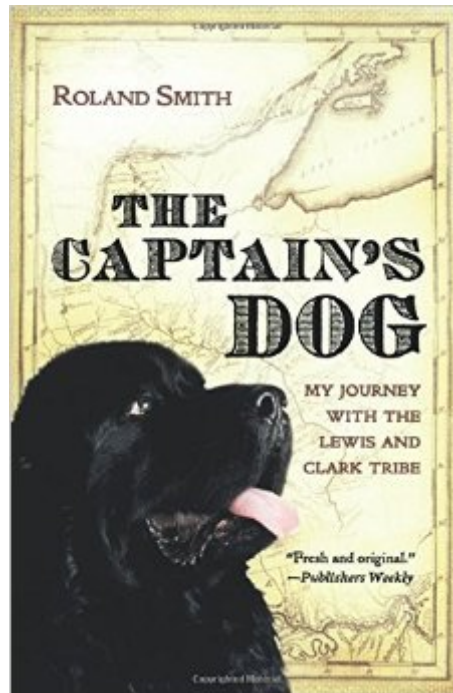


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# The Captain's Dog: My Journey With The Lewis And Clark Tribe



## Synopsis

Born the runt of his litter and gambled away to a rusty old river man, the Newfoundland pup Seaman doesn't imagine his life will be marked by any kind of glory. But when he meets Captain Meriwether Lewis, Seaman finds himself on a path that will make history. Lewis is setting off on his landmark search for the Northwest Passage, and he takes Seaman along. Sharing the curiosity and spirit of his new master, the intrepid dog proves himself a valuable companion at every turn. Part history, part science; and all adventure; this is the thrilling tale of America's greatest journey of discovery. Includes an author's note and a reader's guide.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Series: Great Episodes

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152026967

ISBN-13: 978-0152026967

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.8 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (83 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #55,786 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#78 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) [#447 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#) [#2775 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I thoroughly enjoyed The Captain's Dog and felt the voice of Seaman gave the novel an added flair. Many times I was so lost in the story, I forgot Seaman was a dog. I especially like this novel because it lays a strong foundation for further research into the adventures of Lewis and Clark. Readers get to meet and know so many interesting characters. The characterization of Captain Lewis is so complete I felt as if he was an old friend. I laughed and cried when reading this novel. It has heart, adventure, and a little bit of mystery. The descriptive details give evidence to the extensive research which must have gone into writing this novel. Bravo, Roland Smith! How about a

new historical novel about merchant seaman or pirates. Perhaps Seaman could come along as well.

The Captain's Dog is a good choice for a young reader who likes dogs and adventure. And it is also great for a subtle education about early western history. The story is told from the dog's perspective. Although fictional in nature, the history is accurate, the story could actually have happened, and it is believable. The point of view of the story may be somewhat difficult for a young person under 12 years old to follow because it comes from three perspectives. Each chapter opens with two men who went with the Lewis & Clark expedition reminiscing about the journey. They read from one of Lewis' diaries. Then Seaman, the dog, starts remembering and thinking of his adventures on the trip which takes up most of the chapter. Not being able to follow the change in narrator does not take anything away from the story, however. The chapters are short, the story moves along pretty well, and the reading appears to be at about a 4th to 6th grade level. The Captain's Dog is a perfect gift for the child or young boy or girl who likes to read, appreciates animals, and has a hankering for adventure and fun. I think it would be popular for Jr. High School students also.

What an enjoyable way to learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, from the perspective of a dog! The Captain's Dog is Seaman, a Newfoundland dog that belonged to Captain Meriwether Lewis. Seaman accompanied him and Captain William Clark and their Corps of Discovery on the search for the overland water route to the Pacific in the early 1800's. Here, Roland Smith's historical fiction is thoroughly researched and credible. Through Seaman, we meet many fascinating characters, experience the journey's hazards, and get an ingenious feel for what life in the Corps was like from the inside. Readers will enjoy the typical doglike behavior displayed by Seaman, such as marking his territory and sniffing out animals and humans from miles away. He is curious and courageous, as all fine explorers should be. Each chapter is told from three perspectives, using people who knew or accompanied Lewis and Clark speaking in third person, then reading excerpts from Lewis' personal diary, followed by Seaman recalling his adventures and observations in first person. The changes in viewpoint and lack of illustrations might make this book difficult for younger readers. I would recommend it for fifth grade reading level and up, especially as a great introduction or supplement for students studying the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

I read this book to my niece and nephew (they were 8 and 10 respectively) a couple of years ago and I can't wait to read it to my own kids when they get old enough. Being from South Dakota, I

know of a lot of the places this book took us which is important but the book was also filled with a lot of emotion...it had us laughing, crying and cheering! Not too many books do that these days. Rock on, Roland Smith! And just for the record, my niece and nephew and I still talk about this book to this day. Parents, read to your kids!

I read this book with my 4th grade class while we were studying Lewis and Clark. I loved it and so did they. It did a wonderful job of engaging their interest in the subject. It is basically Lewis and Clark's expedition from the point of view of Seaman, Captain Lewis's dog. It starts out after the expedition is over. Seaman is living with a tribe after other believed him to be dead. He is found by two Corps of Discovery members. The tribe had Captain Lewis's journal and ask the two men to read and translate it from them. While the dog, Seaman listens Toth journal being read, he reminisces through flashbacks. Each chapter begins with an exert from Lewis's journal. It is a very good read, especially for engaging interest in Lewis and Clark's expedition.

A fun book, offering you a feel for what it was like on the way to the NW Pasage. It is not just grizzly bears and wolves, but lack of food and freezing weather that threaten men's lives. I enjoyed the connection between White Feather (a crow) and Seaman (the dog) and how they keep the Lewis tribe surviving. It was well researched; however, I think it could have been better written from the perspective of the dog. Dogs are extremely intelligent and they can read humans very well, this seemed to be lacking. It is a quick and entertaining read, however.

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(Picture Book Biography) Blazing West, the Journal of Augustus Pelletier, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804 (My Name Is America) The Journal of Augustus Pelletier: The Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804 (My Name is America) Lewis & Clark

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