



# Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #1: The Mount Rushmore Calamity

*Sara Pennypacker , Jeff Brown (Creator) , Macky Pamintuan (Illustrator)*

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Saddle up with Flat Stanley

Ever since Stanley was flattened by a bulletin board, every trip is an adventure!

The whole Lambchop family is off to see Mount Rushmore. But when Flat Stanley and his brother, Arthur, team up with a scrappy cowgirl named Calamity Jasper, their vacation turns into the Wild West experience of a lifetime. Pretty soon, they find themselves in a real tight spot—even for a flat boy like Stanley!

## Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #1: The Mount Rushmore Calamity Details

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# **From Reader Review Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #1: The Mount Rushmore Calamity for online ebook**

## **Bree says**

I read this today during our read aloud. it was a bit longer than I thought. We typically do 1/2 hour of read aloud. this took 45 minutes. The story itself was okay from an adult's perspective. We have read some really good books in the past so this was below those standards. Some kids liked it but some also feel asleep. 3 stars is kinda high in my opinion.

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## **Karen Dransfield says**

A new series of books with Flat Stanley off having adventures in different places. I became interested in reading this series after reading about the geography activity of kids creating their own Flat Stanley, cardboard cut outs, and posting them far away. The receiver of the letter with the Flat Stanley takes the cardboard cut out and has an adventure with them. Taking photo's of them doing things and they post them back. A great way to learn about new places and write letters to people.

This story is based in the USA near Mount Rushmore. It includes a few interesting true facts. Fun series.

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## **Deanna says**

This series is perfect for K - 1st grade.

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## **Trevor Anderson says**

flat stanley by: sara pennypacker. it is about a boy that is traveling to mount rushmore. and how he got the name flat stanley was because he got flattened by a boliten board so now it is hard for him to travel without flying away.

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## **Christy says**

Saddle up with Flat Stanley!

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**Megan says**

a favorite series of my 7 year old

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**Stephanie Snyder says**

One of our family's favorites.

A fun read.

A great choice for every child's bookshelf.

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**Dawn says**

3.5 stars. Fun book. A few interesting facts, but mostly just a fun story. I don't understand how Stanley turns into a lever though. That would break him even if he was flat.

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**Dree says**

OK, 3.5 stars. A new series of Flat Stanley stories. That are just as meh as the original. I read these out loud to my first grader as bedtime stories (his choice). The writing is so stilted, and am I the only one who really doesn't like Stanley's parents?

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**Young Jin says**

The story line was boring, but suitable for younger children.

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**Connie says**

This is the first Flat Stanley book that I've read. I'm a teacher and I have a student that loves Flat Stanley, so I read it too him as a reward. It's an interesting series. Seems like it would be great for early readers.

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**Kyron J says**

Flat Stanley has gone to Mount Rushmore, and has meet a cowgirl. In the story she said" Good to meet you pardners" When she met them.

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## Heidi Kuipers says

Read to my 7 & 5 year olds. we all enjoyed it. Minimal pictures scattered throughout. Some history, some geography, some humor. Will plan read some more like this.

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## Debbie says

In 1964, Jeff Brown introduced readers to a character named Flat Stanley.

Flat Stanley's name is actually Stanley Lambchop, but a bulletin board fell on him, turning him from a three-dimensional boy into a flat one. Hence, he is called Flat Stanley. Much beloved, Flat Stanley evolved into a very popular project through which schoolchildren draw a Flat Stanley, cut it out, and mail it to friends and family in far off places.

A huge success, Flat Stanley also evolved into a series of early readers. *Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures: The Mount Rushmore Calamity* is one of those readers. In it, Flat Stanley and his family go to Mount Rushmore. While there, they meet a tour guide's daughter. Her name is Calamity Jasper. The interesting thing about Calamity Jasper is what she says about herself on page 48:

"Following tracks isn't a cowboy skill. I'm part Lakota Sioux," Calamity said proudly. "We Native Americans know lots of useful things, like which plants make medicine and how to hunt and..."

See that? She is "part Lakota Sioux." In addition to knowing "useful things" about plants and hunting (can you say STEREOTYPE?), she knows how to send smoke signals (come on, say it again: STEREOTYPE). Course, because Stanley is FLAT, they use him as the blanket to send those smoke signals.

### **The stereotypes are bad, but there's more.**

Calamity Jasper is out looking for gold in a gold mine. A gold mine located in the Black Hills, and she is determined to get some of that gold for herself...

But, let's consider what the Lakota Nation has on its website about the Black Hills:

In 1874 George Armstrong Custer led the U.S. Army Black Hills Expedition, which set out on July 2 from Fort Abraham Lincoln in the Dakota Territory, with orders to travel to the previously uncharted Black Hills of South Dakota. Its mission was to look for suitable locations for a fort, find a route to the southwest, and to investigate the potential for gold mining. His discovery of gold was made public and miners began migrating there illegally.

"Custer's florid descriptions of the mineral and timber resources of the Black Hills, and the

land's suitability for grazing and cultivation ... received wide circulation, and had the effect of creating an intense popular demand for the 'opening' of the Hills for settlement. "Initially the U.S. military tried to turn away trespassing miners and settlers. Eventually President Grant, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of War, "decided that the military should make no further resistance to the occupation of the Black Hills by miners." "These orders were to be enforced "quietly", and the President's decision was to remain "confidential."

As more settlers and gold miners invaded the Black Hills, the Government determined it had to acquire the land from the Sioux, and appointed a commission to negotiate the purchase. The negotiations failed, as the Sioux resisted giving up what they considered sacred land. The U.S. resorted to military force. They declared the Sioux Indians "hostile" for failing to obey an order to return from an off-reservation hunting expedition by a specific date, but in the dead of winter, overland travel was impossible.

The consequent military expedition to remove the Sioux from the Black Hills included an attack on a major encampment of several bands on the Little Bighorn River. Led by General Custer, the attack ended in the overwhelming victory of chiefs Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse over the 7th Cavalry Regiment, a conflict often called Custer's Last Stand.

In 1876 the U.S. Congress decided to open up the Black Hills to development and break up the Great Sioux Reservation. In 1877, it passed an act to make 7.7 million acres (31,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of the Black Hills available for sale to homesteaders and private interests. In 1889 Congress divided the remaining area of Great Sioux Reservation into five separate reservations and defined the boundaries of each in its Act of March 2, 1889, 25 Stat. 888.

With that history in mind, I think portraying a Lakota character as a gold miner is problematic. The author of this story is an outsider to the culture. Realistically, a Lakota child wouldn't be acting like a gold miner. Course, Calamity Jasper is only part Lakota, so, maybe she has no clue about what the Black Hills mean to the Lakota Nation.

At the end of the book, there's a section called "What You Need to Know to Be a Black Hills Gold Miner." I'm guessing this information is what led the reviewer for *School Library Journal* to call the book "educational." Here's what those pages say:

Native Americans have lived in the Black Hills for more than 9000 years. Some Lakota believe the Black Hills are the sacred center of the world.

The Black Hills Gold Rush began in 1874, when Colonel Custer led a thousand men into the western part of South Dakota to investigate reports that the area contained gold. That's the same Custer who later had his Last Stand against Sitting Bull at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

One of the most famous cowgirls of the Black Hills was named Calamity Jane. She was a good friend of the famous lawman Wild Bill Hickock.

Gold was first discovered in the Black Hills just a few miles from where Mount Rushmore was later built.

Some would-be miners get tricked by "fools gold," which looks a lot like the real thing. If you want to tell the difference, try pressing your fingernail into the surface. If it leaves a small indent, you've found gold!

The heads on Mount Rushmore are as tall as a six-story building. If you matched them with bodies, the men with those heads would be three times as tall as the Statue of Liberty.

Some of the individual items the reader needs to know to be a "Black Hills Gold Miner" are odd.

Why would you tell the reader that the Black Hills are sacred to the Lakota people?! You've just read a story about mining for gold and how fun that is, and now you're telling the reader that the gold is on sacred land? I don't get the logic.

How would the story itself be different if the author included the sacred nature of that land within the story? Maybe the author would abandon the project. It is also highly possible that someone within the publishing house, and not the author, wrote the last pages!

Though the reviewer for *School Library Journal* called this book "educational and fun," I beg to differ. Stereotypes are not fun, and I don't think the book is educational, either.

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### **Suzanne Tanner says**

Finished 11/25/16. Josh would probably give this a 4 or 5 star rating. He really enjoyed it, was super intrigued by this idea of a flat boy, and it was at a good level for his comprehension. We will definitely have to visit this series some more.

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