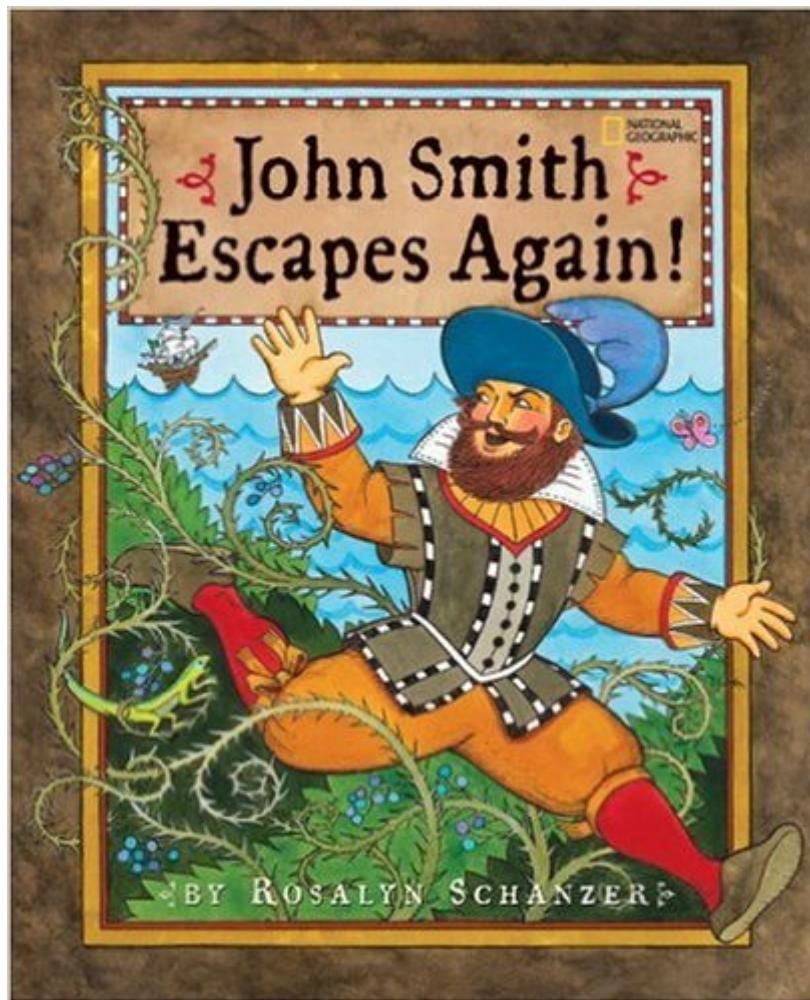


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# John Smith Escapes Again!



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## Synopsis

Long before Harry Houdini thrilled the world with his impossible deeds, America had produced an escape artist whose biography reads like an adventure novel. Many readers will know John Smith as the man rescued from death by Pocahontas, but Smith's story included a series of fantastic episodes: escape from imprisonment, ambush by Indians, attacks by ruthless sea pirates, and more escapades than seem possible in one life. Now, just in time for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, author Rosalyn Schanzer recounts the full details of John Smith's eventful life in her engaging storytelling style, complemented with a series of entertaining illustrations. Smith's role as the president of the pioneering colony of Jamestown is well known to schoolchildren. Schanzer's compelling narrative adds the perspective of Smith's English background to his better known adventures in America. Readers are given a complete portrait of the intrepid explorer and adventurer, of the fighter whose battling spirit always prevailed, and of the writer whose work was to shape the idea of the American Dream. Smith's story is punctuated by several impossibly daring escapes. His final escape left us with the rich legacy of his life story: through his writings, he escaped the fate of dying unknown. He returned to England as a poor man with a rich trove of memories, spending his final years writing the popular books that defined colonial America in tales of excitement and courage.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD980L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: National Geographic Children's Books (October 10, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0792259300

ISBN-13: 978-0792259305

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #730,881 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #248 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #422 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary #1010 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

A delightfully illustrated adventure book for children telling a true story. The author has thoroughly researched the life of John Smith 1580 - 1631, who was a famous son of Lincolnshire, England and who became the first president of Jamestown in Virginia Colony, America. This was the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Rosalyn Schanzer's attention to authentic detail and her beautifully drawn illustrations are excellent. This book brings history alive for children - and their parents!

A fun book full of facts about John Smith that I never knew! I had no idea of the adventurous life that John Smith led throughout his life! He had been arrested, a slave, shipwrecked and so much more. My son needed this book for a book report and I think I enjoyed it as much as he did!

I really like this book. The research was done well and presented in a captivating manner. It has a fuller account of John Smith's life, not just the story about Jamestown and Pocahontas. Great for kids and anyone wanting a snapshot of John Smith.

One thing that sets apart exemplary children's nonfiction from more pedestrian treatments of history is that the author knows how to "speak child" and engage readers in an adventure that is a true story (not based on a true story). Rosalyn Schanzer not only brings John Smith to life in *John Smith Escapes Again!* by using many of his own words but she adds vitality and vision through her colorful and dramatic illustrations. When source material conflicts with legend, she sets the record straight. And when source material is ambiguous, she doesn't sugar coat that either. John Smith was a larger-than-life character, taking risks and facing death many times over in his action-packed life. He deserves to be more than a footnote in Colonial American history and Rosalyn Schanzer more than does him justice in this exciting and meticulously researched portrayal.

I know zilch about John Smith, but we read a Rosalyn Schanzer book about Lewis and Clark and were very impressed with it. So we tried this book. I am amazed at the quality of the illustrations and the story-telling. My boys love the book -- especially my second grader. Very well done, and the illustrations carry the story line and convey layers of meaning and danger.

Great book. Takes a ton of info and condenses it into a good story. Illustrations are wonderful too. Great for any age.

This book might have been researched intensely and based on the actual writings of John Smith but everything from the word-choices to the illustrations paint John Smith in perfection and all others as "evil" and "savage." It is one thing to offer a book that focuses positively on John Smith but quite another to tear down Native Americans, etc. in order to do it. Also, the relationship between John Smith and Pocahontas was all but left out probably because of their age difference. Horrible book.

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