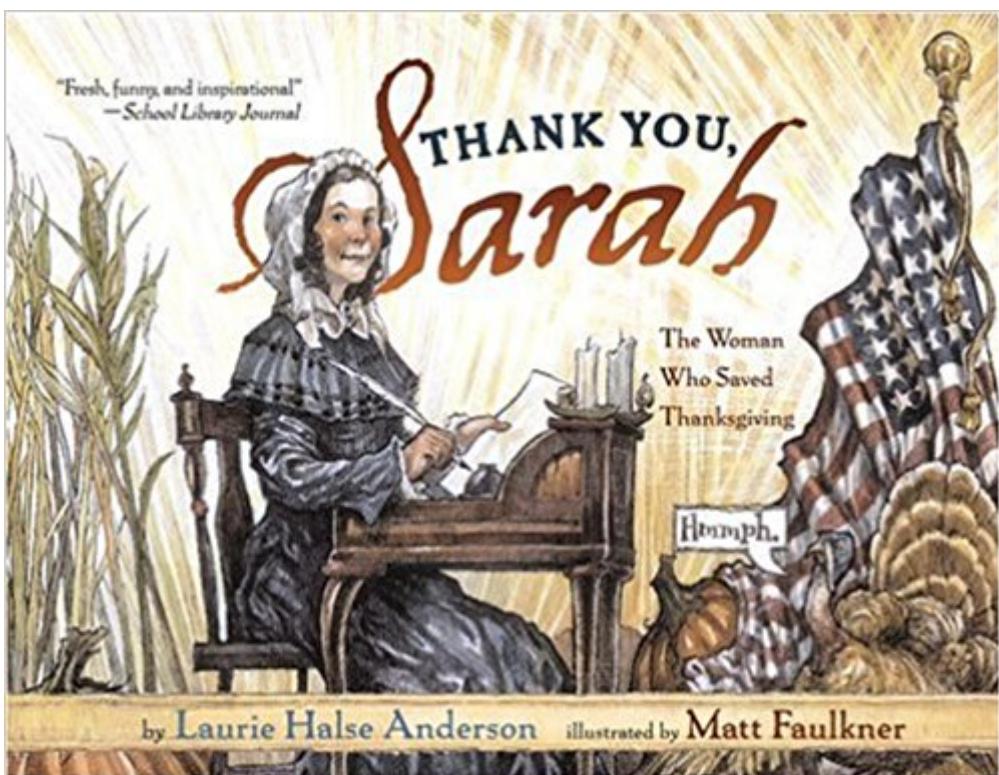


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# Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving



## Synopsis

From the author of *Speak* and *Fever*, 1793, comes the never-before-told tale of Sarah Josepha Hale, the extraordinary "lady editor" who made Thanksgiving a national holiday! Thanksgiving might have started with a jubilant feast on Plymouth's shore. But by the 1800s America's observance was waning. None of the presidents nor Congress sought to revive the holiday. And so one invincible "lady editor" name Sarah Hale took it upon herself to rewrite the recipe for Thanksgiving as we know it today. This is an inspirational, historical, all-out boisterous tale about perseverance and belief: In 1863 Hale's thirty-five years of petitioning and orations got Abraham Lincoln thinking. He signed the Thanksgiving Proclamation that very year, declaring it a national holiday. This story is a tribute to Hale, her fellow campaigners, and to the amendable government that affords citizens the power to make the world a better place!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD350L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.2 x 8.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 55 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #301,352 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #122 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Thanksgiving #156 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > Customs, Traditions, Anthropology #195 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This tale of a little-known historical heroine touts the power of the pen and persistence. With an irreverent tone ("You think you know everything about Thanksgiving, don't you?") and caricatures that play up past Americans' laissez-faire attitude, Anderson (*Speak*) and Faulkner (*The Amazing Voyage of Jackie Grace*) chart the progress of Sarah Hale, whose relentless letters and 38 years of

petitioning presidents, secured Thanksgiving's status as a national holiday. A hilarious spread of presidents Taylor and Filmore passing the buck to Pierce (Lincoln finally makes the day official in 1863) typifies the balance of humor and history in this snappy volume. An afterword offers additional delectable facts (e.g., FDR tried moving up the holiday in 1939 and '40 to extend the holiday shopping season; Hale also wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb"). Ages 5-10. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 1-4-Anderson turns a little-known historical tidbit into a fresh, funny, and inspirational alternative to the standard Thanksgiving stories. Alarmed that the observance was dying out since many states did not observe it at all and those that did had no agreement as to date, Sarah Hale began 38 years of letter writing in support of making it a national holiday. Ignored or refused by administration after administration, she persisted until at last, President Lincoln, possibly persuaded by her argument that it would help to reunite the union, declared the fourth Thursday in November as a national holiday in 1863. The writing sparkles and is well matched by the spirited and irreverent caricatures (including Native people and pilgrims with feathers in their headbands and hats). Lively and provocative sentences involve readers. Anderson doesn't state the facts; she reveals them, unveils them, and celebrates them, and her text certainly shows that persistence and eloquence can succeed. Faulkner takes every opportunity to provide visual humor. He draws Sarah and other ladies storming the doors of the state house with a giant quill pen as a battering ram. His busts of recalcitrant presidents and his graphic depiction of the "other things" President Buchanan had "on his mind" convey complex historical concepts while adding to the humorous tone of the book. A "Feast of Facts" gives more information on Thanksgiving, Hale, and the year 1863, and ends with the exhortation: "Pick up your pen. Change the world."-Louise L. Sherman, formerly at Anna C. Scott School, Leonia, NJCopyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Disappointed in this book after so many high recommendations on and elsewhere. It has an inconsistent feel to it or something - the story is written for 5-8 year olds, but the art is aimed at teens to adult. My kids just didn't get some of the pictures. The art is very caricature - meaning really distorted human figures, and my 5 year old daughter found it creepy, especially on the faces of some of the presidents. I liked the story and it made my son comment that he wanted to learn to write. But I really did not care for the art at all....

"Thank You Sarah--the Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving" is delightfully written children's historical picture book about a little known chapter of American history dealing with our national holiday of Thanksgiving. The author writes in a very entertaining way which is almost comical at times. Children will find the book easy to read and of high interest. Each page in the book is beautifully illustrated with much detail and at times adds humor to the story. This book, available in paperback and hardback, is suggested for ages 5 to 10 but all ages would enjoy reading it. This is the true story of Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, who spent 38 years of her life writing letters and campaigning for the establishment of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Most students and adults will not remember Sarah Hale for her most important accomplishment -- making Thanksgiving a national holiday, but will remember her for a less important event in her life. Sarah was a teacher and one day a lamb followed one of her students to school and waited outside the schoolhouse for its owner all day. Sarah wrote a poem about the incident and entitled it "Mary Had A Little Lamb" which became one of the most popular nursery rhymes and songs in America. In this book you will learn about perseverance, standing up for what you believe, and that "grass roots" movements can become successful. The author, Laurie Halse Anderson, is a rare individual who can capture historical events and write them in a style that captivates elementary school kids' attentions. This book not only documents Sarah Hale's efforts through 38 years of campaigning for a National Holiday of Thanksgiving, but includes many of the historical events during this same time period. At the end of this very entertaining book, there are four pages of a "Feast of Facts" about Sarah Hale, her life, the history of Thanksgiving, Vintage America, the Civil War, and the importance of letter writing and political activism. Just when you thought you knew everything about Thanksgiving, this book reveals the true story of how Thanksgiving became a national holiday in a very enjoyable and delightful way.

Gave to grandkids as gift.

I read this to my fifth grade students every year. Someone would always ask, "Is this true?" And then a wonderful discussion always followed about why they were only told about Indians and pilgrims. As one student said, "It's cool to know that the lady who wrote Mary Had a Little Lamb got President Lincoln's ear followed by an executive order giving us Thanksgiving." Yep. He was that precocious.

Absolutely LOVE this book!!! Students loved it too... they really got into the story as I read it &

actually cheered at the end of the book!

The illustrations are amazing and the story is well told. I've read other, much more boring versions, and I prefer this one. It tackles a lot of history in the end notes, but still a great book.

Fabulous book about Thanksgiving and a story well told about the woman behind the scenes. Illustrations are fabulous.

I would recommend it to anyone trying to explain Thanksgiving to young children. This was used in an education class in a History Museum.

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