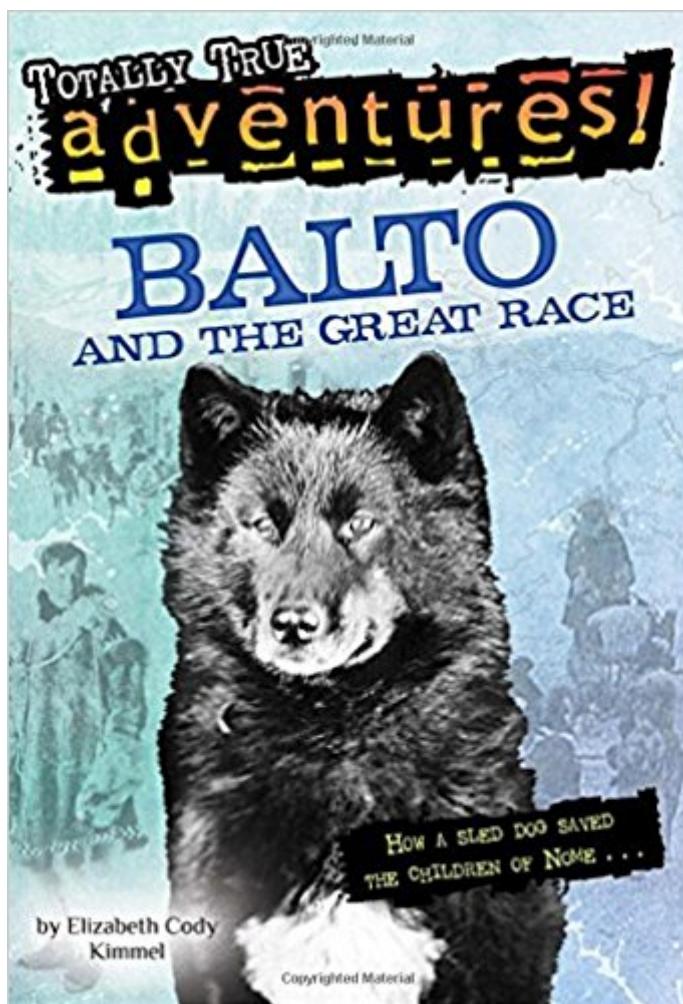


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# Balto And The Great Race (Stepping Stone)



## **Synopsis**

Balto has a quiet life as a sled dog—until tragedy strikes. Dozens of children in Nome become sick with diphtheria. Without antitoxin serum, they will perish—and the closest supply is 650 miles away! The only way to get the serum to Nome is by sled, but can the dogs deliver it in time? Heading bravely into a brutal blizzard, Balto leads the race for life. A Kansas City Children's Book Award for Grades 1–3

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Series: Totally True Adventures

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; 1st Printing edition (December 21, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679891986

ISBN-13: 978-0679891987

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.3 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #129,725 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Polar Regions #46 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > State & Local #126 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 3-5-Kimmel presents the legendary story of the part-husky/part-wolf sled dog that braved severe blizzard conditions to take antitoxin serum to a remote Alaskan village in 1925. When the town was stricken by a diphtheria epidemic, Balto overcame unbelievable obstacles to accomplish what other dogs could not. This heroic canine has been immortalized in statue, film, and now in a book that brings his story to life. Kimmel's writing deftly combines geography, sled racing, and historical background with the gripping adventure of Balto's race to save lives. In many ways, the book reads like fast-paced fiction. Koerber's serviceable black-and-white illustrations appear throughout and reflect the action. Sure to appeal to beginning chapter-book readers. Christy Norris

paper 0-679-89198-6 This Stepping Stone entry takes on the story of Balto, which, in its facts, is thrilling: a Siberian husky becomes lead dog on his team and tracks through a raging blizzard to bring desperately needed antitoxin serum to Nome in 1925. Kimmel (Ice Story, p. 66, etc.) explains how dangerous diphtheria was at the time, how isolated Nome was, and how severe the weather condition, but the telling is often mired in awkward metaphors and repetition. Emily Morgan, the nurse who worked beside Dr. Curtis Welch in Nome, isn't mentioned until halfway through the book. Anthropomorphic analysis of Balto's ``feelings'' and ``thoughts'' are included, detracting from the tale for all but the most fanatical of dog-lovers. (b&w illustrations, not seen) (Nonfiction, ages 8-11) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

As described -- fast shipping -- thank you!!

This is a really interesting book. I am currently reading it with a group of my fourth graders. The vocabulary is difficult for them, but it is well-written. It is an exciting read. The chapters are short, which is good for my squirrelly readers. Teachers would benefit from checking out "Teachers Pay Teachers" for some of the units our fellow colleagues have put together to coincide with the reading of this book.

As Balto and the Great Race was being read in our daughter's 3rd grade reading class, my wife decided to purchase the book to reinforce her efforts at home. It's a quick read and took just over an hour to finish while taking turns reading passages/chapters aloud. Displaying courage, determination, and complete trust in one another to persevere against great odds in their efforts to save the many people of Nome, Alaska who were stricken with diphtheria, Balto and the Great Race symbolizes the American Spirit at its best. We'd all highly recommend this book to anyone who may be facing adversity in life to show what can happen when people push through events they don't believe they can.

great story to share with your kids

I take my Therapy dog "Brandy" to Puppy Pals at a local school. Kindergarten through 2nd or 3rd

grade children read to all our dogs one on one. This encourages them to read more. Purchased "Balto and the Great Race" several years ago to read to a 2nd grade class with our dog "Brandy" on Dr. Seuss Birthday & all the children loved it.. Then I read the same book to our 6 yr old Granddaughter, who also loved it. She took it home with her when we last saw her..

By Rowan, age 6 We really enjoyed this book! I hope you do too, and we've learned dog sled teams really can be strong. By Anastasia, age 5 We didn't just like this story, we loved this story.

This book was read by a third grade reading group. It was a good introduction to the Iditarod sled race held annually in Alaska. However, after doing more research and reading, the Balto story is more of a folk tale.....since other dogs also played a part in the historical race to deliver diphtheria serum so many years ago.

Great overview of the relay and the challenges faced in 1925. The post-race story and Balto's journey to Cleveland and finally the Cleveland Museum of Natural History is filled with hope.

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