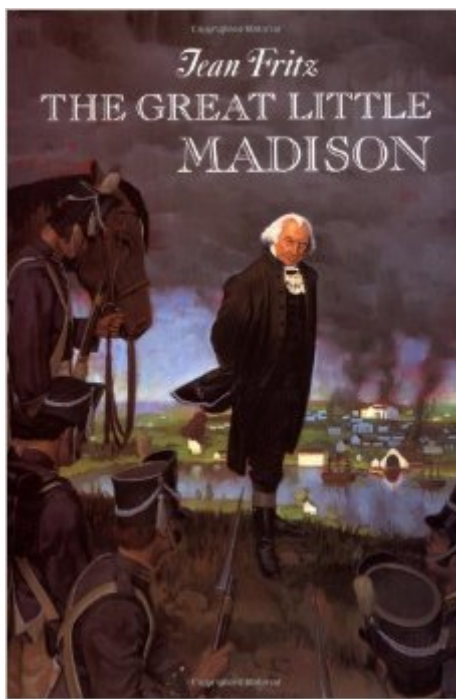


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# The Great Little Madison



## Synopsis

Skillfully placing events within the context of history, Fritz draws young readers behind the scenes, into James Madison's private life, his worries for his country, his friendship with Thomas Jefferson, and his happy partnership with his wife, Dolley. Illustrated with black-and-white paintings and engravings.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons; 1st edition (November 10, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399217681

ISBN-13: 978-0399217685

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.7 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #761,731 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #410 in [Books > Children's Books](#)  
[> Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial](#) #70684 in [Books >](#)

[Biographies & Memoirs](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Yes, this is officially a "kids' book" (Ages 9 -14, I believe). However, I, an adult, read it and found it educating and very interesting. I got this book during a visit to James Madison's estate Montpelier. I thought I'd read it first, before getting into the more massive (and more intellectual) biography by Dr. Ketcham. If you're new to James Madison, I'd recommend doing that. In any case, Jean Fritz' book is an excellent choice for adults as well as children.

This has become our favorite read-aloud no pictures story with my toddler. She gets the benefit of hearing spoken language about a subject she likes, and I get to learn something new every time we read it. I would recommend this book for older primary, even lower-level High School students. The story is enlightening, and inspiring for all Americans, young and old.

Jean Fritz has written a great book for both kids and adults, full of interesting facts about the man, his life, his wives (Dolly was his second), and his remarkable presidency. Throughout the book, the reader gets a real sense for how James Madison thought and felt about political issues, and how he overcame the challenges of being small in stature and small of voice to be one of our great presidents. Definitely worth a read to better understand this great man who lived in extraordinary times.

I read *The Great Little Madison* on my new Kindle-White Paper and enjoyed it very much. I found it to be a little on the light side and I finished it with regret that it seemed so quick. Then I discovered it was a Juvenile edition, yet I did enjoy the book greatly. Well written with a great sense of being there and participating in history. I'll be reading more Jean Fritz books in the future. Terry Wright

The book is probably great for a junior high assignment. It provides an overview (very high level) of the life of James Madison. Much of the comment is innuendo and author guess work (it seems to me). Not what I was expecting after reading "A. Lincoln".

A "children's book"? Really? This book is to read only if you need something to write a book report about! Granted, this book is written to give an account of the times and tribulations of James Madison, but let's be serious--For a 10 year old? It is wordy and redundant for even this 40+ year old mother. I read 2 chapters aloud to my son and found myself having to stop mid-paragraph to figure out what I was saying more times than not. Review and categorize this book for what it is -- a historical biography. And in the words of my son, "I'm trying to read it, but I can't get hooked."

As a fifth grader years ago, I was assigned to write a book report about an American president, so I chose James Madison. However, we could not locate any biographies about his life aside from this one and a much longer, thicker book which was intended for an adult audience and could not be completed in the time limit I had been given. So we picked this one. Perhaps for someone interested in learning about James Madison's life, this would be a good book. However, it is flooded with intricate, unnecessary, and meticulous details and useless information. For a child with difficulties sorting out the important sections of the book from the unimportant ones, this was an awful choice. Examples of unneeded information included Mr. Madison's former love interest who later broke his heart before marrying Dolley Madison and the whole story behind that, and the nickname that her spoiled son had been given as a result of his brattiness (it is "Precious Payne," by the way, since he

was named Payne), and much, much more. I know for a fact that other reviewers have commented on this same issue. My mother actually had to sit down and help me sort out the important details from the unnecessary ones to incorporate into my book report. I am certain that there are better biographies detailing the life of James Madison available for children, and am sure that you will find some if you look hard enough. But if you're only considering buying this just because you need book report information, like me, this really is not good for you unless you want to learn every miniscule detail involved in this man's life.

This is a biography of Madison's life with emphasis on the Constitutional Convention and his time as President of the U.S. It was informative and interesting reading

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