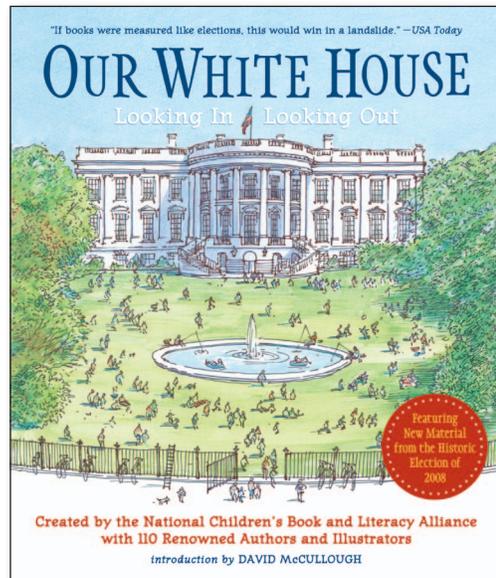


OUR WHITE HOUSE

Looking In, Looking Out

Created by the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance
with 110 Renowned Authors and Illustrators

introduction by DAVID McCULLOUGH



The paperback is updated with a new poem by Nikki Grimes about President Obama's inauguration and an addition to the presidential timeline created by Bob Kolar.



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Share *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out* and www.ourwhitehouse.org with the children and teens in your life—at home and in the classroom!

by MARY BRIGID BARRETT

This dynamic anthology of art, story, and information promotes both literacy and historical literacy, illuminating more than 200 years of our nation's history. Using an interdisciplinary and multicultural approach to the subject of American history, *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out* also celebrates American art and literature, the humanities, and science to excite young people about our nation's past and inspire them to active citizenship now and in the future. *Our White House* includes a variety of literary genres, including historical fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and personal essays to appeal to students' many different reading styles.

The National Endowment for the Humanities, which gave *Our White House* a *We the People* "Picturing America" Bookshelf Award, sponsored the educational materials on www.ourwhitehouse.org. Teachers and parents can use the information and ideas presented in *Our White House* and on the companion website to share this book with young people and build on their curiosity about our president's house.



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www.ourwhitehouse.org

OUR WHITE HOUSE

Special Educational Features

Our White House and www.ourwhitehouse.org are great assets in election years, not only to inform young people about the presidency, but also to teach them about presidential campaigns, elections, and inaugurations. In addition, *Our White House* is the perfect book for celebrating Presidents' Month in February, and can be used throughout the year in relation to current events and curriculum needs. The following ideas are just a few of the ways these resources can be used.

- “The White House First Residents” is an imagined conversation between John and Abigail Adams written by Jane Yolen and illustrated by Petra Mathers, but it is based on historical information. An example of one of President John Adams’s letters can be found at www.ourwhitehouse.org/primaryadamsltrs.html along with further information about the correspondence between Adams and his wife from the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Boston Public Library. There are also lesson plans to further your study.
- In *Our White House*, contradictory primary and secondary sources are juxtaposed so that young people can experience what historians often discover in their search for objective truth: multiple perspectives representing different points of view. This provides vital learning opportunities for your students. The multiple perspectives presented on the War of 1812 can be used to teach young people critical thinking skills by asking whether history is only the story of the aggressors, the winners, and the dominant. Why do we often prefer to believe legends rather than factual accounts of historic events? Why are some voices silenced through the ages? Do you need to seek multiple perspectives in seeking the truth? And what is “the truth”? *Our White House* also presents contradictory perspectives on September 11th, an event that is a contemporary bookend to the devastation of the War of 1812. You can use these sections to inspire young people in their search for objective truth by emphasizing the importance of seeking multiple, reliable, contemporary information sources that represent a wide variety of perspectives. Encourage your students to reflect on these sections in the book with a critical eye and ear, and then hold a class discussion on their thoughts and opinions.

(continued . . .)



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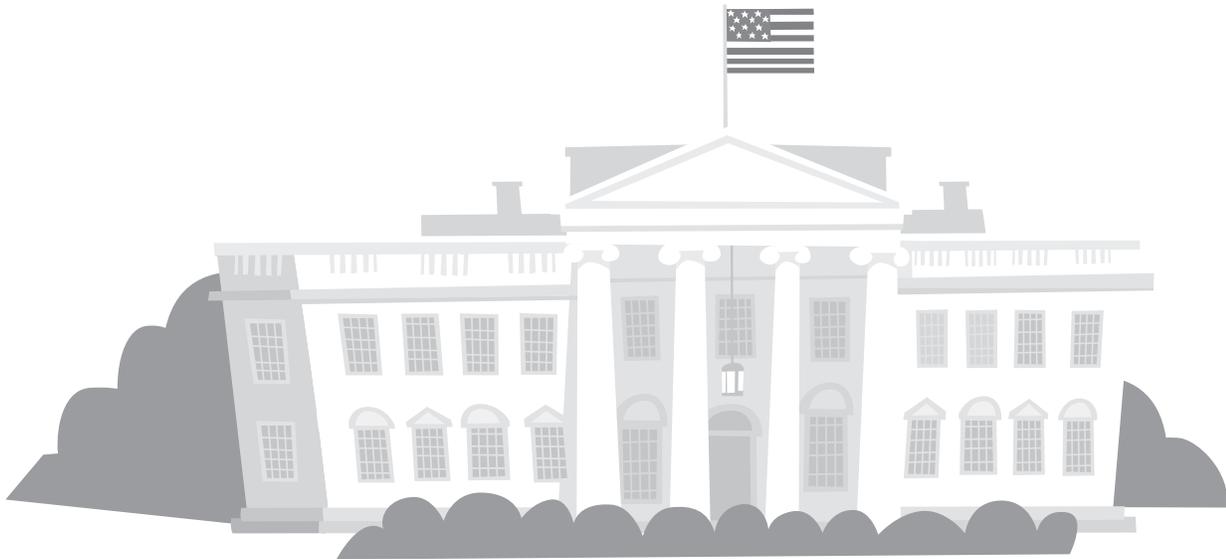
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Special Educational Features

(continued)

- Building on an interdisciplinary approach, *Our White House* introduces science topics to show the integration of human interests and achievements in the course of our nation's history. Read "White House Colonial Kitchen Gardens" by Stephanie Loer and plant a classroom garden in the school yard or inside in containers. Read and discuss "Jefferson's Monstrous Bones" by Barbara Kerley and "An Unusual Guest" by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel and investigate the ancient natural history, and current condition of the wildlife in the area where you reside. Read "The White House, the Moon, and a Coal Miner's Son" by *Rocket Boys* author Homer Hickam and find out if your students think we should launch other human-piloted missions to the moon.
- After reading "White House Souvenir" by Polly Horvath, your students may be interested in taking a field trip to the White House themselves, which is a wonderful opportunity but not one that all schools can provide. However, field trips to local historical homes can also be lots of fun and help students understand life in a different time. Use the Field Trip Guides at www.ourwhitehouse.org/amhispage.html to help your students get the most out of the trip.



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Key sections on www.ourwhitehouse.org

Our White House Plus (www.ourwhitehouse.org/owhplus.html) includes educational activities and discussion questions for use in the home and classroom that complement and expand upon the poetry, stories, art, and information in the *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out*.

Web Exclusives (www.ourwhitehouse.org/webexc.html) contains informative, entertaining, and enlightening articles related to the presidency, the White House, American history, and pertinent current events.

American History and Literacy Resource Center (www.ourwhitehouse.org/amhispage.html) provides an annotated bibliography, field trip ideas and guides, comprehensive presidential and First Lady fact files, links to helpful historical websites, search tips for students, and literacy links.

Civic Education (www.ourwhitehouse.org/civicedpage.html) is filled with educational resources for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, presidential campaign and election information, presidential inaugural information, as well as links to great civic education sites and pertinent American government documents.



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