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Wernher Von Braun: Space Visionary And Rocket Engineer (Makers Of Modern Science)



Synopsis

This biography series, aimed at young adults, profiles important modern-era scientists. The volumes focus on the lives of those men and women who, in the 19th and 20th centuries, made the greatest contributions to scientific knowledge. Each book looks at a scientist - or group of scientists - whose work had a major impact on a particular field. In simple prose, free of technical jargon, each scientist's achievements are discussed, including the scientific principles underlying his or her work. The human drama of scientific work, conveying the excitement and frustration of research, as well as the exhilaration and rewards of discovery, are also depicted. This work provides a profile of Werner von Braun, the designer of rocket engines who developed the V2 rocket (1938) and went on to play a major role in America's first success in space, the satellite "Explorer I", in 1958.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

This was an interesting book. I probably would not have read this book if my great-grandfather wasn't a member of von Braun's rocket team that came over from Germany. I learned a lot about World WarII from this book. I even learned a little about rocket propulsion(how a rocket goes).

This is a very good book that covers the life of Dr. Wernher von Braun without getting too deep in

details. The book is a quick read at about 130 pages but you still get a good overall view of von Braun's life. The best part of the book is where the authors cover the years before von Braun became involved with NASA. They do not shy away from his involvement with the German SS and the problems he faced from his past after he moved to the United States, yet they do not paint him as a war criminal as some have attempted to do. This book sites sources and contains a glossary and is well indexed. There are a few technical and editing mistakes (the Apollo-Soyuz mission did not take place in 1957 as stated on page 117, nor were Saturn rockets used for any Gemini missions as stated on page 104), but these problems do not override the main thrust of the book. If you have heard of Dr. von Braun and have wanted to know more, this is a great introduction to the man and his interesting life.

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