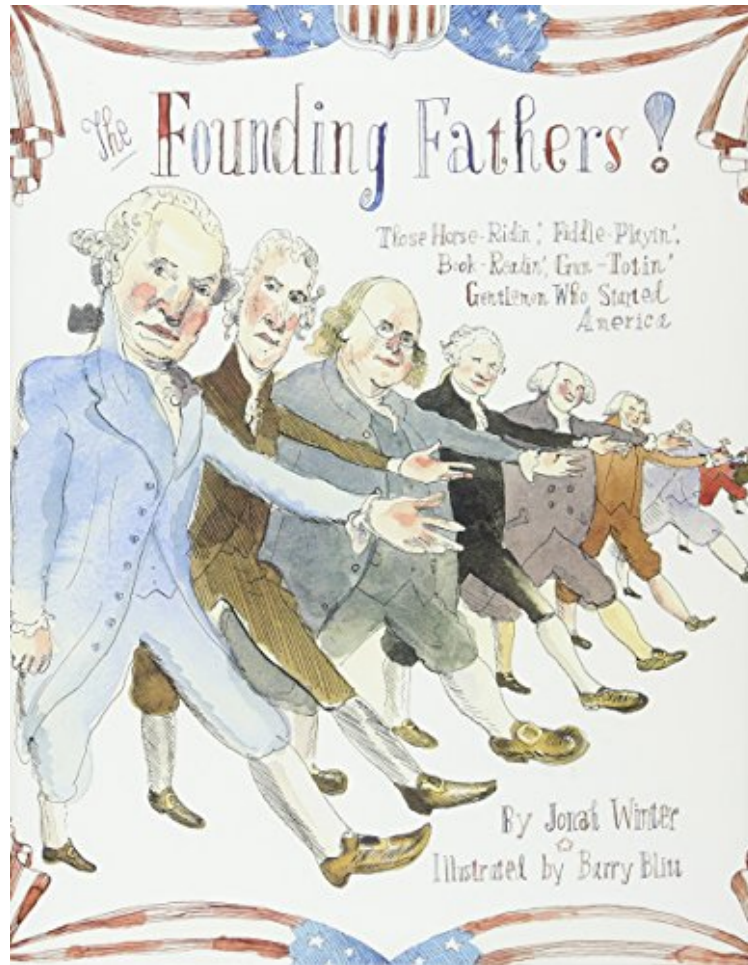


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The Founding Fathers!: Those Horse-Ridin', Fiddle-Playin', Book-Readin', Gun-Totin' Gentlemen Who Started America

Jonah Winter

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Jonah Winter : The Founding Fathers!: Those Horse-Ridin', Fiddle-Playin', Book-Readin', Gun-Totin' Gentlemen Who Started America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Founding Fathers!: Those Horse-Ridin', Fiddle-Playin', Book-Readin', Gun-Totin' Gentlemen Who Started America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun bookBy zukiemy 9 year old history buff grandson loved the humor while getting some interesting facts. It could have had more facts/info, but was worth the money for his joy in it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy joThe book we wanted0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Great teaching book! By Ernest V This is an excellent book filled with great colorful illustrations, quotes and facts! I loved the book and may order more for gifts. It makes learning about the founding fathers very interesting!

In this eye-opening look at our Founding Fathers that is full of fun facts and lively artwork, it seems that Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and their cohorts sometimes agreed on NOTHING except the thing that mattered most: creating the finest constitution in world history, for the brand-new United States of America. Tall! Short! A scientist! A dancer! A farmer! A soldier! The founding fathers had no idea they would ever be called the "founding Fathers," and furthermore they could not even agree exactly on what they were founding! Should America declare independence from Britain? "Yes!" shouted some. "No!" shouted others. "Could you repeat the question?" shouted the ones who either hadn't been listening or else were off in France having fun, dancin' the night away. Slave owners, abolitionists, soldiers, doctors, philosophers, bankers, angry letter-writers the men we now call America's Founding Fathers were a motley bunch of characters who fought a lot and made mistakes and just happened to invent a whole new kind of nation. And now here they are, together again, in an exclusive engagement!

From School Library Journal Gr 25 Winter, best known for *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! (Random, 2009)*, joins news magazine illustrator Blitt in a quick-facts collective biography of 14 American Founding Fathers. Each spread features a full-page watercolor caricature of each man's most famous attribute, with visual and amusingly anachronistic puns (John Jay, "the peacemaker," flashes a 1960s peace sign). The facing page includes a summarizing paragraph, quotations, and a list of facts and statistics (main residence, land owned, "stance on France," and more), supplemented by small cartoons. No women or minorities are featured, but Winter is upfront about his scope: "a bunch of guys[who wrote] the original rule book for how the game called 'America' would be played." The occasional oddball value ("Zebras Owned: 0") inspires detailed attention to otherwise repetitive lists, while the breezy tone ("Jefferson may've been one smart green bean, but that old Hamilton was pretty smart too") may win some readers' affection, though others may wonder if Winter is trying too hard. Concluding statistical notes and an explanation of important concepts enrich the expository "preamble" from the book's opening pages. This title has a strong balance of serious information and humor. It acknowledges disagreements among prominent figures ("Arguing is what Americans have always done best") and ambiguities in their views (several spoke out against slavery while owning slaves themselves), and it provides detailed but audience-appropriate explanations of how statistics were calculated. A useful reference for American history fact-finding assignments or general history interest. Jill Ratzan, I.L. Peretz Community Jewish School, Somerset, NJ Fourteen of the men who somehow separated from one country and cobbled together a new one despite their differences are presented in a lively celebration of politics and personalities. Each gets a two-page spread with a full-page portrait (name, sobriquet and dates included) along with a casual, colloquially phrased summary biography and then lots of stats presented briefly and intriguingly: height, weight, political leaning, education, wealth, and religious belief, in addition to hobbies, nickname and position on the Boston Tea Party. This last, notes Winter in an excellent addendum/glossary, was by no means a political action supported by all the founders. Winter addresses the question of ownership of humans directly, noting what his subjects' expressed views were on slavery as well as which of these early Americans owned slaves. Winter's folksy narrative manages to give each of the founders both dignity and humanity. Blitt's signature style is perfectly suited to this droll enterprise. His Benjamin Franklin multitasks, his Patrick Henry emotes. The witty, energetic illustrations include clever references and a couple of sly anachronisms. Endpapers offer oval portraits of the entire lineup, with Washington, Franklin and Jefferson among the seven on the "Varsity" team, and Hancock, Marshall and Paine among the "Junior Varsity" faces. Author's notes and a resource list are included, but frustratingly, the book lacks pagination and indexing. Wonderful for future constitutional scholars and other curious young readers. (Kirkus s, STARRED REVIEW November 15, 2014) Pointing out that the expression Founding Fathers sounds like the name of a rock band or baseball team, Winter looks into who 14 of these men really were, warts and all: Thomas Jefferson was sort of a mixed bag. Dude wrote that all men are created equal. But then he also wrote that blacks were inferior humans! Winter includes quotations from each man, as well as lists of stats with categories including their wealth, political party, Stance on France, and Opinion on Boston Tea Party (Benjamin Rush was a huge fan). Blitt's pen-and-ink caricatures are right in line with Winter's playful tone, as he pokes fun at Washington, Franklin, Paine, and others, while giving readers a strong understanding of why these figures' contributions to the developing nation were so significant. (Publishers Weekly, *STARRED REVIEW December 22, 2014) About the Author Jonah Winter is the author of more than thirty celebrated nonfiction picture books including *Diego*, illustrated by Jeanette Winter; *Jazz Age Josephine*, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman; *Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx*, illustrated by Edel Rodriguez; *The Founding Fathers!* illustrated by Barry Blitt; and *Lillians Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*, illustrated by Shane W. Evans. Barry Blitt's illustrations have appeared on more than eighty *New Yorker* covers and have also graced the pages of *The New York Times* and *Entertainment Weekly*. He is the illustrator of *Once Upon a Time, the End (Asleep in 60 Seconds)* by Geoffrey Koske and *The Adventures of Mark Twain by Huckleberry Finn* by Robert Burleigh, as well as other picture

books. He lives in Roxbury, Connecticut.