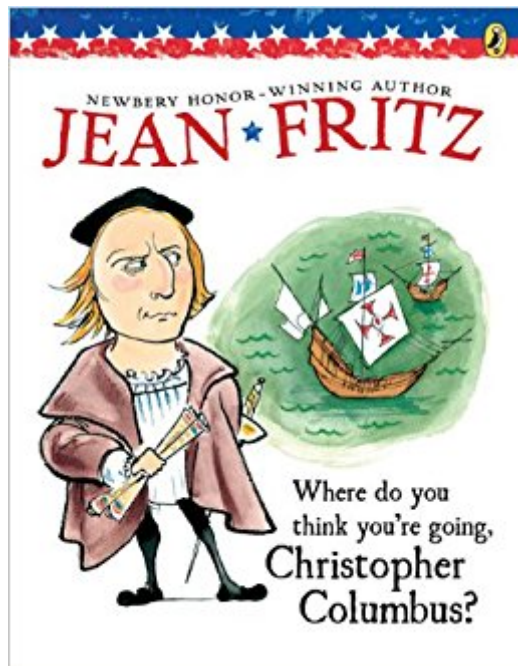




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# Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?



## Synopsis

Newbery Honor author Jean Fritz takes us on a historic tour of Christopher Columbus! "In a simple, short biography of Columbus she has been extraordinarily successful in extracting the essence of the man." "The Horn Book Christopher Columbus thought he knew where he was going. He had planned to be the first to cross the ocean and reach the rich lands of the Indies. And when he returned to Spain, he insisted to everyone who would listen that he'd succeeded. But that wasn't exactly true. Little did Columbus know that his mistake would come to be known as America!" Fritz's unconventional look at the great explorer who accidentally discovered the New World reveals the navigator's obstinate as well as his visionary side." "School Library Journal

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0890 (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reissue edition (September 22, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698115805

ISBN-13: 978-0399207341

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #285,546 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #141 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #494 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical #3690 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Praise for WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS? An ALA Notable Book A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Booklist Notable Children's Book of the Year An American Bookseller Pick of the Lists A Child Study Children's Book Committee (Bank Street College) Children's Book of the Year \* "Vividly related | interesting." "School Library Journal, starred review" "Well written and informative." "Children's Literature" "Intriguing and entertaining." "Booklist

Acclaimed biographer, Jean Fritz, was born in China to American missionaries on November 16, 1915. Living there until she was almost thirteen sparked a lifelong interest in American history. She wrote about her childhood in China in *Homesick, My Own Story*, a Newbery Honor Book and winner of the National Book Award. Ms. Fritz was the author of forty-five books for children and young people. Many center on historical American figures, gaining her a reputation as the premier author of biographies for children and young people. Among the other prestigious awards Ms. Fritz has garnered are: the National Humanities Medal, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, the May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture Award, the Christopher Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Non-Fiction Award, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, and many ALA Notable Books of the Year, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, and ALA Booklist Editors' Choice Awards. She passed away on May 14, 2017.

This book was eye opening for the kids and me. Christopher Columbus was not the nice adventurer I assumed he was. In fact he was rather vicious. My girls are almost 11 yrs old. They both enjoyed learning about Christopher Columbus and it was a quick read for both of them. I believe they finished it in a couple days.

Great book! Easy to read!

*Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?* is a book which gives an overview of the man and his voyages. It is friendly, approachable, and witty. It gently pokes fun at Columbus and his ego- and ethnocentric view of the world, like when the author pointed out how shocking Columbus found the naked natives to be, and vice versa. It displays the role his religious beliefs played in his explorations and actions. For example, when his first voyage went well he believed it was a miracle, but when his second voyage went poorly he thought God was punishing him for his prideful behavior. Because of this he took to wearing a scratchy shirt and monk's robe instead of his normal clothes. It includes fun details that make the scenes real, like informing the readers that Columbus took cats on voyages to control the shipboard rats. While it doesn't specifically detail any atrocities, it does tell of Columbus taking native slaves, and of the Spaniards left behind being massacred. Overall, it is a balanced and enjoyable tale to share with students of a broad age range to make this part of history come alive. If you have a chance to hear the recording read by Jean Fritz it is delightful.

I liked how detailed the book was, although some of it was offensive. The dates were accurate and Columbus's ideas may have been true, but the actions were written in a way to normalize it. This teaches children that this event should be celebrated even though it was inhuman. Bartolome de Las Casas wrote down what he witnessed. He says, " They study nothing, after their first landing, but the massacre of the wretches, whom they have so inhumanely and barbarously butchered and harassed with several kinds of torments, never before known, or heard." The experience of the Natives were conveniently left out, silence. With their voice this children's book would give kids nightmares.

Kids get a kick out of this book. Columbus takes himself SO SERIOUSLY. It's a good biography, works in a bit of context, and you get to see the stubborn side of Columbus.

Columbus was a lucky man (blessed, he would say). He had to be. Who else could have so much go so wrong and still become famous for the one big thing he did by mistake: discover America...if he did that. Anyway, he had a lot of adventure (or misadventure), and Jean Fritz tells about it and him--not in the traditionally reverent way, but with a humorous and matter-of-fact approach. The Creative Teacher: Activities for Language Arts (Grades 4 through 8 and Up)

This was a neat book, with many little-known facts about the explorer. I found myself bored sometimes, but I'm not totally into explorers.

Another excellent resource to add background for struggling students. The format is easy to follow and plan to complete my set as soon as I can.

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