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Diane Stanley

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Diane Stanley : *Roughing it on the Oregon Trail (The time-traveling twins)* before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Roughing it on the Oregon Trail (The time-traveling twins)*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. RecommendBy BessyMy first grade grandson got such an interest about the Oregon Trail when first hearing about it. We found this book and he has loved reading about the details0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent historical fiction.By John FisherFun read with good facts, great pictures and my six year old said "I love it"And wants to read the other books by this author.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fun bookBy HeidiWe read *Roughing It on the Oregon Trail* by Diane Stanley. 2 twins stay with their grandmother and get to go back in time to meet some relatives and travel on the Oregon Trail. A little along the lines as the Magic Tree House books but this one is a picture book. It really was very interesting and I even learned some things I did not know. Recommended for ages 5-10 years.

What if you could close your eyes and open them to find you were amongst hundreds of pioneers in 1843, packing up your covered wagon to travel the 2,000 miles of the Oregon Trail? Meet twins Liz and Lenny and their unique grandmother, who, with the help of her magic hat, can transport the twins to any time in history. In their first journey, the twins spend eight months crossing the country on foot and by covered wagon, braving the mountain ranges and river valleys, battling floods and droughts, and cooking slam-johns and sowbellies over buffalo chips.Diane Stanley's spirited, humorous, and historically accurate depiction of day-to-day life on the Oregon Trail is brought to life with

Holly Berry's energetic illustrations. Overflowing with fun, informative details, and word balloons that capture each piece of dialogue, young readers will be transported into an exciting page in American history alongside the adventurous Time-Traveling Twins. Children's Pick of the Lists 2000 (ABA) and Children's Books 2000-NY Public Lib.

From Publishers Weekly Stanley (Peter the Great) launches a new historical picture book series about the Time Traveling Twins. Red-haired brother and sister Lenny and Liz. Left with Grandma while their parents vacation in Paris, the twins soon strike out on an adventure of their own when Grandma whips out her magic hat and whisks them back to 1843. There they meet up with ancestors traveling the Oregon Trail. Stanley serves up a lively blend of fact and fiction as she recounts their journey, shoe-horning in information on everything from the rigors of the terrain and weather to trail food ("slam-johns and sowbelly," or pancakes and bacon) and prairie fuel (buffalo chips), as well as citing relevant milestones such as the Panic of 1837 and the Louisiana Purchase. Berry (Market Day) adheres to authentic details in her sprightly cartoon-like illustrations, and she accommodates a balanced mix of straightforward text and speech bubbles that allow Grandma to provide some context (e.g., how Native Americans were affected by the Westward movement). The twins' modern perspective offers generous dollops of humor (a pioneer girl boasts that her doll, Jenny, "even has a second dress!" to which Liz replies, "I have a doll named Barbie, and she has lots of clothes!"). Berry makes use of every inch of space, alternating broad vistas with smaller panels (one series shows how the cooking was done), and the endpapers contrast the Oregon Trail in 1843 to its present-day appearance. Given this altogether appealing, highly useful introduction to an important slice of American history, readers will likely be eager to follow the twins on their next excursion. Ages 5-10. (May) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Grade 2-5-Not as comic or as busy as Joanna Cole's "Magic School Bus" tutorials (Scholastic), this initial series entry is gently informative. Twins Liz and Lenny's vacation to their grandmother's house becomes an adventure when Grandma dons her magic hat and they (along with her amusing pup, Moose) travel back to 1843 when their ancestors left Missouri and headed to Oregon on a wagon train. The siblings' narrative describing their journey is enlivened by numerous dialogue balloons and tells of their virtual months of eating bacon and beans, encountering buffalo and friendly Indians, and making sacrifices like leaving heavy heirlooms along the trail. Historical tidbits like the Panic of 1837 are mentioned and keep the story focused and useful as a curriculum supplement. Two-page spreads feature single, double, triptych, or even larger split-page groups of folksy, colored-pencil illustrations depicting prairie landscapes and stiff, simply drawn, cartoonlike pioneers and Indians. Overall, an engaging trip and a painless history lesson. John Sigwald, Unger Memorial Library, Plainview, TX Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Aided by their grandmother's magic hat, twins Lenny and Liz and their grandmother travel back in time to 1843 to join a relative and her family on the Oregon Trail. The main text, narrated by one of the twins, (we never know who, which makes the book as appealing to boys as to girls) describes the experiences--seeing buffalo, fording rivers, meeting Indians on their own journey. Although the balloon dialogue makes the book hard to read aloud, it fills in background, expresses characters' feelings, and addresses things children often ask about: How do the travelers know where to go if there's no road to follow? Why did the Native Americans and settlers start killing one another? The illustrations, though very busy and rather sweet for the subject, are pleasant and colorful. Often comprising several small pictures that show different or related scenes, the artwork extends the text with details that are fairly generic, but plentiful enough to keep children entertained. The endpapers are maps of the trail, past and present. The jacket label, "The Time-Traveling Twins," seems to indicate adventures to come. Stephanie Zvirin