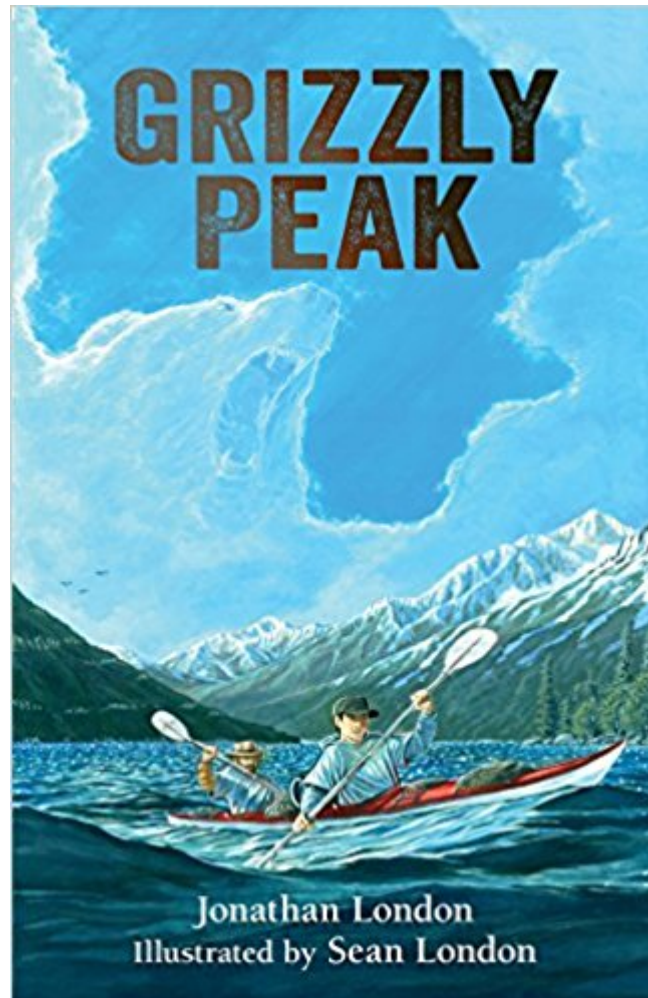




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Grizzly Peak (Aaron's Wilderness)



Synopsis

A father-son river kayaking trip in the wilderness goes terribly wrong and leaves Aaron hungry, exhausted, and battered from a fall. Can Aaron rescue his gravely injured father before time runs out on them both? Aaron's latest thrill-packed adventure takes him river kayaking with his dad in the remote Canadian wilderness. The trip tests his confidence and survival skills as he battles wildlife, scarce supplies, and life-threatening accidents.

Book Information

Series: Aaron's Wilderness

Paperback: 174 pages

Publisher: WestWinds Press (February 7, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1943328773

ISBN-13: 978-1943328772

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,188,495 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #134 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada #2362 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents #2726 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 8 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

Customer Reviews

"Jonathan London's Grizzly Peak is the third novel in the gripping Aaron's Wilderness adventure series. . . The book is presented as budding author Aaron's journal turned story, and he's a pro at chapter-ending cliffhangers and convincing dialogue. Black-and-white illustrations by the author's son, Sean London, are a great addition, especially the eagle's-eye view of the kayak. Best of all, it's touching to see Aaron and his dad repair their relationship . . . This is a survival tale in the vein of Gary Paulsen's Hatchet, but also a story of family bonds enduring." --Foreword Reviews "An adventure trip in British Columbia's Cariboo Mountains may be the best chance for a father and son to reconnect. . . When

a life-threatening accident incapacitates his father, Aaron is forced to find the very qualities that his father was demanding all along. The richly realized setting makes the familiar story of a headstrong white teen squaring off against his father fresh. Aaron moves from arrogance to humility and a calm assurance. But his father also grows, realizing Aaron is yearning for the same respect and freedom that he craved from his own father. Pencil illustrations accompany the text. Nail-biting journey with a heart." --Kirkus Reviews

Brief on character development but brisk on pacing and action, this is an adventure/survival novel set in the Cariboo Mountains in Central British Columbia. Aaron and his dad set off for two weeks of canoeing through a series of lakes after Aaron's expulsion from school. Aaron has had previous wilderness experiences, and while he doesn't relish the time spent entirely alone with his father, he is excited for the outdoor adventure aspect of the trip. The expedition is fraught with typical, but exciting, perils of nature, from white-water rapids to grizzly bears. Along the way, father and son attempt to reconcile, but the path is not smooth. Both characters must rely on each other, and the climax of the story is intense and dramatic. This is a fast-paced novel that is not overwhelming in terms of length or depth and will be enjoyed by fans of Gary Paulsen and Will Hobbs. Knowledge of the previous titles in the series might be helpful in relation to some secondary characters mentioned but is not a prerequisite for this episode.

VERDICT A thrilling wilderness quest with typical father/son interactions that don't get in the way of the dangers of the journey. More than one reader will be looking at the map and trying to convince a grown-up to take them to Bowron Lake Provincial Park." --John Scott, Friends School of Baltimore, School Library Journal

"Children ages 8 to 13, and students in grades 4 to 7, will eagerly follow Aaron's adventures in this suspenseful page turner, as he learns to navigate a kayak, discovers another side to a bully, shares a first kiss, encounters the desperate world of human trafficking, and challenges an evil smuggler who threatens the entire group. The sequel to author Jonathan London's outstanding children's novel 'Desolation Canyon', 'Bella Bella' is very highly recommended for both school and community library collections." --Children's Bookwatch (Bella Bella)

"An infectious blend of action, science, and tween romance to readers of all ages. . . Gorgeous illustrations accompany the narrative's truly magical moments. . . Addresses the central conflict of poor refugees seeking better lives thoroughly and compassionately. An impressive sequel about an aquatic journey that stands on its own while building on the first trip." --Kirkus (Bella Bella)

"A wise and wonderful reading experience for anyone who loves or is just learning to love natural history. The briskly flowing narrative contains great details about desert life, always offered in lovely prose. . . This

coming-of-age tale also features enchanting illustrations by the author's son, Sean. A grand, well-rounded adventure that mixes nature, Native American lore, and the history of the Desolation Canyon region." --Kirkus (Desolation Canyon)

Grizzly Peak (Aaron's Wilderness) This is book 3 in the Aaron's Wilderness Series books. However if you are like me and have not read the previous two it is ok. Yes there are a few references to people and events from the other books but not so much that you will be lost in this one. Now after reading this one I want to read the other two titles. This is a rather moving story about a teen boy and his father. They go on not only a physical journey in the wild together but while on that journey events happen that change their connection to each other. The boy learns so much about himself and realizes that maybe his dad really does care. Yes a typical teen boy attitude is portrayed by Aaron the main character in the story and I think that makes him very relatable to kids reading this book. Also by the end of the book he has changed and realized things about himself and changes his attitude/way of thinking about his life. His dad seems to show his son more about who he is as well by the end of the story. This story is full of action that will appeal to the age range it is geared for. Is a read that flows smoothly and is good for even a reluctant reader to enjoy. I think girls and boys who like adventure/survival stories will enjoy this and the older kids might even relate to the lessons the son learns along the way. Kids who like stories about wild animals or even kayaking and camping will like it as well. Only two people on this adventure once it gets going are Aaron and his dad with a few wild animals along the way. The setting in this story makes you feel like you are right there in the wild with them. My kids and I who have read this were not familiar with the part of the country it takes place in so we looked it up to learn more about it thanks to this book. I like that at the end of this book there are discussion questions. These can be used in either a book club setting or a classroom. or even just you and your child to talk about together. Great book for homeschoolers too! The questions really make the child reading the book think more about the lessons that can be learned from this story. I personally think it is neat that this is a father son story written and illustrated by a father and his son.

I didn't realize this was the final part of a trilogy. Except for a few characters that were introduced early on that had me wondering what their connection to this story was, this part reads well on its own. The chapters are short and there's page-turning suspense from page one. Aaron is a cocky 13-year old who gets suspended from school for bringing a Swiss Army knife to school. He had done a few other school violations and says he doesn't understand what the big deal is, showing the

readers that he isn't mature enough to handle responsibility. His parents arrange a deal with the principal and English teacher: he can go with his uncool dad on a kayaking adventure in the Canadian wilderness, but must keep a journal and from that journal write a story. So father and son drive from Northern California 400+ miles north into British Columbia. The (mis)adventure starts on Day One when several small things go wrong and build up. The various incidents happen within seven days and include Mother Nature's revenge: storms, rushing water, cold water, water falls, raw fish, slippery boulders, wet matches...and both father and son fall victim to her. It is how this father-son duo face the challenges together that is the premise of this fast story. Both realize they have a lot more in common than they realized. The backdrop is the imagery of the wilderness. I can feel and smell the cold water, taste the raw fish (yuck!) and hear and smell the bears and wolves. The language is age appropriate. There is no obscenity. Highly recommended for young readers who love the outdoors and have totally uncool dads.

Jonathan London's "Grizzly Peak" is a fast-paced story of Aaron who is expelled from school and it is either an organized survival camp in Montana or survival trip with Dad. He goes with the second option. The survival trip is a 72 mile kayak trip in Canada. It isn't going to be an easy trip as the goal is to help Aaron get out of the stretch of odd behavior that he's found himself in. The story is told from Aaron's point of view which is appropriate for the intended audience. There isn't a lot of over-explaining which I liked. The author has a nice touch with action story telling which isn't easy. Sometimes too much can actually slow a story down but author London does a good job of using the action to keep the pace quick and the story moving forward. Also a plus is the evocative illustrations by Sean London. The illustrations work well with the narrative to give a good visual boost. This was a surprising read for me. It was an entertaining and fast read.

I didn't know this was the final part of a trilogy when I got this but the writing is crisp and clear. Good read but Aaron is a horrid little character. Sadly, I know teen boys are like this and I know my son thinks like this all the time but after three pages reading Aaron's thoughts on his life and how he has it bad, made me want to yank his earbuds off and cancel his cell phone. I also work in a middle school media center so I know a thing or two about snotty hormonal children. But I digress...Aaron has been expelled from school for carrying a Swiss army knife. No doubt if he had not been at the top of the class academic wise and probably more polite, it might have gone better. But the plot moves quickly and Aaron's snottiness falls to the wayside when he goes camping with his father. I don't want to give the plot away but Aaron grows as well as his father. By the end, there isn't

rainbows and unicorns but real dialogue There are also discussion questions should his be part of a reading club or assignment.

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