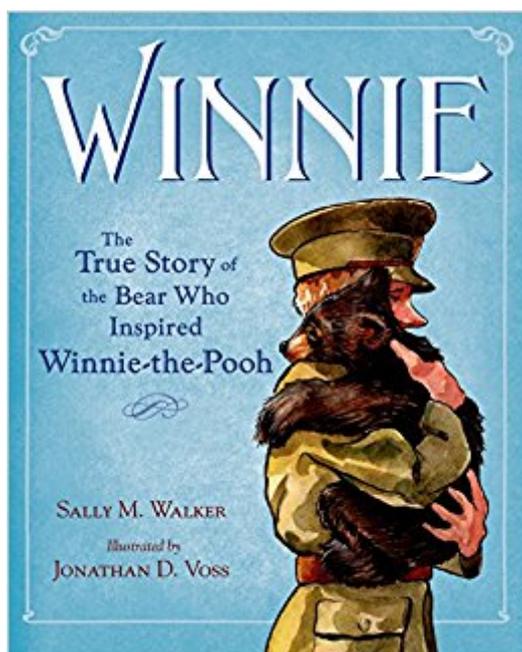


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# Winnie: The True Story Of The Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh



## Synopsis

Who could care for a bear? When Harry Colebourn saw a baby bear for sale at the train station, he knew he could care for it. Harry was a veterinarian. But he was also a soldier in training for World War I. Harry named the bear Winnie, short for Winnipeg, his company's home town, and he brought her along to the training camp in England. Winnie followed Harry everywhere and slept under his cot every night. Before long, she became the regiment's much-loved mascot. But who could care for the bear when Harry had to go to the battleground in France? Harry found just the right place for Winnie while he was away -- the London Zoo. There a little boy named Christopher Robin came along and played with Winnie -- he could care for this bear too! Sally Walker's heartwarming story, paired with Jonathan Voss's evocative illustrations, brings to life the story of the real bear who inspired Winnie the Pooh.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 540 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); First Edition edition (January 20, 2015)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0805097153

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.4 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 102 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #40,428 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary](#) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars](#) #42 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Zoos](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

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A statue of Harry and Winnie at the London Zoo. (Photo Credit: Sally M. Walker) [View larger](#)

Author's Note When Harry bought Winnie at the White River train station in Ontario,

Canada, she was six to seven months old. Winnie died on May 12, 1934 at the age of twenty. News of her death and her connection to Winnie-the-Pooh were reported in newspapers in England, Canada, and the United States. Winnie-the-Pooh, by A.A. Milne, was published in 1926; a sequel, *The House at Pooh Corner*, came out in 1928. Milne also wrote two books of poetry in which Winnie-the-Pooh appears: *When We Were Very Young* (1924) and *Now We Are Six* (1927). According to Milne, Christopher Robin gave the name "Pooh" to a swan he once knew. When the swan flew off and made its home elsewhere, the name remained behind, unused. Therefore, it was available to combine with "Winnie" when Christopher Robin needed it.

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•Readers will be captivated by this picture book account of the bear who inspired the "Winnie-the-Pooh" series. Walker tells the story of Harry Colebourn, a World War I soldier who came upon a man selling a baby bear at a train station (he had shot the cub's mother) and decided to adopt the animal. A veterinarian, Colebourn quickly became attached to the little bear he named Winnie (short for Winnipeg, Manitoba, Colebourn's company's hometown), who accompanied the soldier to a training camp in Quebec and became a favorite of the entire regiment. Winnie even went with the company to England when more soldiers were needed across the Atlantic. When Colebourn was sent into battle, he took Winnie to the London Zoo, where she was so gentle and tame that zookeepers sometimes let children ride on her back. There, Milne's young son, Christopher Robin, met her and fell in love, motivating Milne to pen the "Winnie-the-Pooh" books. Sweet, realistic illustrations, rendered in watercolor with pen and ink, lend the work an old-fashioned air, while a simple but gentle narrative provides readers with a sense of the emotional connection between Winnie and Colebourn. Back matter offers brief material on Colebourn, Winnie, black bears in general, and Milne's writings, as well as photographs of Winnie and Christopher Robin. Children will enjoy this interesting insight into the real story behind a beloved bear they already know so well.  
•April Sanders, Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL

Praise for "Blizzard of Glass" An ALA Notable Children's Book\* "Riveting." --"Kirkus Reviews," starred review  
"Why haven't children heard this story before?" --"The New York Times Book Review"  
"[Walker's] consummate gifts as a storyteller . . . breathe life into the tale." --"The Horn Book"  
"This tragic but well-told story belongs in most collections." --"School Library Journal"  
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As a substitute teacher, I carry the book in my school bag to read to students when there is "gap" time. The first time I read it was to 2nd graders. When I finished reading, I asked them if they liked it. All nodded but one shook her head and said, "I didn't like it: I loved it!" Third graders, 1st grade students, even fifth graders were delighted. High praise.Great way to tie fiction and non-fiction together and throw in some geography and history, too.

Love, love, love the story, the illustrations, and the whole idea that the story is based on truth! The end pages have prints of the real "Winnie" bear and Christopher Robin--very cool stuff.

Touchingly and beautifully illustrated and written, "Winnie" shows the bonds between animals and humans, in the form of a baby bear who responded with love to the soldier who rescued her and to the regiment whose mascot she became. A legend from her days at the London Zoo, Winnie never forgot "her" soldier, who made certain she enjoyed a happy, safe life. Children and adults alike will love this book.

I love the illustrations in this book, as well as the story behind Winnie-the-Pooh. My grandsons enjoy this book, the story, and the illustrations. It also includes some fascinating historical photos.

Another version of the Winnie the Pooh true story of the soldier who cared for this bear cub. I have read it twice and love the story. Can't wait to continue to share with my Grand children

My daughter loves this book because it has Winnie, who was originally a female bear, and a train. The pictures are much better looking than the other book about Winnie, and I really like the historical photos.

This is a most fascinating story. Have read the series to all my many grands. But a bunch of them (the great readers) are getting this book even tho they are older. So fun and different! I am almost 80 and had never run across this book before ! Thank u!!

This is an adorable book of the Real Winnie the Pooh. I ordered four different books by various authors. I liked this one best for children. Sweet

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