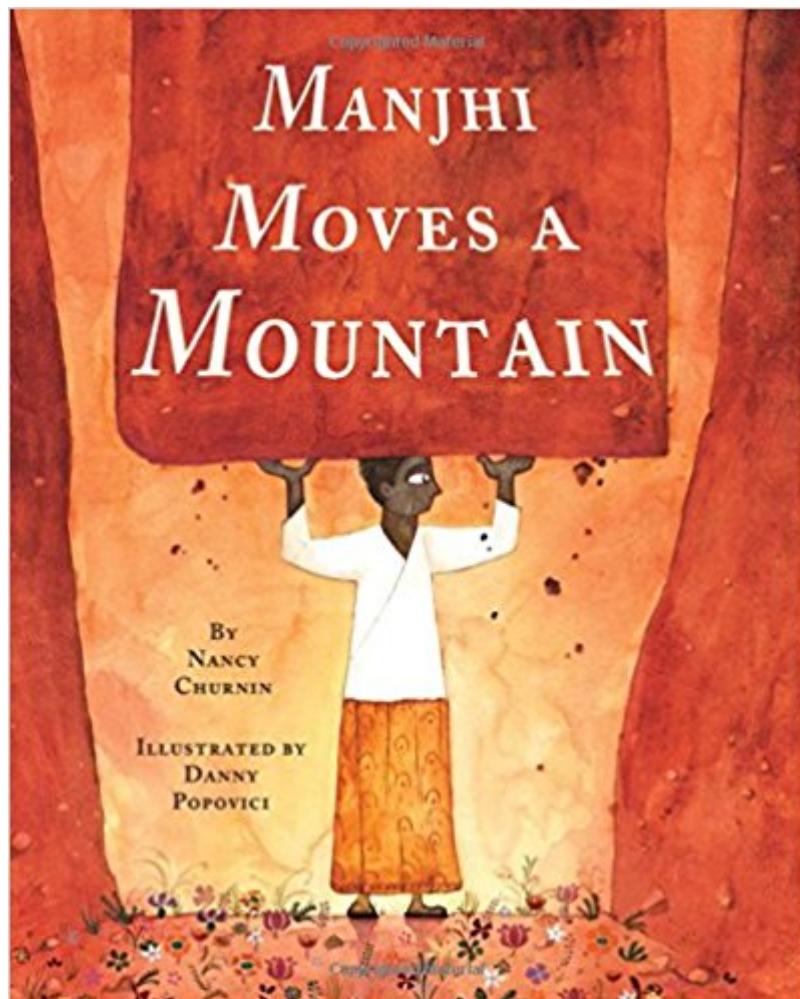


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Manjhi Moves A Mountain



Synopsis

Dashrath Manjhi used a hammer and chisel, grit, determination, and twenty years to carve a path through the mountain separating his poor village from the nearby village with schools, markets, and a hospital. *Manjhi Moves a Mountain* shows how everyone can make a difference if their heart is big enough.

Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 8

Customer Reviews

This true life story of an Indian sage who became revered and known as the Mountain Man is inspiring and moving to young readers age 5 and up. Beautiful earth-toned illustrations depict the mighty work of Manjhi and the awe and respect of his village friends. "*Manjhi Moves a Mountain*" is a true modern treasure and wisdom life story. (MidWest Book Review) I don't review many picture books, so when I do, it's because I really love it. *MANJHI MOVES A MOUNTAIN* is the true story of Dashrath Manjhi who spent twenty-two years carving a road through the mountain between two villages. Using nothing but a hammer and a chisel, he devoted his life to making medical care, clean water, and schools more accessible to his home village in India. Manjhi's story is relevant on so many levels. First, the text is accessible and engaging for young readers. Older children can easily read this story on their own. Second, the illustrations are simple yet really lovely, allowing readers a

glimpse into a world and culture so different than their own and yet with the human needs and emotions we all share. Finally, in this time when diversity in children's literature is hot issue, this book perfectly fills that need. Manjhi did not live hundreds of years ago. He died only in 2007, so his story is a contemporary one. I think it is important that our children learn about people TODAY who are doing great things, who are changing the world, who are making a difference. MANJHI MOVES A MOUNTAIN can be used to motivate children to think of ways they can make a difference in their own families and communities. At first, Manjhi was mocked by his people, but eventually they came to appreciate and revere him. This story can also give children courage to pursue their dreams without fear of what others think of them. This is a story that can be shared again and again, and promises to prompt many thoughtful and inspiring discussions in homes and classrooms across the nation. (Laurisa White Reyes) "Manjhi Moves a Mountain" is an amazing story of dedication, persistence, vision, and steadfast love. It is a true story about a real man named Dashrath Manjhi, who lived in India from 1934 until 2007. Manjhi lived in a remote, poor mountain village, where a mountain divided his poor village from a sister village with water, fertile land, and access to health care and education. People from Manjhi's village had to walk over 36 difficult miles to get to the sister village for access to crops, food, health care, and education, because of the difficult mountain obstacle between. Manjhi could see the differences between the two villages clearly, and he pondered the question of inequality between people at the top of the mountain. He came to a decision after throwing a stone against the mountainside in frustration, watching it dissolve into powder. This was his revelation! From then on, Manjhi spent every possible resource and effort to obtain a hammer and chisel and to use his full strength every day to work at pounding the stone of the mountain to make a road for the people from the poor village to travel to the rich village more easily. The work was hard, and had to be done in addition to the work of growing food and sustaining himself. Manjhi and his hammer became a common sight on the mountain, where he labored every day, chanting to himself, "Hold. Aim. Swing!" Though people told him he was crazy, that he should give up and accept inequality, he continued throughout his life, making slow progress in carving a pathway through the mountain. After 15 years, villagers could see real progress. People began to leave offerings of food, and new tools, to help him on his gigantic, self imposed task. Finally one day that was 22 years after Manjhi first had his vision, the last hammer blow was swung and the pathway that would become a road for everyone was open. Manjhi looked from one village to the other and saw not two villages, but one, "sharing water, hopes, dreams... and a man who had moved a mountain!" This true life story of an Indian sage who became revered and known as the Mountain Man is inspiring and moving to young readers age 5 and up. Beautiful earth-toned

illustrations depict the mighty work of Manjhi and the awe and respect of his village friends. "Manjhi Moves a Mountain" is a true modern treasure and wisdom life story. (Midwest Book Review)Popovici's pen and watercolor illustrations capture this poignant quest beautifully. Popovici deftly employs colors as emotions to capture Manjhi's transformation into a legend. This story will serve as a beacon for children (and adults) looking to make a real difference in their own communities, even in the face of others' disbelief and doubt. Back matter also includes a way for readers to share their own experiences with the author and other readers.

VERDICT A finely illustrated true story to encourage social emotional learning that belongs in most collections. (Colleen Banick School Library Journal)One determined man brings two villages together with a hammer, chisel, and an iron will. Deep in the heart of India, a mighty mountain separates two villages. Manjhi lives on one side, where nothing grows. On the other, rice and wheat flourish. The people there are affluent, while Manjhi's village struggles with hunger. Manjhi climbs to the top of the mountain to ponder this problem. When he throws a stone, it triggers a sprinkle of powder, which gives him an idea. Manjhi trades his trio of goats for a hammer and chisel. Hurrying back to the top of the mountain, he positions the chisel and strikes it with the hammer. Powdered rock and tiny chips spray. He continues until he's exhausted, but he's also filled with hope. Even though people tell him he's "crazy," day after day Manjhi returns to the mountain. After a year, Manjhi is a little stronger, and the hole he has made a little deeper. He perseveres, and when he returns to his task each day notices that others have continued his work. It takes 22 years, but Manjhi lives to see the day that two villages become one, sharing water, hopes, and dreams. Churnin's prose has an elegance appropriate for her inspiring tale, which is based on a true story. Popovich's double-page illustrations use a warm palette and are nicely composed. Heartening. (Kirkus)

"Manjhi's story is an excellent reminder of the power of one person to change the world and bring communities together." (Clare Doornbos Diesel Bookstore)"Manjhi Moves a Mountain inspires children to persevere despite challenges. Using a well-known Indian story, Nancy Churnin gives children valuable insight into another culture in a manner that promotes tolerance and cultural awareness." (Rachel Ball-Phillips Lecturer)We should all have the emotional strength and courage to "move a mountain" like Manjhi. This world would be a better place! (Marla Conn ReadAbility)Manjhi Moves A Mountain uses simple storytelling and quietly joyful illustration to tell a real-life story that also acts as a metaphor. Personal, political and community struggles can be overcome, but only with vision, hard work and time. Manjhi's story is an excellent reminder of the

power of one person to change the world and bring communities together. (Clare Doornbos Clare Doornbos)I love how Manjhi wins people over with only his persistence. Share his feat in this vibrantly painted tale of the spirit and the path to a better life. (Charity McMaster Charity McMaster)The story of Manjhi Moves the Mountain is likely to inspire many children to not grow weary in doing good, and believe that with hard work and persistence, they too, can move mountains. An encouraging story for anyone who is ready to give up! (Dylan Teut Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Director)

Manjhi is a modern day miracle, brought to life by an author who seeks out and develops true stories of inspiration for young children and their parents. This humble Indian hero invested 22 years of his life slowly and methodically digging through a mountain that stood between his community and the resources they desperately need. The water color illustrations are magical and make this powerful story even more accessible to readers. Most importantly, this book inspires children to persevere and overcome the obstacles in their own lives. It's a treasure.

Inspirational, charming., feel-good book that tells a true story and promotes wholesome qualities in children of all ages. Should be required reading(if there could be such a thing) for all reluctant readers and for others who just enjoy reading about an amazing accomplishment.

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