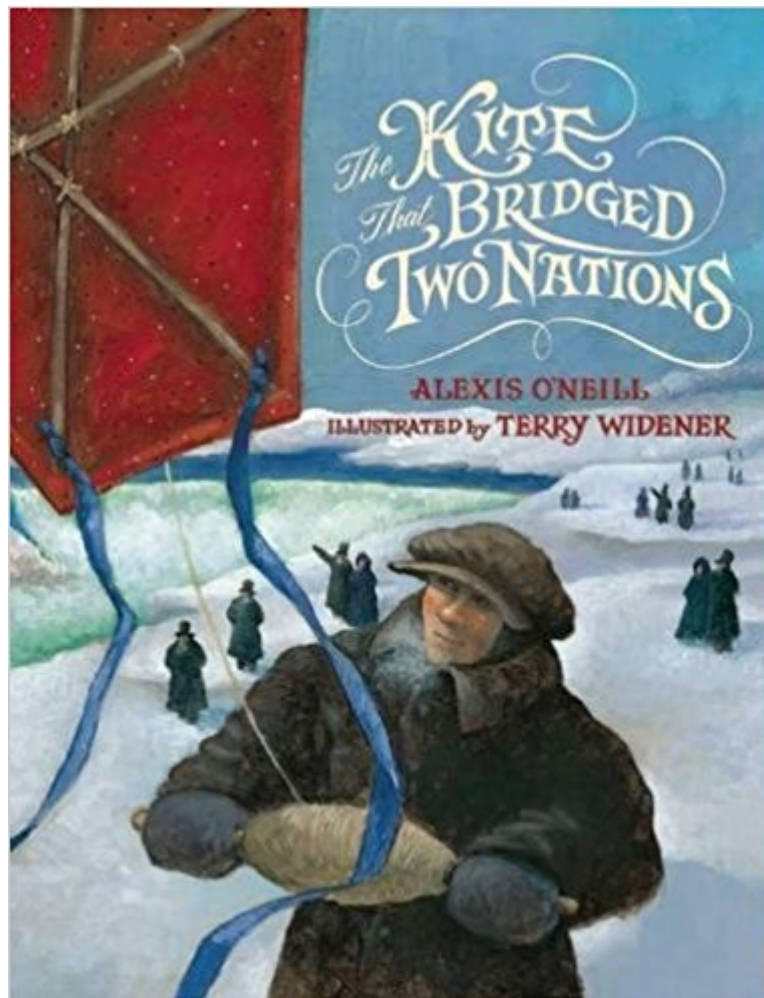




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The Kite That Bridged Two Nations: Homan Walsh And The First Niagara Suspension Bridge



Synopsis

Homan Walsh loves to fly his kite. And when a contest is announced to see whose kite string can span Niagara Falls, Homan is set on winning, despite the cold and the wind—and even when his kite is lost and broken. Homan's determination is beautifully captured in this soaring, poetic picture book that features Terry Widener's stunning acrylic paintings. Both author and illustrator worked with experts on both sides of the falls to accurately present Homan Walsh's story. The book also includes an extensive author's note, timeline, bibliography, and further resources.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Calkins Creek (September 1, 2013)

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

This fictionalized account of a true story describes a promotional contest sponsored by the engineer for the first bridge to span the Niagara River near Niagara Falls. The contest was won by Homan Walsh, a young Irish immigrant who lived near the falls, loved to fly kites, and was thrilled to learn about the chance to be (as the advertisement read) "The First Boy Whose Kite String Spans from America to Canada." O'Neill's spare text communicates both grandeur and dignity and manages to cover a good amount of territory: Homan's struggle with his disapproving father, the step-by-step building of the kite, the challenges of winning the contest, and Homan's pride at being a part of the great bridge. Widener's full-page acrylic paintings closely follow the narrative,

emphasizing the harsh winter landscape and giving a clear sense of the odds against spanning the gorge. An extensive author's note spells out what is known and not known about the story and supplies additional facts about the building of the bridge. Grades 2-4. --Randall Enos

". . . O'Neill's spare text communicates both grandeur and dignity and manages to cover a good amount of territory. . . Widener's full-page acrylic paintings closely follow the narrative, emphasizing the harsh winter landscape and giving a clear sense of the odds against spanning the gorge. An extensive author's note spells out what is known and not known about the story and supplies additional facts about the building of the bridge." --Booklist". . . Widener's acrylic paintings capture the determination of the boy, the frozen, deeply chilly landscape, and the danger and power of the falls . . . Memorable and dramatic." --Kirkus Reviews

Super pleased.

Excellent story, great historical details. Very well written, with beautiful illustrations. A great addition to a classroom library!

Fascinating story that young people can grasp and enjoy and adults can appreciate. Research is documented in separated notes for this fact based book. A never give up under tough conditions theme with a young hero. Fabulous illustrations. My first grade and second grade relatives loved it. I look forward to her other books.

This is a well-told story of Homan Walsh's skill with flying kites and how this led to the construction of the first suspension bridge across the Niagara River. Authored by Alexis O'Neill who wrote *Loud Emily*, *The Recess Queen* and *The Worst Best Friend*, the style lends itself to a terrific read-aloud. Teachers can use this book to make curriculum connections in science, social studies and expressing emotion in narrative writing, to name a few. The illustrator, Terry Widener, did a wonderful job of evoking the setting and matching the words with pictures in a seamless union. There are historical notes, a timeline and many additional resources in the back.

This is one of the best picture books I've ever read. The beauty of the language that this author uses bring to thrilling life the true story of how a boy used his kite...a KITE...to help build a bridge across one of the most famous rivers in the world. This book begs to be read aloud to children by

parents, educators, and librarians and is destined to become a treasured classic. Should be required classroom reading on American history!

We can all picture the grandeur of Niagara Falls and hear its mighty roar, but who knew the remarkable story of Homan Walsh and his kite that award-winning author Alexis O'Neill unfolds for us? In a captivating tale sure to draw young readers, she puts the spotlight on a unique historical event. The illustrations are a perfect match for the author's voice and help evoke the era. A powerful story.

It's an excellent book! The illustrations are beautiful. The true story of Homan Walsh is told in an interesting and fun way. The book is geared towards 10-12 year olds, but everyone who sees it enjoys it. I highly recommend this book.

Alexis O'Neill's refrain "My string could start a bridge!" and her story of young Homan Walsh's participation in a historical event related to Niagara Falls will inspire every young reader to envision their own dream of achievement.

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