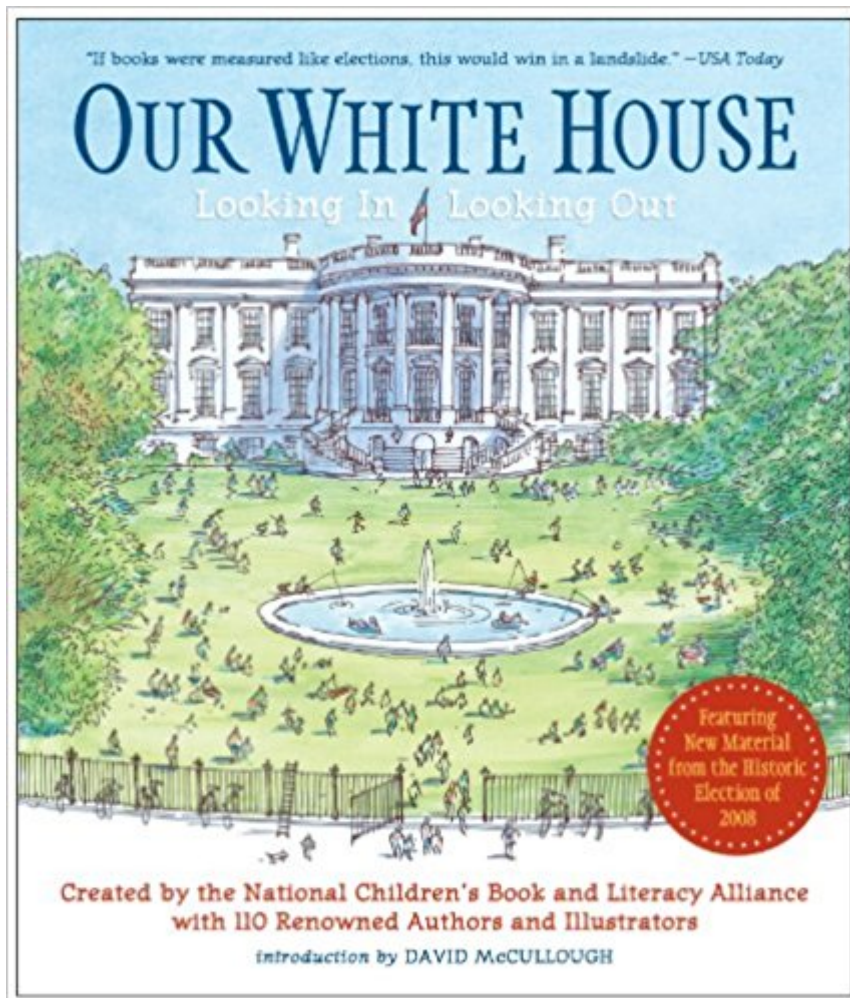




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# Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out



## Synopsis

“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 A National Council for the Social Studies Notable Trade Book for Young People A National Endowment for the Humanities We the People Bookshelf Selection “Explore the nooks and crannies of American history. . . . A browser’s dream.” • The Horn Book (starred review) “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.

## Book Information

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History > United States

## Customer Reviews

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 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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. 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. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A great book for younger grade school children. It introduces them to the White House in words and pictures that will be of interest to them. It tells stories about the White House and folks who lived in it that you will never hear on the Nightly News. It speaks of the first residents, Jefferson's garden, The White House Cow, High Sprits In The Lincoln White House, America's Wilderness and over 100 essays, short stories, illustrations, Presidential Letters, etc. Even adults will find these stories refreshing. The art work will appeal to the younger generations. A good book to have in your child's collection. They will read it time and time again.

Love this book. So many stories that are not told in history books. I love that there are different authors...there is a fresh approach and different writing style to each and every story. With the 2016 elections...it is the perfect time to read the White House history!

Arrived sooner than predicted. Very nice hardcover book with great illustrations. Good for an adult to read with a child/older child to talk about US history.

Kids like the short stories by authors they know and they are interesting for adults.

I'm from Brazil, and bought this book because Meg Cabot wrote a short with Samantha Madison, the All American Girl's main character. I really enjoy it mostly for getting to know other country's history, for the graphical art that is beautiful and the money was donate to charity, wich is really cool.

This is one of my favorite classroom books because it includes several different genres about several different topics, written by several gifted authors. Love.

I found this book quite lovely but short on real pictures. The only true pictures are those of two republicans! The writing is okay, but not great.

Quick and easy read of History in the White House - both adults & kids will pick it up and just pick a story...

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