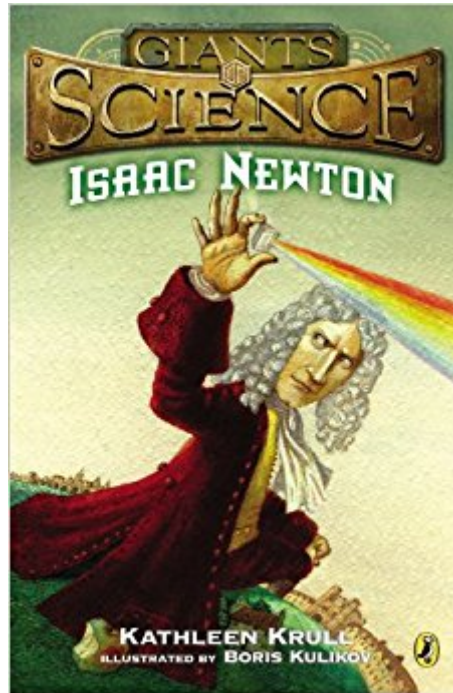




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Isaac Newton (Giants Of Science)



Synopsis

Here is a man with an imagination so large that just by thinking on it, he invented calculus and figured out the scientific explanation of gravity. Kathleen Krull presents a portrait of Isaac Newton that will challenge your beliefs about a genius whose amazing discoveries changed the world.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000 (What's this?)

Series: Giants of Science

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 16, 2008)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #383,303 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Children's

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 5-7 — Krull fulfills the promise of the outstanding previous volume in this series, *Leonardo da Vinci* (Viking, 2005) with this follow-up. Writing in a style aptly described in the blurb as juicily anecdotal (a tone reflected in Kulikovs witty illustrations), she offers a multifaceted portrait of a genius who was both brilliant and several slices short of a loaf, capable of revolutionary insights into science but also rude, jealous, and secretive. Along with presenting lucid, animated descriptions of Newtons major achievements, from calculus and the laws of motion to the reflecting telescope (a cool new toy that earned him instant election to the Royal Society), the author carefully takes on such speculative topics as his religious beliefs, his homosexuality, and the possibility that his emotional imbalance was a result of poisoning caused by his obsessive alchemical experiments. Though Krull gives Newton more credit than he probably deserves for

validating the scientific method, in general her assessment of his stellar position in the history of science is right on target. --John Peters, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 5-8. Krull's second offering in the Giants of Science series (Leonardo da Vinci, 2005) profiles Sir Isaac Newton, the secretive, obsessive, and brilliant English scientist who invented calculus, built the first reflecting telescope, developed the modern scientific method, and discerned many of our laws of physics and optics. Engaging in limited speculation about Newton's personality (Did he have Asperger's syndrome or suffer from mercury poisoning?), Krull recounts Newton's lonely childhood, his penchant for quiet reflection, and the difficulties that led to his feuding with other scientists. The lively, conversational style will appeal to readers; Newton comes off as disagreeable and difficult, but never boring. Krull also does a credible job explaining several of Newton's complex theories^B. She offers no documentation, but she appends a list of books and Web sites for those who want more facts. Kulikov's humorous pen-and-ink drawings complement the lighthearted text of this fascinating introduction, which will appeal to both would-be scientists and children in need of a quick-to-read biography. Kay Weisman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I bought this book for my 9-year-old, and I read it, too. Sir Isaac Newton is an interesting topic. I would certainly encourage children to find out more about him. However, this book has many sentence fragments and other grammatical errors. I found the poor writing to be very distracting from the content of the book. Also, the book contains a discussion of whether or not he is homosexual. I really think that discussions of a person's sex life should be left out of biographies for elementary and middle school students.

I have no idea what possessed me to read this book. A review, perhaps. I'm not that interested in biographies to begin with, so I do wonder why I picked this up. However, I am VERY glad I did. The story of Newton's life was highly interesting, and I liked the somewhat modern irreverence sprinkled throughout the book: and I think kids will "get" and appreciate the modern tone in the midst of information about a giant of science who lived 400 years ago. Definitely worth reading!

The vocabulary and the concepts still seemed a bit hard for a 2nd grader. This might be more

directed at a 4th grader.

Great short biography for middle school age kids. I even learned a few things!

Easy to read, clear, concise account of the life of Isaac Newton and the times in which he lived.

What a fascinating man he was.

I purchased this book for my 11 year old grandson who loves to read biographies of scientists.

Newton is one of his favorites. He said he enjoyed the book and was able to read it easily and quickly.

My 9 year old learned a lot of new vocabulary while reading this book. He gave it the 5 stars. Yes. It does talk about Newtons probable homosexuality and how that might have contributed to his solitary behavior. Personally, I believe it's important that children understand how harmful discrimination can be. I recommend this book to anyone. It peaked my son's interest in science and was a great inspiration for topics of discussion.

I read this book before reading it with my 4th-grader. Great level of detail. The author makes Isaac Newton come alive, while still conveying a sense of his scientific/mathematical achievements. Actually, I was so intrigued after reading this that I also read a couple of the adult books from the bibliography. While worthwhile reading as well, this short book clearly and interestingly covered many of the high points found in those more detailed books. Minor flaws: in making the subject read as human, at times, felt there was a little too much of the human in there, that I would prefer to skip with my fourth grader. Will be checking out other books from this series.

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