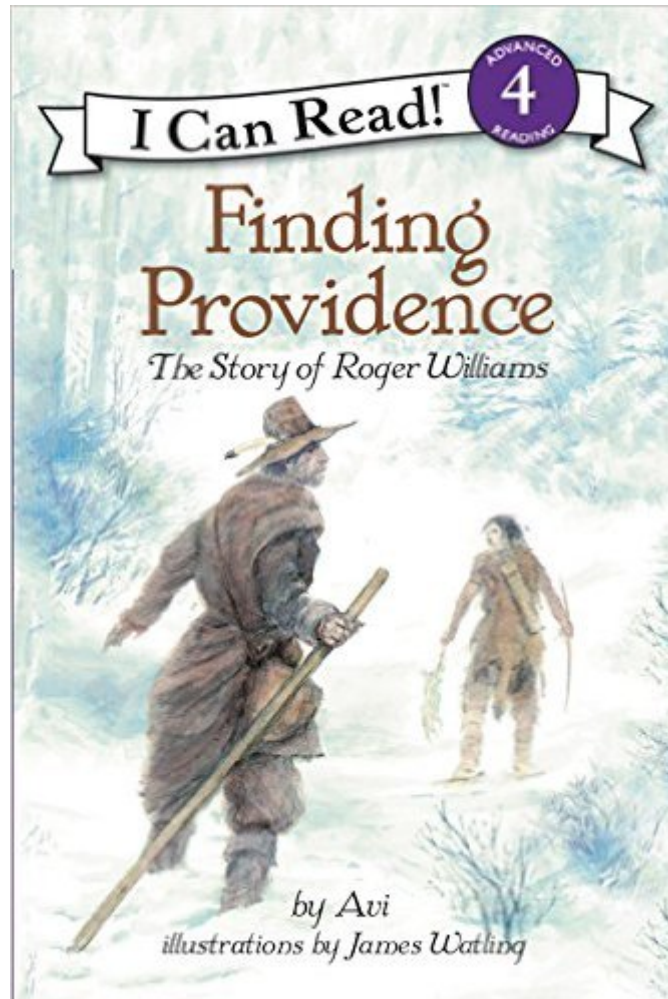


The book was found

Finding Providence: The Story Of Roger Williams (I Can Read Level 4)



Synopsis

The year is 1635, and Mary Williams and her family live in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Her father, Roger, is on trial for preaching new ideas about freedom. When found guilty, he flees into the cold, telling Mary that she must trust in God's providence to see him to safety. Roger's only hope of survival lies with the Narragansett Indians. Will Mary ever see her father again?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 450L (What's this?)

Series: I Can Read Level 4

Paperback: 48 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #344,358 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #222 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #566 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers #2625 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 3 - 4

Customer Reviews

I very much appreciate the other reviewers who are Roger Williams' descendants and wrote here. With all due respect to them, I feel this account of Roger Williams is slightly biased, which is why I only gave it four stars. To be sure, my early elementary kids enjoyed it. It is a great story, and it fits in very well with the other I Can Read Books on early American history. It is also one of the only ones that address the 1600s. At face value, it deserves at least four stars, so that's what I gave it. But as an adult, I felt there was some co-opting going on. I am very sensitive to revisionism, and the book came across as very judgmental against the Puritans. There were Puritan elements that warrant criticism, but the court scene with Roger Williams in the beginning and the dialogue that likened

them to the British was too harsh. It came across as though the Puritans were the bad guys, very similar to Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" or even the Pharisees in the Bible. I could almost hear the crowd calling out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Perhaps this is exactly what the author intended. I don't think that is appropriate for a first reader. A more balanced approach would have presented the case more matter of factly. And given due respect to the Puritan heritage of the country in contrast to the religious oppression in Europe. Some of the I Can Reads do this very well when talking about the British during the American Revolution, for example (even though we of course still side with the Americans in the end). But there was not even one sentence in this book that explained why the Puritans thought Roger Williams was wrong. There was just a nameless faceless crowd that came across as emotional and irrational.

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