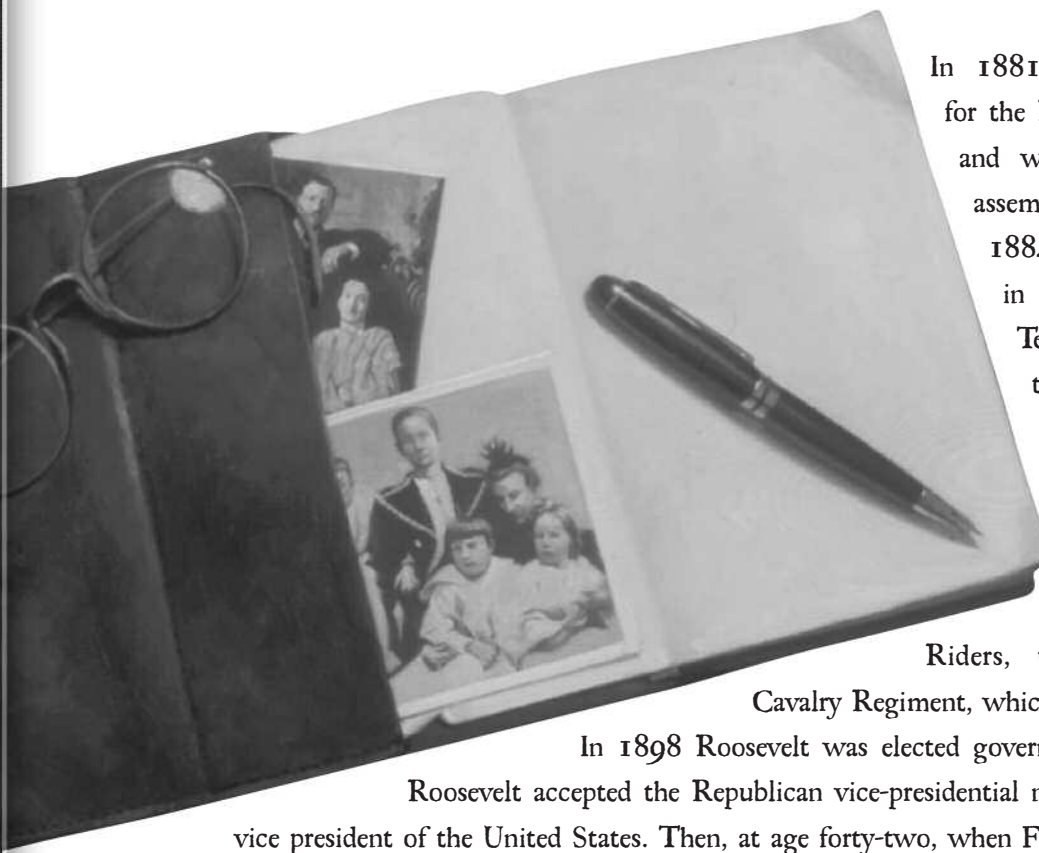


THEODORE

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) was the twenty-sixth president of the United States. He was born in New York City on October 27, 1858, the second of four children of Theodore and Martha Bulloch Roosevelt. Afflicted with asthma and weak eyes as a young boy, Roosevelt did not let his poor health prevent him from learning and being physically fit. After graduating from Harvard in 1880, he married Alice Hathaway Lee of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. She passed away in 1884, leaving one daughter, Alice Lee. Theodore Roosevelt then married Edith Kermit Carow and they had five more children together.



In 1881 Theodore Roosevelt ran for the New York State Legislature and won, holding the office of assemblyman for two terms. In 1884 he purchased a cattle ranch in the badlands of the Dakota Territory, where he lived for two years before returning to New York. There he was defeated in his run for mayor of New York City. Later he organized a group called the Rough Riders, the first U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, which became nationally known.

In 1898 Roosevelt was elected governor of New York. In 1900 Roosevelt accepted the Republican vice-presidential nomination and was elected vice president of the United States. Then, at age forty-two, when Fate intervened and President McKinley was assassinated, Roosevelt became president. During his tenure he saw the construction of the Panama Canal and he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Roosevelt died in his home in Oyster Bay, New York, on January 6, 1919.

THEODORE

FUN FACT SHEET

Did you know that Teddy Roosevelt would sometimes read 2-3 books in one day?
Here are a few fun facts about Teddy ...

- ⇒ TR became the 26th president of the United States when he was promoted from his vice-presidency position after President McKinley died in office. He went on to win a second term on his own right.
 - ⇒ Before TR came to office, the White House wasn't even called the White House! People called the building the President's Palace, President's House, and the Executive Mansion. TR officially named it the White House in 1901.
 - ⇒ TR was one of the nation's first environmentalists, setting aside 190 million acres for national forests, coal and water reserves, and wildlife refuges.
 - ⇒ TR loved to engage family, friends, and visitors in grand storytelling sessions about ghosts and the cowboys whom Roosevelt had known out West.
 - ⇒ The Teddy Bear was named after TR, in reference to the story of his refusal to kill a mother bear while hunting because of the small cub at her side.
 - ⇒ TR oversaw the building of the Panama Canal. Before the Canal, it took people two months to sail from New York to California!
 - ⇒ TR's family had many pets, including dogs, cats, and guinea pigs. Some of the more memorable animals living at the White House included Josiah the badger, Jonathan Edwards the pet bear, Emily Spinach the emerald green snake, Jonathan the piebald rat, and Algonquin, the pony, which TR's children once took into the White House elevator!
- ⇒ TR's children were quite silly; they were known to ride bicycles and roller skates though the White House, and once dropped water balloons on the heads of White House guards!
 - ⇒ TR was the first American citizen to win the Nobel Prize.
 - ⇒ TR was the first American president to ride in an airplane.
 - ⇒ TR was the first president to ride in a submarine. It was called the U.S.S. Plunger.
 - ⇒ TR coined the famous line, "speak softly and carry a big stick" as he said that a powerful leader must be willing to use force when necessary while practicing the art of persuasion.



THEODORE

IF YOU COULD TELL TEDDY ROOSEVELT . . .

Theodore Roosevelt served during an exciting era of activity, change, and invention. After all, he was the first American president to ride in an airplane! If TR were to visit us in the 21st century, he would certainly be amazed at how far the world has come. If you could show Mr. Roosevelt three inventions created since his time, which would you choose to share? In what ways would your choices grab the attention of Theodore Roosevelt?

WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO BE NEXT?

Imagine that you were asked to select the next president to be sculpted at the monument on Mount Rushmore. Who do you think deserves to be honored beside Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln? Write a brief essay defending your choice.

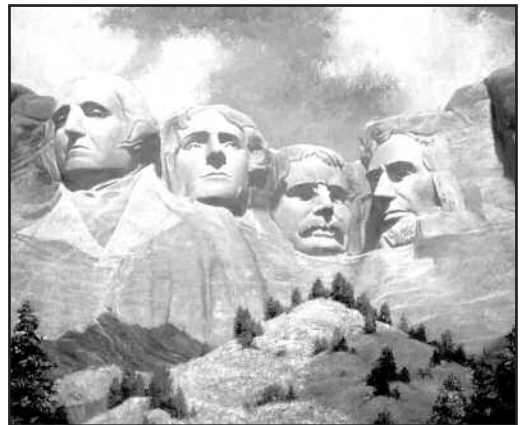


Illustration © 2006 by Mike Wimmer

THEODORE

Dear Reader,

A children's book, especially a biography, serves a pretty simple purpose; to educate and stimulate young readers, to engage their imaginations and to provide valuable life lessons. Theodore, the story of Theodore Roosevelt does just that.

Young people need to realize that in this society, they can do great things. And for the sake of tomorrow, they must do great things. If not they, then who will? Roosevelt was a special example. Plagued by bad health and worse eyesight, he made his body and he expanded his mind to be perhaps our only scholar President (author of 35 books) and a tough, knot-hardened exemplar of the American west. When his health and his career pulled him down, by sheer force of will, he overcame both and exploded upon the national stage. He overpowered everything and everyone around him. His was an incredible life that happened because he made it happen.

Today's children need to know that.

Helping to tell the inspiring story of Theodore Roosevelt are the remarkable illustrations by Mike Wimmer. Mike is a fellow Oklahoman who brings the Roosevelt story to life with amazing clarity and color. Mike is nothing short of a modern day Norman Rockwell.

Roosevelt would be proud that his robust example would educate and inspire nearly ninety years after his death.

Enjoy!



Frank Keating

