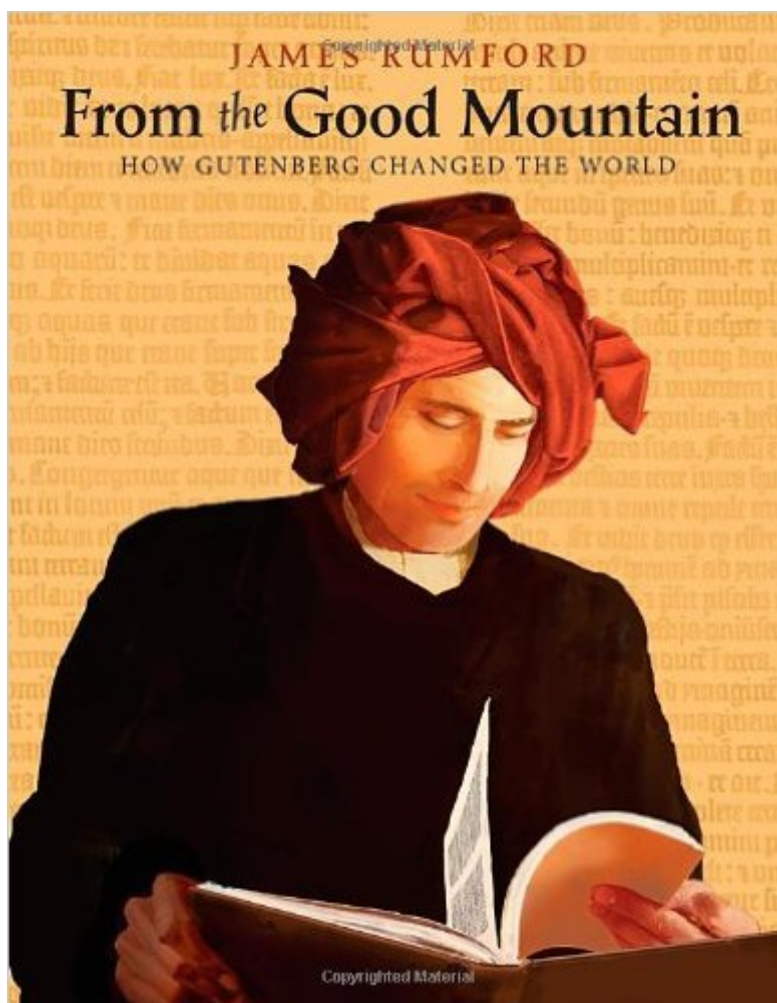


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# From The Good Mountain: How Gutenberg Changed The World



## Synopsis

What was made of rags and bones, soot and seeds? What took a mountain to make? For the answer, travel back to the fifteenth century to a time when books were made by hand and a man named Johannes Gutenberg invented a way to print books with movable type. Written as a series of riddles and illustrated in the style of medieval manuscripts by an award-winning author and artist, *From the Good Mountain* will intrigue readers of all ages. On every page there is something surprising to learn about how the very thing you are holding in your hands came to be.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 36 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

The book, *From the Good Mountain* by James Rumford is a beautifully written and illustrated book. It is a book that children and adults would enjoy reading. The illustrations are beautifully done with such special details showing how the written word was developed by Gutenberg. You get accurate information on how this was done and James Rumford made it interesting and informative. It gave the reader great knowledge about a very important person in the book world, but made it fun and fascinating to read. The book had a unique way of teaching you about the written word and Gutenberg. I would highly recommend this book for adults and children. I hope James Rumford continues to illustrate and write books like this for all of us to enjoy in the future.

Every aspect of this book, from illustration to prose to font selection is a pure work of art. One is left in total awe, admiring not only the power of beauty and the beauty of this books, but so too the awesomeness of books as such. Most people do not know how much thought and care goes into creating a high quality book, and this is no exception. It is exceptionally executed and I hope it finds its way into many homes...it is a treasure worth reading over and again.

This just stopped me cold, and I read hundreds of children's books every year. I would love to own one of these illustrations! It's an awe-inspiring, spectacularly good look at Gutenberg, with incredible illustrations. I made my husband read it and then he started explaining to me why it is so wonderful. A treasure.

The story begins, "It was made of rags and bones, soot and seeds. It wore a dark brown coat and was filled with gold. It took lead and tin, strong oak and a mountain to make it. What was it?" The whole process of the first book is then told, from how the paper was made, to how the printing press was constructed, and how the pages were sewn together. You really get a sense of the time and energy it took to make a book. Although it was not a simple process, it did make books easier to publish and eventually made reading a skill available to even the poorest of people. The book begins with a portrait of the city of Mainz, Germany, where the first book was printed, and ends with the same scene lit by a rosy dawn. The watercolor painting is gorgeous. Much of the action takes place in margins. The characters are beautifully painted anonymous workers all contributing to the production of the mysterious book. On every page there is something surprising to learn about how a book is made. People are busily boiling rags and bones, processing ink, pressing paper. Medieval times come to life with dirt and glory. Children work along side their mothers, ladies hold their noses against the smell of the tannery. There is a lovely vignette of an African boy panning for gold for the gilding process. Another scene shows children begging as workers troop by with printing supplies. The overall feel is active excitement as people work together to make this marvelous new thing. It's an absolutely delightful book and a visual treat for anyone who loves art, books or a history. The writing is crisp and rhythmic, and is fun to read out loud. I enjoyed the way each new page spread answered a question from the previous page. It held the attention of my 5-8 year old audience, and the illustrations were great for prompting questions. But I think I liked it best.

Others have mentioned the pure beauty of Rumford's illustrations, which he spent years on. I want

to point how Gutenberg's invention truly opened up the world of knowledge outside the monastery and the royal palace for the first time. This is important for young students to know. This supremely creative book is mentally stimulating, showing every step of the processes mentioned in the text in painstaking detail and asking great questions of the reader. I could pore over these pictures for hours and keep learning new things. Amazing what a great "biography" Rumford has created considering how little is known about Gutenberg's life. A treat for all ages.

Delightful book, nice presentation. Ideal introduction for youngsters about Gutenberg's contribution to the history of books. Beautifully and imaginatively illustrated. R. May

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