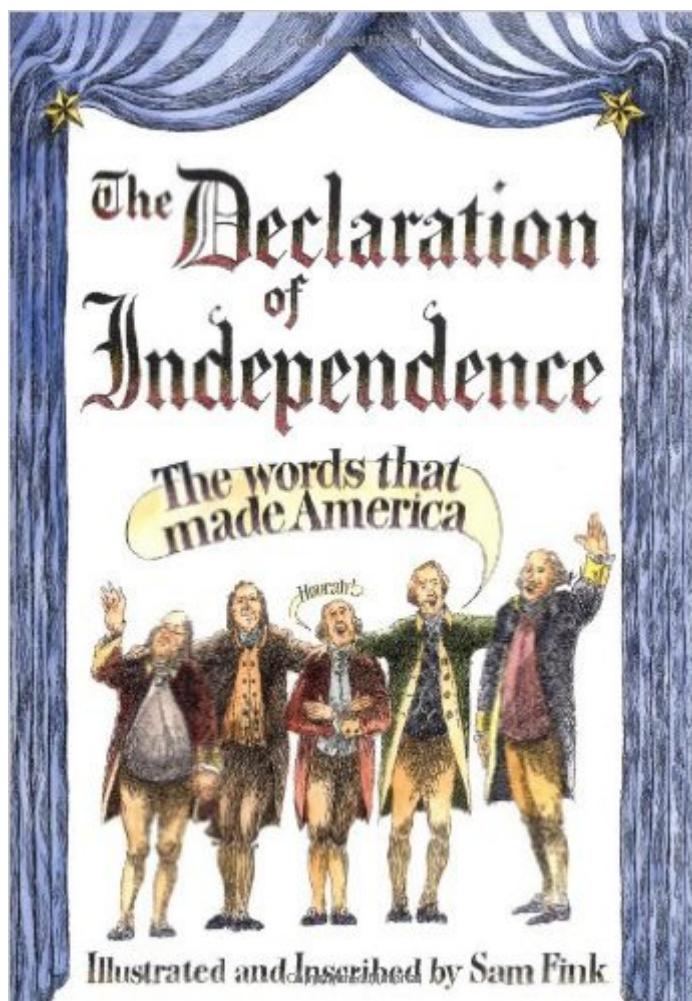


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# The Declaration Of Independence



## **Synopsis**

Taken phrase by phrase, inscribed and illustrated, these most famous words ring as true today as they did more than 200 years ago. The Declaration of Independence is considered to be one of the greatest documents of all time. The central section of the declaration is a ringing assertion that every human being has an equal right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are the words that have built your nation and keep it strong. Here is the complete Declaration of Independence beautifully hand-lettered and decorated. Almost every section is highlighted on its own page, with its meaning and significance enhanced by imaginative drawings and sketches appropriate to the all-important words they complement.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (23 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

As Sam Fink tells the reader in his forward: "For as long as I can remember, every Fourth of July The New York Times reproduced a copy of the original Declaration of Independence on the back page. Each time it appeared, I would look it over with admiration and go out to celebrate..." "A couple of years ago, I thought I would actually try to read it... Reading it over several times, enjoying it more and more, I became very impressed with Thomas Jefferson's logic. I liked his argument of how unfairly the colonies were being treated, how they couldn't stand it anymore, and they needed to break away from Great Britain. So, I planned a project..." And that project became this book, The Declaration of Independence: The Words That Made America. Mr Fink has taken the document

apart, dividing it into short, more easily understood phrases. Each two-page spread features one beautifully, hand lettered phrase, accompanied by a clever and engaging illustration of its meaning. It's the captivating artwork, rich in historical detail and playful wit, that really brings the significance of these great words to life. Mr Fink also includes the complete text of the Declaration, informative chronology "that transformed loyal subjects of Great Britain into rebellious, patriotic Americans," a comprehensive glossary, selected bibliography and resources, and index at the end, to further explain and enlighten. Perfect for youngsters 10 and older, *The Declaration Of Independence* is a marvelously evocative experience that both inspires and captures the imagination, and is most definitely one of the best new books of 2002. "The words that made America can now be shared with people of all ages; and they can help us understand what the Founding Fathers created for all of us who have followed. Freedom...oh, sweet freedom."

Periodically you will hear stories about how people go to Shopping Malls on the 4th of July and try to get people to sign a petition that talks about the people having the right to alter or to abolish the government and listing a bunch of grievances against the state. Many citizens refuse to sign the reactionary document, considering it some sort of "commie propaganda," but, of course, the joke is on them because they are being asked to sign a copy of the Declaration of Independence. The document is something that everybody would say they believe in, but very few people have actually read. Sam Fink tries to remedy that problem with "The Declaration of Independence," which provides "the words that made America" inscribed and illustrated (Thomas Jefferson gets a credit for the "text"). Fink provides the complete text of the Declaration, broken down phrase by phrase, with each word hand lettered and accompanied by a colorful illustration that attempts to bring the document to life. These colored pen and ink drawings are a mixture of political cartoons and symbolic iconography. The more you know about the American Revolution and the events leading up to the writing and singing of the Declaration the more you will appreciate what Fink is doing. Unfortunately, I think most young readers are going to miss the subtleties here and since the volume is not annotated, they are not going to gain those insights here. Still, chances are those same students will be more likely to actually read the entire Declaration this way than they will if they just see it printed up normally as it is in the back of this book. That is where they will also find a chronology of the events and documents that transformed the loyal subject of Great Britain into the rebellious American patriots, as well as a glossary that will explain the meanings of "abdicated," "inestimable," "rectitude" and other words that are not exactly part of the common vernacular today.

I first found this book in a local library. I read it with my children. I liked it so well, and as a homeschool family, know we will be reviewing this document periodically, that I decided to purchase the book. It was pricey, but it did such a good job of illustrating the Declaration of Independence piece-by-piece, that I felt it was worth the cost. We also were able to compare the reasons for writing the Declaration of Independence to current circumstances to help illustrate why we must continue to stand up for our rights, freedoms, and protections that our forefathers, and subsequent soldiers, fought so hard to win. I like that it has a good glossary in the back to define words in the Declaration of Independence that are seldom, if ever, used any longer.

The Declaration of Independence is one of the foundational documents of the United States. The political philosophies it contains resonate throughout American thought to this day. This wonderful graphic novel presents the Declaration for the younger reader. Each phrase or so is given its own page and is given a facing illustration that helps make the idea being conveyed easier to understand. The illustration work is quite good and very entertaining — helping to make the young reader want to keep reading. This really is a good book, one that should be given to every young American. I highly recommend it!

Large, phrase-by-phrase drawings in clever, political cartoon style, Fink's illustrations do justice to document itself. Fun for kids, but advanced enough to entertain any audience. Book also includes a glossary of Jefferson's beautiful words, a Revolution chronology, and index. I recommend it for all ages.

Great illustrations and of course wonderfully lettered text. It is a beautiful book, and I highly endorse reading it every July 4! This is the copy of it you want, and if you didn't think you wanted a copy, Sam Fink's version will change your mind!

This book, through its unique and often funny illustrations, reveals the true meaning behind the words of this masterpiece of American history in a way that children - and many adults (perhaps for the first time) - can understand and appreciate. It really brought the words to light for our entire family and gave us a deeper appreciation for the work and sacrifice that made our independence possible.

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