sinking of the Titanic, and hurricane Katrina, Brenda Guiberson explores the causes and effects, as well as the local and global reverberations of these calamitous events. Each compelling account tells the story of destruction and devastation, and most especially, the power of mankind to persevere in the face of adversity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is required reading for ninth graders in our area. When it arrived, I looked at the first few pages and found the writing excellent for the target age group. The explanations of the origins, build up, contributing factors of each situation as well as the results are through without being overly technical or graphic. The impact of the losses, pain and suffering are clearly understandable. For a generation accustomed to the fast pace of technology overload and the side effect of impersonalization, hopefully, this book could provide a pinhole through desensitization of human suffering and make it real to the reader. The printing/compilation of the book is a problem. From page 119 to 147, the pages are out of order. They are there but you need to flip around to read the complete story.

My family got tired of me saying, "did you know..." as I read this book. The author does a great job of dissecting disasters--how and why it happened, what we can learn from it. Kids will love it--it has
everything a great non-fiction book should--well written, exciting, concise and makes you want more.

This is the book I always wanted to write but lack the talent. I am glad [Brenda Z. Guiberson] wrote it so I can share it with my students. I have a fascination with disasters and have since I was young. Unfortunately most of the books about them is not written for a middle school reader. I have had some of the books [Guiberson] used to research on my class shelves for years with few takers. This is just the type of book needed to get them reading non fiction and enjoy it.

It is one of those books that blames natural disasters on our ancestors. I am sick of this social re-writing of History. I am Native American, and don’t blame the Puritans for giving our people smallpox. Almost every story is blaming someone in History for evil. She writes with a chip on both shoulders.

Fair read. Not scientific enough for the serious researcher. This text is a good reference point for leading the researcher towards more technical treatment(s) of the subject.

From the Titanic disaster to Hurricane Katrina every unimaginable disaster, that occurred, could have been avoided. One can only hope we learn from our mistakes.

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