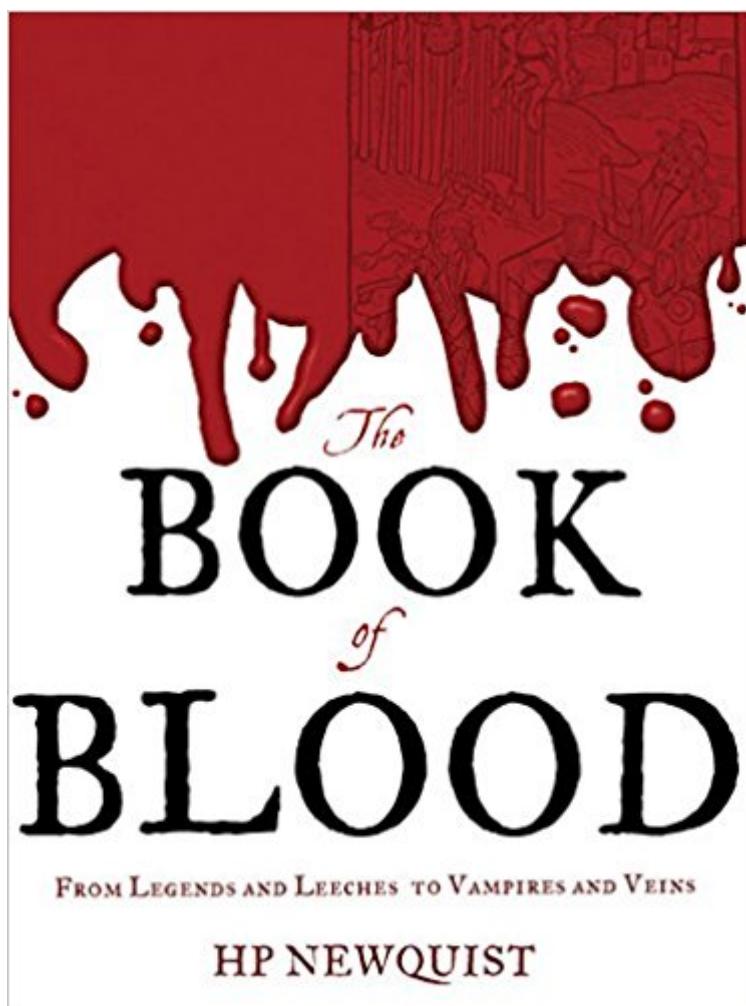


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# The Book Of Blood: From Legends And Leeches To Vampires And Veins



## Synopsis

Winner of the Magnolia Award — HP Newquist takes young readers on an engaging tour of the world of blood, from ancient history to modern science—with an occasional trip to the very strange side of the most important tissue in our bodies. Oddly enough, scientists began to understand this fascinating fluid only within the past one hundred years and how its microscopic components nourish the entire body. Whether the tales of vampires, medieval medical practices, and Mayan sacrificial rites captivate or terrify, this comprehensive investigation into blood—past and present will surely enthrall. And if this account is a little bloodcurdling, well, that's half the fun!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (August 7, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547315848

ISBN-13: 978-0547315843

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #584,584 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #28 in Books > Teens > Personal Health > Diseases, Illnesses & Injuries #34 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Anatomy & Physiology

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8-Blood, writes Newquist, "is one of the most fascinating and fabled substances in history." In this compendium, readers will learn about the red fluid's biological function as well as its historical and cultural significance. Several chapters cover its importance in ancient cultures and explain how our knowledge about its role in the body developed over time. Information about early medical practices such as bloodletting (including the use of leeches) will grab students' interest, as will the sections on hematophagous (blood-drinking) animals and vampire legends. The chapters on the physiology of the circulatory system and the components of blood are more readable than those in many textbooks. The conversational tone and the faux blood-spattered pages, replete with sidebars, color photos, archival drawings, and medical illustrations, are sure to pull in readers. Unfortunately,

there are no source notes to support blanket statements such as, "Everything you put in your body ends up in your blood," and "Your blood is more responsible for keeping you alive than anything else in your body." This book's content is similar to that in Trudee Romanek's *Squirt: The Most Interesting Book You'll Ever Read About Blood* (Kids Can, 2006), although it covers some topics in greater depth and has more of a narrative format.-Jackie Partch, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR  
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"A thorough and humorous exploration of our relationship with blood." •VOYA "This transfusion of information offers a rewarding experience to readers whether they're after the specific differences between blood types and other biological data or just gore's icky lore." •Kirkus "Blood-spattered pages play into the subject matter's potential for ickiness, even while Newquist makes it clear that blood is worthy of fascination, not fear." •Publisher's Weekly "The conversational tone and the faux blood-spattered pages, replete with sidebars, color photos, archival drawings, and medical illustrations, are sure to pull readers in." •School Library Journal "Newquist's prose is smooth enough that several chapters could actually function as nonfiction readalouds." •Bulletin

I found this book to be very interesting, I like that it gave information about what early people thought of blood. Bright blood was good and dark blood was bad, too much of one or the other wasn't healthy. Learning about how they would try to heal the sick or the mentally ill by attempting to balance the blood was just insane. Blood letting (draining blood on purpose) did absolutely nothing and often resulted in death. Blood transfusions between animals and people, did not turn out well. It took a long time before someone figured out what blood really was for and how it was pumped throughout the body. I enjoyed reading this a lot, I couldn't put it down and read it within one night. I recommend it to anyone that wants to know the history of blood or just finds blood fascinating.

Great introductory book for elementary aged children to learn about blood. Great full color illustrations.

This is a wonderful book for the whole family. HP does an amazing job balancing a lot of facts with fun stories. We bought some copies for friends and family...as well as clients. Highly recommend it.

If I still had a classroom, my kids were still little, or I had grandkids this book would be well read. This book has chapters about the components of blood, how the body makes blood, the organs blood goes to in the body and what it does for the body, then it discusses ancient civilizations, Biblical, Mayan, Aztec, Egyptian and how they perceived blood, animals with different colors of blood than red blood, and finally creatures who drink blood, mosquitos, leaches, bats and vampires. There is a history of how human-kind treated blood issues from the earliest history to today. It ends with a chapter about blood transfusions. These are not cursory chapters that simply introduce a subject. They explain and give details about each subject. This book has chapters, small sidebar sections within each chapter, and illustrations. It is a book for stronger readers because of the reading level, but struggling readers might stay with the book because of the subject. This book is just the kind of reading that will help prepare readers for standards testing, interesting subject with great vocabulary words. If you have a child who is interested in scientific kinds of things or health then they would certainly be interested in this book. I received an advance reader's copy of this book and so some of the illustrations and titles on the sidebars were to come later. The illustrations were all in black and white. I hope that the actual book will have some color illustrations because color would make it more interesting. There is information in this book that anyone can find something new to learn about blood.

This book will fascinate readers (the intended age range is 10-14) interested in how the human body works. It focuses mainly on the science, but also explores a little bit of the mythology that's historically been associated with blood. Most of the science will be familiar to the average adult, but I learned a few fascinating tidbits about the blood of some other species, such as the horseshoe crab. The book is designed to look as if the pages were splashed with blood, so if you're very squeamish, it might be a bit much to handle. Blood doesn't usually bother me, but a few of the more gruesome medical passages made me feel a little squeamish.

What a unique style of presenting biological information by combining science with culture and history. Designated for the young audience this accounting of blood will capture the curiosity of readers of all ages. Beginning with a basic physiologic review of blood comparing its components to the ingredients in a chocolate milkshake, the story of blood continues with its history of how its significance was misconstrued over the ages. Interspersed within the anatomical descriptions, chapters are devoted to the ancient beliefs and superstitions associated with this life substance. In fascinating narrative, the historical physicians who erred and self corrected while trying to

understand blood and its functions from ancient times to the present are chronicled. Blood letting was a popular practice used to rebalance the body humours, unfortunately history recalls that George Washington was bled to death when suffering from a common cold. Think about red blood, yellow blood, blue blood (not in royalty), the prime colors which make up the blood of different animals. Our current craze over blood sucking vampires is fascinatingly traced back to the horrors of a Transylvanian ruler in the 15th century. This author has a flair for capturing the reader's interest while making an esoteric subject bloody compelling reading.

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