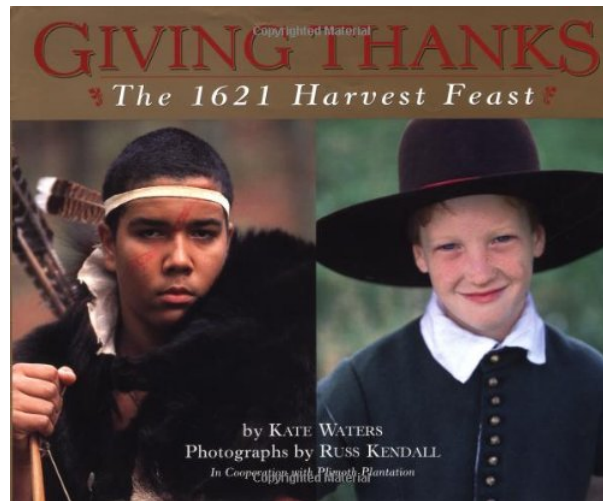
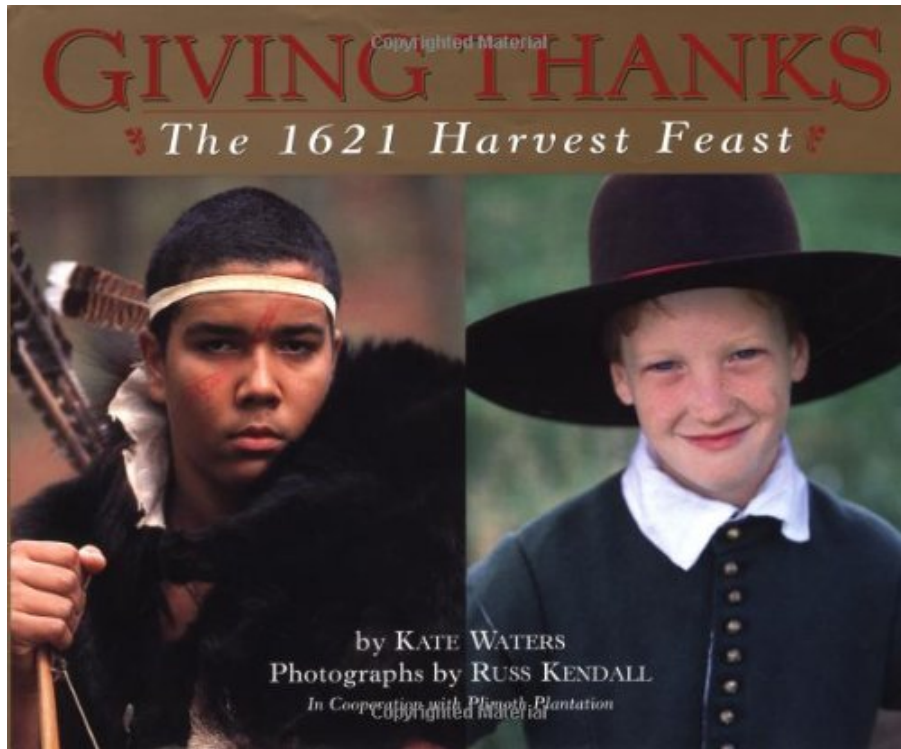


GIVING THANKS: THE 1621 HARVEST FEAST BY KATE WATERS



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Amazon.com Review

Ever wonder what the real first Thanksgiving was like? In Plimoth, Massachusetts, sometime in the autumn of 1621, English settlers--known as Pilgrims--and the Wampanoag people shared a harvest celebration that eventually became swallowed up in myth and legend. Giving Thanks is a photographic reenactment of what might have taken place, based on true historical accounts. Starring Resolved White, a 6-year-old English boy, and Dancing Moccasins, a 14-year-old Wampanoag youth, this fascinating story alternates between their points of view to paint a picture of life in America during the 17th century. The two boys are cautiously intrigued by each other's cultures as their respective communities come together in peace to celebrate the gifts of the earth. Compelling photographs by Russ Kendall bring the time alive, while brief text by Kate Waters sets the tone and fills in details. Children who have only read about the first Thanksgiving in textbooks will glean a much more authentic understanding of this powerful historical event. (Ages 5 to 8) -- Emilie Coulter

From Publishers Weekly

In the newest addition to their books about children of the 1620s, Kate Waters and Russ Kendall present a reenactment of that first holiday, *Giving Thanks: The 1621 Harvest Feast*. Photographs taken on Massachusetts' Plimoth Plantation, a glossary and suggested reading list make this a solid resource.

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From School Library Journal

Gr 2-6-In this photo-essay, Waters introduces two fictitious characters in order to bring to life events that may have happened around the time of the first Thanksgiving. The story takes place between September 21st and November 9th, 1621, and is told in parallel narratives by a 14-year-old Wampanoag Indian boy, Dancing Moccasins, and a 6-year-old Pilgrim boy named Resolved White. Crisp, full-color photos taken at Plimoth Plantation offer an accurate historical reenactment of the harvest days and celebrations that occurred between the Indians and Pilgrims. Historical notes and descriptions of the living-history museum add the perfect ending to this very informative and simply stated offering. Whether readers are interested in a good story or want to learn more about Colonial America, maybe comparing and contrasting cultures, or are interested in how to get involved in historical reenactments, this offering will be an asset to any social studies curriculum.

Betsy Barnett, Eads School District, CO

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GIVING THANKS: THE 1621 HARVEST FEAST BY KATE WATERS PDF

Sometime between September 21 and November 9, 1621, the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people shared a harvest celebration that has become known as the First Thanksgiving. This is the story of what happened during those days, as told by dancing Moccasins, a fourteen-year-old Wampanoag boy, and Resolved White, a six-year-old English boy. Photographed in full color at the Plimoth Plantation, this accurate reenactment will let you experience a time when early English colonists settled on the rich and fertile land of the Wampanoag people.

- Sales Rank: #237001 in Books
- Published on: 2001-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .41" h x 11.34" w x 9.31" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 40 pages

Amazon.com Review

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Plantation offer an accurate historical reenactment of the harvest days and celebrations that occurred between the Indians and Pilgrims. Historical notes and descriptions of the living-history museum add the perfect ending to this very informative and simply stated offering. Whether readers are interested in a good story or want to learn more about Colonial America, maybe comparing and contrasting cultures, or are interested in how to get involved in historical reenactments, this offering will be an asset to any social studies curriculum.

Betsy Barnett, Eads School District, CO

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An accurate historical perspective on the 1621 Thanksgiving Feast

By A Customer

This book is hard to find now, although I did order one directly from Plimoth Plantation because I loved the copy we checked out at our local library so much.

It's a photographic and textual historical interpretation of the "first Thanksgiving" as seen through the eyes of a native Wampanoag youth and a "pilgrim" colonist boy. I think it's great for grades 1-4.

It does not purport to tell the whole story of colonization in the New World by Europeans coming over on the Mayflower and other ships, but instead sets out to tell the story of the harvest celebration of 1621 and what may have happened between September 21 and November 9 as based on historical documents. It puts to rest the tired old myth of the grateful pilgrims inviting the friendly Indians to feast. The last 4 pages of the book go into more detail. This section is easily skipped over if it's too much for younger kids, but adults or older kids may find some of the specific historical details interesting and informative ("Squanto's" real name was Tisquantum, Lincoln declared a day of thanksgiving on August 6 1863 and another that November). There is information about the ongoing customs of the Wampanoag people, the traditions among the colonists, how the English (colonists) ate, a recipe, and information about Plimoth Plantation and the historical interpreters.

I give it 5 stars.

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

no more black hats and silver buckles

By Amazon Customer

If you're tired of seeing your children come home from school mid-November wearing those awful construction paper hats and mock indian feather bonnets, do yourself a favor and BUY THIS BOOK! (Do the teacher a favor -- buy one for her, and maybe one for your school library, too.) Waters and Kendall have joined together again to explode the myths that currently abound in the land of kid-lit. The dialogue for Resolved (pilgrim) and Dancing Mocasins (Wampanoag) is formal, yet easy to understand, and the accompanying photographs are wonderfully rich and vivid.

7 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

"Giving Thanks" - a review

By Visibly Pam

If you are looking for good book to read to young children at Thanksgiving, this isn't it. Not only is it not a good read-aloud, it argues against the traditional telling of the Pilgrims story.

In fact, at the end of the book the author, Kate Waters, talks about how the traditional turkey-pilgrim-indian autumn feast is a mythical occurrence. She says that while historians don't know what `really' happened, it wasn't what the present day holiday conjures up in all of our collective memories.

Instead, what we should know is that European fishermen and traders brought plague that killed whole villages. And that it was just a coincidence that there were any Native Americans at Plimoth (alternate spelling of Plymouth) on the day there was to be a harvest feast, an event that was, in fact, rather a rare occurrence of celebration for the Pilgrims as they did not deem it appropriate celebrate *any* holidays, not even Easter and Christmas. (ho-ho-ho)

Which brings us to the substance of the book when considered for older readers (older tweenies or teenagers perhaps). It is an attractive book to look at. There are pictures of re-enactors in a colonial setting, but it basically centers around a time where all the houses are built and everybody is fat and happy. No Mayflower. No hardship.

And ironically, while the author argues that you won't find the `true' story of life in early colonial times in other books, you won't find it here either because the author's own re-enactors - pilgrims and native americans alike-- are incredibly clean and tidy individuals. Everyone in crisp linen and wool or deerskin. Even the children! LOL

Two Stars. A terrible book for young children. It might hold more interest for older children as the pictures are interesting.

See Amazon's "Search inside this book" feature to judge for yourself.

Example of text:

"I throw the ball but miss the stool broadly. It lands near the feet of an Indian boy who is standing at the edge of the forest. He throws the ball back to me. I know him not but I give him greeting. He answers back in his tongue. I see him surveying our men at arms and the cleared field. I run to tell my friend Bartle, but when we look back, the boy has disappeared into the forest. I wonder why he watches us?"

[Note: My children and I suggest you take a look at "The Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving" by Ann McGovern.]

See all 5 customer reviews...

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