



Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell

Tanya Lee Stone (Illustrations) , Marjorie Priceman (Illustrations)

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In the 1830s, when a brave and curious girl named Elizabeth Blackwell was growing up, women were supposed to be wives and mothers. Some women could be teachers or seamstresses, but career options were few. Certainly no women were doctors.

But Elizabeth refused to accept the common beliefs that women weren't smart enough to be doctors, or that they were too weak for such hard work. And she would not take no for an answer. Although she faced much opposition, she worked hard and finally—when she graduated from medical school and went on to have a brilliant career—proved her detractors wrong. This inspiring story of the first female doctor shows how one strong-willed woman opened the doors for all the female doctors to come.

Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell Details

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Author : Tanya Lee Stone (Illustrations) , Marjorie Priceman (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell for online ebook

Amanda Gary says

As a woman, have you ever really thought about what it was like when women were seen only as wives and mothers! I know I sure don't think about it much but after reading this book to my students, I really feel so privileged to be in the position I am today. This book is a excellent depiction of how far we have come as a country. My students were blown away that women were not viewed as equals and some even said, "No way Ms. G I am a girl and I can be whatever I want to be." But what if you couldn't would you have the courage to stand up to those who told you NO? This book is great for grades K-5, but there are some more complex words so reading aloud to K-1 would be more appropriate. This book would be great to use when teaching your children about the biography genre or even when you talk about treating others equal. Students are really taken back at how the world used to be and I think it is a good way to teach them the history or our country, and why it is always so important to have dreams to work towards even at a young age. The illustrations in this book are vibrant and fit the text well so students are able to use the illustrations to understand the text, which is important at the younger grades.

I chose this book as a WOW book because I haven't read many picture book biographies that make me and the students comment on almost every page because the story is so intriguing. I also enjoy the real photo and additional facts about Elizabeth Blackwell at the end of the book. It is a great story about courage and following your dreams, and everyone can relate to that.

Maureen says

1. Twin Text: Bad Astrid by Eileen Brennan (2013)
 2. Rationale: Elizabeth Blackwell went to medical school despite all of the male students that attended Geneva Medical School in upstate New York and community members that surrounded it. She was very determined and a bit stubborn. She was not going to let their opinion affect her attending school. Little Astrid was very stubborn in her own ways but ultimately just wanted a friend once she moved to this new town. I would discuss with students that it is important to set goals and don't let anyone tell you that you can't achieve those goals. I would also focus on both characters how they went about achieving their goals, one in a driven, positive way and the other in a negative, bossy way. I would share what would be the better path to travel on to achieve the goal they are focused on.
 3. The text structure would be chronological sequence and problem and solution. A strategy application I would use is the Venn diagram. I would have the students compare both main characters.
 4. Book Review: (2013, March 2). Horn Book Magazine.
<http://www.booksinprint.com.leo.lib.u...#>
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Cheryl Dickemper says

I love the fun and conversational style of Tanya Lee Stone's narration, the inspirational story, and Marjorie Priceman's playful illustrations! This is a great and obvious choice for women's history, but the sassy narrative style and the story about overcoming obstacles has universal appeal. Any kid who's ever been told he (or she) "can't" grow up to be something will identify with young Elizabeth and find something to appreciate here. The bright illustrations call to mind both Raschka and Bemelmans, making this a natural book to share as a read aloud.

Michelle says

Audience: Primary

Genre: Biography

Pre-Reading Strategy: Anticipation Guide

An anticipation guide is a comprehension strategy used to activate students' prior knowledge and create curiosity about the book.

I would create an anticipation guide with the following 4 statements.

- * There have always been women doctors.
- * Elizabeth Blackwell was first encouraged by her brother to become a doctor.
- * Elizabeth Blackwell had troubles getting accepted to medical school.
- * The students at medical school wanted Elizabeth to be there with them.

Students would determine whether they agreed or disagreed with each statement. Depending on the grade level, I would either have the students write their answers, share with a neighbor, or poll the responses of the entire class. I would then read the story aloud (or have the students read the book themselves, depending on reading level). Students would then go back and assess their initial expectations and reflect on what they now know from reading the story. I could see me using this book in several grade levels and could modify the format of the anticipation guide.

Britney says

Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell

By: Tanya Lee Stone

Student: I loved reading this book. I was unfamiliar with the Doctor Elizabeth Blackwell before reading about her, but I learned that she was driven and determined to reach her dream in life. Originally, Elizabeth didn't want to become a doctor medical practices made her sick and women weren't allowed to become doctors. That changed when her friend Mary got sick and confessed she would rather have a woman doctor taking care of her. This light a fire under Elizabeth and she started applying to medical schools. However, because of the time period she was rejected by over 20 schools. Once she finally got accepted she was mocked for her dream. Elizabeth worked hard though and was top in her class. This book showed me how women were not given the same rights as men but Elizabeth worked hard to be accepted and reach her goals.

Teacher: As an elementary school teacher, I would love to incorporate this book into a lesson. Elizabeth Blackwell is an awesome way to teach character education such as perseverance or social studies lessons about women's rights and biographies. She teaches children that no dream of theirs can be taken away as long as they are determined and work hard to reach it. It is also a tool to teach that although you may be mocked or shut down they shouldn't give up. I could incorporate multiple books about men and women that overcame struggles to reach their dreams. I also really liked this book because the illustrations were so well

done with bright colors that aligned so well with the text.

Paul Hankins says

Tanya Lee Stone returns to the picture book format to bring us the story of Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor in America. The title alone presents a subtle kind of challenge like the one Elizabeth Blackwell received from Mary Donaldson.

Tanya presents Elizabeth as an "every girl" kind of character, the kind of girl who might not have even envisioned herself in such a role. But the suggestion of a respected friend stuck with Elizabeth, a suggestion that became a kind of gnawing that saw Elizabeth through to medical school.

Marjorie Priceman (ZIN ZIN A VIOLIN) illustrates the text reminding me of another of my favorite illustrators, Chris Raschka.

Tanya's author notes present a closer look into Blackwell's life after medical school which should prompt younger readers to think about how far we have come as a culture. Further, younger readers might be invited (read challenged) to consider "Who Says _____ Can't Be _____?"

As with ELIZABETH LEADS THE WAY, Stone presents a historical figure in a most accessible manner and for this presentation, I am giving the new work the ONE BOOK/FOUR HANDS distinction. I already have four little girls in mind for this title when it releases in February.

Maria says

Thrilled to add this one to my bookshelf.

I love this format for biography, and I could use it as a mentor text for students to create their own biographies as they research.

Full review <http://www.mariaselke.com/2013/04/who...>

Check out the link at IndieBound to find a local independent bookstore or to order from one online.
<http://www.indiebound.org/book/978080...>

Tasha says

Back in the 1830s, there were no women doctors, only men could have that career. But also growing up in the 1830s was a young girl who would end up changing that. Elizabeth Blackwell was not particularly well behaved: she was always exploring, working to toughen herself up, and even carried her brother over her head until he backed down. Elizabeth had not dreamed of becoming a doctor, but she was inspired when an friend mentioned how much nicer it would have been to be examined by a woman. When Elizabeth started talking about her new dream, people mocked her and told her it was impossible. She applied to school after

school, until finally the 29th school she applied for said yes! But Elizabeth would have to face additional challenges in school and beyond as well. This is the story of a woman who would not take no for an answer and the way that she changed the face of medicine along the way.

Stone has written a very engaging biography of Blackwell. Much of the story is spent on her childhood and the challenges she faced getting into medical school. I love the image of a spunky young girl who just wants to explore and demonstrates determination from a very young age. She is an inspiring figure for youth, someone who discovered her dream and stood by it despite the many obstacles in her way and the mockery she endured. Stone's author's note continues Blackwell's story and offers a photograph of the real Dr. Blackwell.

Priceman's illustrations done in gouache and India ink are filled with bright colors. They bring the past to life, showing the energy of the young Elizabeth Blackwell and incorporating the vistas and buildings of the 1800s. While they are bright and vibrant, they also serve to make sure that readers are cognizant of the period in which the book takes place.

Blackwell is a real-life heroine that young readers should be aware of. This bright and welcoming new biography for younger readers is a welcome addition to library collections. Appropriate for ages 6-9.

Kate says

This is a thoughtful and educational children's book about the first female physician, Elizabeth Blackwell, and the challenges and obstacles she encountered during her career.

Holly Mueller says

Elizabeth Blackwell defied all odds when she decided she wanted to be a doctor in the 1830s. I loved the snippets about her determination and strong will - she once carried her brother over her head until he backed down from their fight, and she tried sleeping on the hard floor just to toughen herself up. I thought it was interesting she hadn't always wanted to be a doctor, but when a friend suggested she consider it, there was a seed planted that started to grow. Despite rejection after rejection, she continued to pursue her goal until she achieved it and graduated from medical school in 1849. According to the author's note, she continued to overcome obstacles and opened the first hospital run by women, for women, a medical school just for women, and helped start the National Health Society. Pretty amazing! I also enjoyed the energetic, vibrant illustrations by Marjorie Priceman. My students and I are going to Skype Tanya Leet Stone on World Read Aloud Day - I'm looking forward to sharing this excellent new title with them so we can discuss it with her!

Ann says

I wonder who this book is for. It is filed under juvenile biography at my library. But the cute, clever (clichéd) text--"Elizabeth Blackwell, that's who. A tiny wisp of a girl who wanted to explore around every corner and who never walked away from a challenge"--is more suited to an easy book. All the really interesting facts about Blackwell are in the two-page author's note at the back; so it's not a good resource for a school assignment. My grandmother who was born in Turkey in 1900 became a physician. I don't feel this book

does justice to her and earlier generations of women doctors.

KC says

Elizabeth Blackwell became the first female doctor but after graduating from Geneva Medical School in upstate New York in 1849, she and her sister, also a doctor, opened up The New York Infirmary for Women and Children and then a medical school just for women among other endeavors.

Samantha says

A picture book biography about the first woman doctor. Text is well written. It speaks directly to the reader and is empowering. Anecdotes that reveal Elizabeth's strong character make up the majority of the text which makes it so engaging as it's not merely just a collection of impressive facts.

Illustrations were rendered with gouache and india ink on watercolor paper and excel at capturing the strong opinions of Elizabeth's critics. Following the story is an author's note and a list of sources.

Heidi says

There are more and more great picture book biographies being published about ordinary people who did extraordinary things. I love it. This is another great one to add to the list. Elizabeth Blackwell was clearly a strong-willed person from the time she was little. I loved the examples the author shares illustrating this, for example carrying her brother over her head until he gave in on whatever it was they fought about, and sleeping on a hard floor to 'toughen' herself up. I also really liked the details about how she didn't set out to become a doctor, she didn't even like being around blood or sickness when she was younger. But once the idea was planted in her mind, she persisted until she made her dream a reality, despite a tremendous amount of opposition. I love stories like this because they are inspiring and true! The illustrations by Marjorie Priceman are darling and match the spunky tone of the writing to a tee. The bright colors and expressive faces add a great deal to the enjoyment of the story. I highly recommend this as not only a great picture book biography, but just an awesome story period.

Brittany Clark says

This book is a Children's Biography of Elizabeth Blackwell- one of America's first female doctors. The story begins when Elizabeth is an adventurous child with a lot of chutzpah for a girl at that time. As she grows older, a friend of Elizabeth's mentioned that it might be nice to be seen by a female doctor for once, and that inspires Elizabeth to want to become one herself! She applies to many, many schools and is rejected, but finally one school accepts her and she is able to attain her goal of becoming a doctor.

This book is appropriate for elementary aged children, and depicts an admirable female role model as she entered a male dominated field. This book tackles gender roles and women in the workforce in a very empowering way.

The story is interesting to children and includes a rich plot with a conflict and resolution. Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors depicts Elizabeth Blackwell in a very realistic, deep way, that children could easily relate to. The illustrations are bright and vivid, and helpful in keeping children's attention. As a woman herself, Tanya Lee Stone is able to depict this story with no negative stereotypes of women presented.
