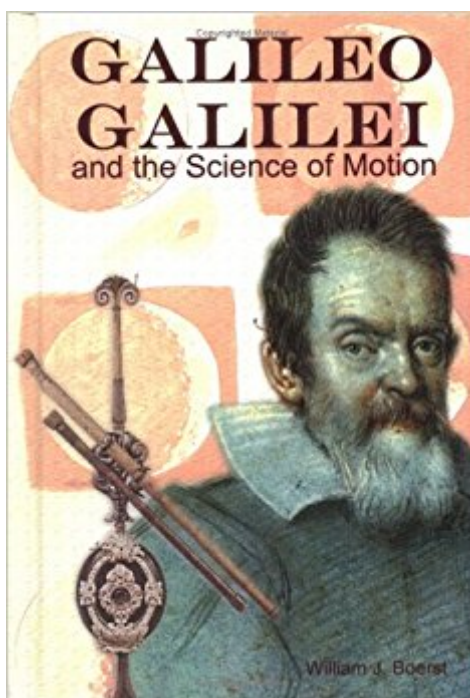


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Galileo Galilei: And The Science Of Motion (Renaissance Scientists)



Synopsis

Book by Boerst, William J.

Book Information

Series: Renaissance Scientists

Library Binding: 144 pages

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9-This book has less to do with Galileo's experiments with the science of motion than it does with his famous entanglement with the Catholic Inquisition. Boerst does an excellent job of describing the complicated political situation that Galileo found himself in when he asserted the Copernican theory that the Sun, and not the Earth, is the center of the universe. The subtleties and long history of Galileo's trials and many meetings with church officials are examined in much greater detail than can be found in most biographies for young people. Of course, the author also delves into other aspects of the scientist's life and career, describing succinctly, yet clearly, his major works and experiments, along with some personal details. Excellent-quality, black-and-white and full-color photos and reproductions appear throughout. A good index, an adequate time line, and a chapter-by-chapter list of sources are appended. A worthy addition to any biography collection. Todd Morning, Schaumburg Township Public Library, IL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 6-10. Boerst notes that Galileo is one of the few historical figures known by his first name, which is perhaps a measure of his profound importance in the history of science. His consistent application of mathematics to theories of motion, his insistence on verification by experimentation and measurement, and his willingness to take a public stance on controversial scientific questions set him apart from most of his contemporaries. Boerst clearly relates Galileo's personal story as well as his work in physics and astronomy. Unusually detailed and free from the taint of legend, this account of the scientist's troubles with the Church is more complex, more understandable, and probably more accurate than those found in most youth books. The attractive color illustrations include reproductions of period prints, paintings, and documents. Appendixes include a time line, source notes, a bibliography of sources, and a list of recommended Internet sites. From the Great Scientists series. Carolyn Phelan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

When I picked up Galileo Galilei: And the Science of Motion I was expecting to re-read the same old material that I had already learned in a very bland fashion. What I ended up doing was re-reading the same old material that I had already learned in surprisingly to me, in a very interesting fashion. Yes, this book is quite entertaining for a biography I picked up at my school library. The author William J. Boerst does a very good job at describing the key major events in Galileo's life. The text is easy to read and comprehend and the book moves at a steady pace, at times. There are also quite a few times more common than would be desired where the book feels like it is dragging on and on. These are only at points where the author goes into detail on a certain event, but either the scenario feels unnecessary to divulge into or the wording is too long for certain sequences. For example, at one part in the book it talks about Galileo's life as a professor in Pisa. And it tells you about how Galileo had an experience about falling asleep in a cave filled with toxic gases, and how that will ultimately affect his health later on. Now instead of making a quick blurb about it and getting right back into the explanation of how he was neglected by fellow professors at Pisa. Boerst seems fit to tell us this tale over the span of two and a half pages. Why? I really do not know. To me it does not seem something to do but he apparently felt that was necessary in its whole boring entirety. Not to say that the whole book is like this to reiterate it is in certain parts, but it ultimately will make my book report in chemistry which this review is a part of that much more painful. The subject matter of the book like I stated before is the same old learning's about Galileo. It takes us through his early life, his famous dropping of two rocks off the tower of Pisa, on to the pages of The Starry Messenger and The Assayer, and all the way to his famous sentencing to life in house arrest. The way it presents these ideas are interesting and it has small little blips of information on the side about other

people who impacted his life. And it does a bang up job of being a biography for a high school student like myself to pick up and read to get a halfway decent grade in chemistry. It does its job as I do mine and so Galileo Galilei: And the Science of Motion is a nice breath of fresh air in dreary crusty old high school libraries.

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