



Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out

By N.C.B.L.A., Various

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“A blue-ribbon choice for family sharing”

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Praise for *Our White House*

An American Library Association Notable Children's Book

An International Reading Association Teachers' Choice

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“Explore the nooks and crannies of American history. . . .

A browser's dream.”

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“Inspired. . . . Dazzling. . . . Entertaining.”

— School Library Journal (starred review)

“If you don't find one of your favorite writers in this book, we'll be surprised.”

— The Washington Post

“If books were measured like elections, this would win in a landslide.”

—USA Today

Conceived and co-created by the National Children's Book and Literary Alliance, this outstanding collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry melds with an equally stunning array of original art to offer a look at America's history through the prism of the White House. Starting with a 1792 call for designers and continuing through the present day, these highly engaging writings and illustrations, expressing varied viewpoints and interwoven with key historical events, are a vital resource for family and classroom sharing — and a stirring reminder that the story of the White House is the story of every American.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Our White House: Looking in, Looking Out is an astounding collection featuring more than 100 award-winning children's book authors and illustrators. It is much more than a history about the home and office of U.S. presidents and their families. Commissioned by the National Children's Book and Literary Alliance, this stunning picture book transcends the bounds of educational textbook, or any particular genre, for that matter. It includes essays by historians and well-known nonfiction writers (like David McCullough), fictional stories, poetry (including a memorable poem about Lincoln and a butterfly by Kate DiCamillo), imagined letters to the president, texts of actual speeches, memoir (including an essay by Linda Johnson Robb about the eerie history of a White House room where she once stayed), transcripts of TV interviews, and clever games such as a "Best in Show" presidential pet contest and a "Who's in the House?" presidential board game. Among the book's most captivating features are the "illustration essays" which feature stories or ideas rendered completely through pictures. Notable examples include David Small's sketch journal "Backstairs at the White House," depicting all the people who work in the house and keep it running, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" speech illustrated by Calef Brown, Peter Sis, Ed Young, and Stephen Alcorn.

Our White House will likely be a favorite of children--and adults--who love presidential trivia, historical facts, and old stories. Children who weren't White House buffs already will surely be drawn into this colorful, fun history of an iconic building that simultaneously tells the story of the United States. (Ages 9 to 12) --Heidi Broadhead

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Eight years in the making, this anthology of White House history convenes an all-star roster of 108 children's authors and illustrators, as well as a few scholars and former White House employees and residents?and it is a blue-ribbon choice for family sharing during an election year. Chronologically ordered, the entries range from poems to presidential speeches, satirical cartoons to stately portraits; despite the talents of the literary contributors (Kate DiCamillo offers a poem about Lincoln's death, Patricia MacLachlan describes Eleanor Roosevelt's rescue of a cat belonging to a young girl), perhaps the most striking writings are those that most closely adhere to the historical record. Barbara Kerley details Thomas Jefferson's passion for paleontology, and M.T. Anderson describes White House ghosts (Churchill, visited by a spectral Lincoln, ?tapped the ash off the end of his cigar and said, 'Good evening, Mr. President. You seem to have me at a disadvantage' ?). But few of the writers create the same impact as the occasional document: Robert Kennedy addresses the nation after Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated, and Richard Nixon bids farewell to the White House staff. (That young readers will react to these documents is in no small part due to the writers' success in establishing the contexts for them.) Among the most provocative entries are works by artists who ?look in? on the White House with a demonstrably personal vision: David Small shares color sketches of ?backstairs at the White House,? a study in contrasts; Bob Kolar arranges the presidents as if on a board game, with clever annotations (who knew President Arthur held a yard sale while in office?); Peter S?s supplies 37 characteristically enigmatic portraits to illustrate freedom to worship. Although a few entries seem formulaic, the volume makes the invaluable point that history does not have to be remote or abstract, but a personal and ongoing engagement.

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From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 3-8—More than 100 authors and illustrators contributed to this wide-ranging collection of short pieces about the First Family residence. Most participants are creators of books for youth,

along with a sprinkling of other figures, such as historian David McCullough, and actual White House occupants. Arranged in general chronological order, the chapters are delightfully varied in form, tone, and subject matter. They include straightforward history, brief essays, personal narratives, and even fantasy, as in Meg Cabot's lighthearted time-travel story. The handsome layout and excellent-quality illustrations provide strong appeal. The pairing of words and art is often inspired, as in Maybelle Mayer's paper doll cutouts from 1938 that accompany Nancy Willard's poem about White House dresses. There are powerful visual moments as well, such as the dazzling series of spreads featuring visual interpretations of Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms," each by a different artist. Many segments convey personal details that humanize the presidential families, such as Virginia Euwer Wolff's introduction to the musical sophistication of the Tafts and Anita Silvey's look at Jackie Kennedy's literary career. Humor plays a role too, as in Steven Kellogg's artistic rendering of an imagined "Best in Show" contest among White House pets. Some readers will progress straight through from Jane Yolen's imagined conversation between John and Abigail Adams to the first National Book Festival in 2001, while others may browse and jump about; either way, this entertaining introduction to the White House is full of fascinating information, challenging ideas, and appealing artwork.—*Steven Engelfried, Multnomah County Library, OR*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ian Coghlan:

The book with title Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to understand how the improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you within new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Barbara Morton:

Typically the book Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. Tom makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

James Smith:

You are able to spend your free time to learn this book this book. This Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out is simple to bring you can read it in the park, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not get much space to bring often the printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you simpler to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Rebecca Goza:

A lot of people said that they feel fed up when they reading a publication. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half areas of the book. You can choose the particular book Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading ability is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the idea about book and looking at especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to available a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out can to be your brand-new friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of these time.

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