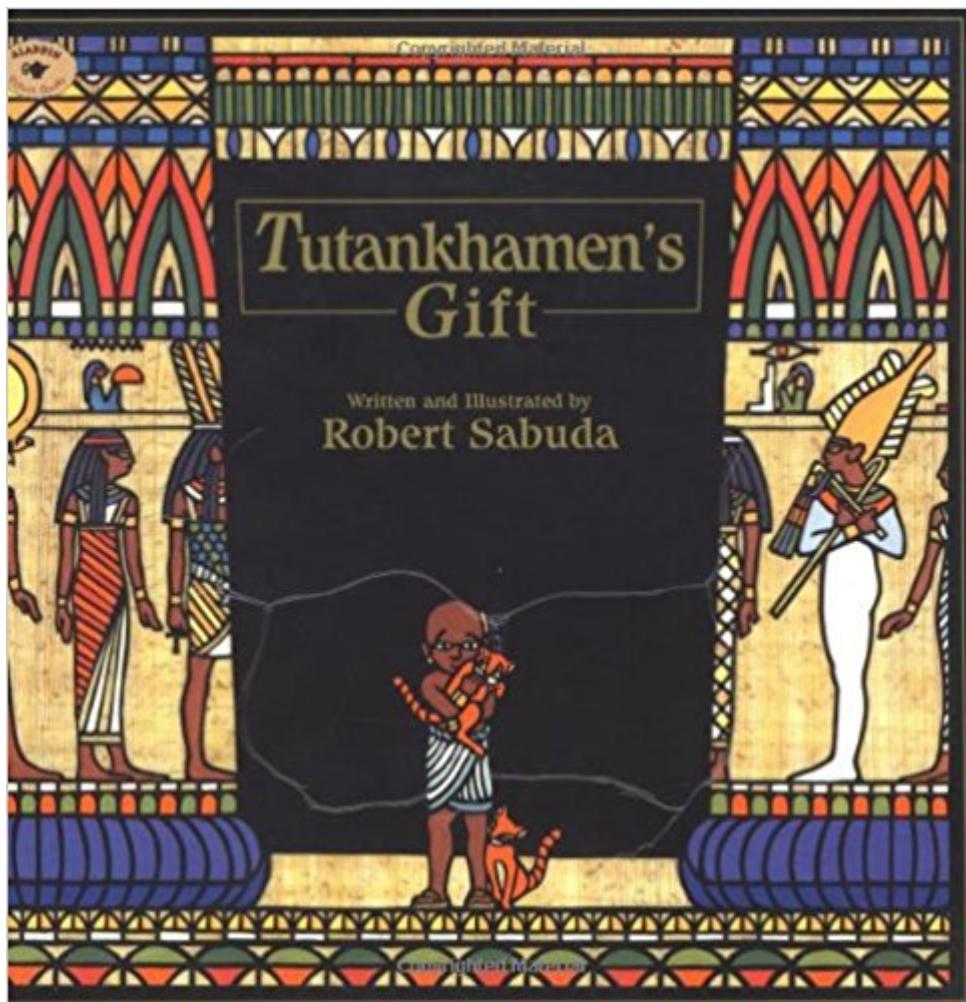


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Tutankhamen's Gift



Synopsis

Small and frail, Tutankhamen was an all but ignored member of the royal family of the great Egyptian pharaoh Amenhotep III. At the school of the "menoi," or tutors, he did not excel at physical activities with the other royal princes. Keeping to himself, he observed and admired the work of his father's craftsmen, who built glorious temples to Egypt's many gods. Someday he too would find a gift for those gods. Then Amenhotep III died and the unpopular reign of Tutankhamen's brother ended in mystery. Who now would be pharaoh? Could it be a boy of only ten? As he did with the life of "Saint Valentine" (Atheneum, 1992), Robert Sabuda combines simple text with artwork true to the historical period in which Tutankhamen lived.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

As in Sabuda's Saint Valentine , this equally arresting five-color picture book appropriates the art of another culture to evoke a specific historical setting. Here, telling the story of the 14th-century, B.C., pharaoh, Sabuda uses painted, handmade Egyptian papyrus as the background for his art; a single cut, painted piece of black paper adhered to the papyrus forms each picture. Contrasting effectively with the rich black lines are luminescent orange, purple, blue, green and gold hues. The text, well

suited to the target audience, explains how the quiet, diminutive youngest son of the pharaoh Amenhotep III often stopped to watch workers erecting the elaborate sandstone temples that his father had ordered built ("All this to please the gods and keep them happy!"). "Someday," Tutankhamen vows, "I too shall do something great to honor the gods"--and that day comes sooner than anyone expects. His brother (who had succeeded his father as pharaoh) dies suddenly when Tutankhamen is 10. Ascending the Egyptian throne, the boy rebuilds all the temples that his unpopular brother had destroyed, and he rules benevolently until his death nine years later. Sabuda neatly distills the history of a celebrated young ruler while offering a visual treat on each page. Ages 6-9. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 3-5-While not much is really known about Tutankhamen, his persona continues to intrigue young and old alike. Here is a book geared toward younger children about this fascinating figure. Imparting facts about Egyptian history, Sabuda creates a background world and then places the boy who would be king in it. Readers learn of customs such as the fact that only female members were included in ancient family portraits and that women in mourning threw dust in their hair when they wept. They read of temples built and then destroyed and of gods who became angry, abandoning their people. The uniqueness of this book, however, is in its extraordinary illustrations. Bold black framework cut from a single sheet of paper adheres to handmade Egyptian papyrus that has been brightly painted in dazzling early Egyptian designs. Cats, long worshiped by the Egyptians, are found on almost every page. Notes at the end of the book give additional facts about this ancient civilization and the discovery of Tut's tombs. For more information, try Piero Ventura and Gian P. Ceserani's *In Search of Tutankhamen* (Silver Burdett, 1985). But, for sheer beauty, Sabuda's book is a winner. Dot Minzer, North Barrington School, Barrington, IL
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Perhaps the book is speculative or dated, but it is inaccurate in several areas. I will not be using it in my classroom.

I am a fan of Sabuda's. But I was surprised to find this wasn't a pop-up book. The story about the Egyptian struggle to resolve the issue of one or many gods was well built into a story about courage of one's convictions tho a footnote telling that in later centuries several religions do maintain that there is only one god. Illustrations are glorious.

No one does a "pop - up book" better than Robert Sabuda. An Egyptian fan for a long time, this book was a perfect gift for myself. Spent literally hours with it !

I love Robert Sabuda but this boring story and equally boring pop ups are not worthy of his usual high-quality items. It appears to me that this was done to make a quick buck for the holiday seasons.

I was disappointed that this book was not a pop-up as Robert Sabuda books are usually. The book was too old for a 5 year old but would have been fine if it was a pop-up. The seller's need to make that clear that is not a pop-up.

Yes, this book was inaccurate at times. But guys, if we were to teach children King Tut's actual story, it would wreak havoc on their tiny little hearts. That being said: I was highly skeptical about this book because every King Tut book is super generic and just emphasizes that he was the boy king and he was a boy and young and king and YAY!!! /sigh. Well! When I read this book I fell out of my chair. What was covered in this book was Akhenaten's attempt to unify the gods at the cost of all of Egypt's lore and former deities. He was the first iconoclast (destroyer of art) and the first visionary to see god as one deity and not many (ie the first monotheist!!). I learned this in art history class when I was in my twenties and I felt ripped off only discovering it so late in life! This book starts a discussion on the value of art and culture among much younger students (ten-year-olds in my case). And the kids LOVED this book. They discussed in great length and with much excitement Akhenaten's decision, while marveling at the brilliant illustrations in this book. This book was a conversation starter and had the kids so passionate and excited about Egypt and about their gods and culture. Your students or children WILL hear about King Tut 100 times more in their lives --but please do not blow the opportunity to show them this book which wonderfully explains what actually happened with the worship of Aten, destruction of art, and huge shift and response in culture. (You could also explain some of the historical anomalies, which I'm pretty sure are explained in the back of the book in a gigantic outro paragraph).

I agree with the other negative reviews that there are several inaccuracies in this book, the most obvious being that Tutankhamen's father was Amenhotep IV, not Amenhotep III. However, we used this book to supplement our curriculum on Tutankhamen, not to be the sole resource for facts. The

art in this book is vibrant and beautiful. My 11 year old daughter used it to inspire her own drawn depiction of Tutankhamen's life. For the illustrations alone, I feel like it deserves credit. Don't depend on the facts of this book to inform your children on Tutankhamen's life. Instead, use it to create an incredible visual of a young boy in a far off, ancient land, and to inspire an interest in the color, dynamism, and nature of another culture.

The book opens when Tutankhamen was a very young and sickly child. The author explains that this youngest son attended school but was unable to participate in very physical games due to his fragility. While Tut walked to his school he admired the temples, appreciated the fine art work which glorified the numerous Egyptian Gods and his spirituality grew. In the beginning of the story, his father, Amenhotep III was Pharaoh. Upon the death of his father (which is not really dealt with or discussed enough), Tut's older brother, Amenhotep IV, took over the throne. Under his rule, he banned worship of all God's except for the Sun God. Temples and artwork were destroyed and Tut was upset about this, as it seems was most of Egypt. Soon he was assassinated and Tut took over at the age of 9 or 10. The focus of the story is that Tut then restored the right of the people to worship multiple Gods and work began to restore and rebuild temples to all of the Gods. Tut seems to have been appreciated for this and his gift to the people was this act. The story ends there, with Tut still alive, young, and ruling Egypt. In the teacher's notes at the end of the book, it states that Tut was killed at the age of 19 or 20 from a severe head injury, which is speculated to be either from a hunting accident or an intentional assignation. So the story does not go as far as his death, but it is mentioned in the endnote. Since most of what people know of King Tut was of the riches found in his tomb, this book gives a different perspective of the important thing that King Tut did for his people. I think children will enjoy reading of a child King, and they will like the storytelling being in the time frame of before his rule and during his rule. The artwork is bold and bright. The swirls and bold lines remind me of stained glass windows. There is a lot to look at and the illustrations certainly held our interest. My 6 year-old son enjoyed this story as an accompaniment to learning about Ancient Egypt. The story about a young boy that became King was a refreshing change from the usual spin and perspective found in most books, which can be dry or portraying Egyptians as just mummies and the idea that Egypt is just desert and pyramids.

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