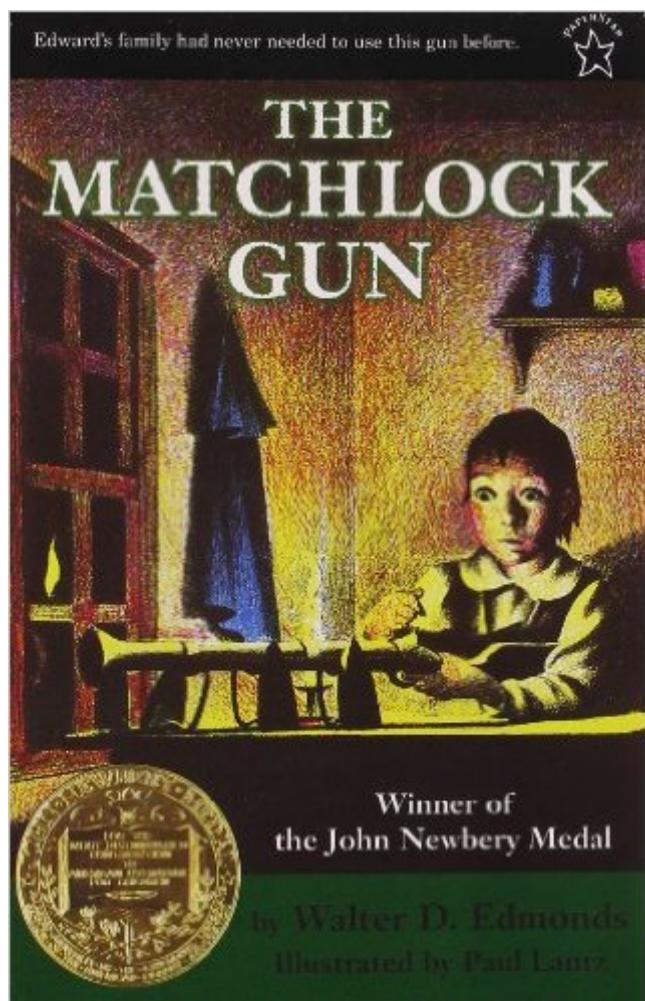


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# The Matchlock Gun



## Synopsis

A Newbery Medal WinnerIn 1756, New York State was still a British colony, and the French and the Indians were constant threats to Edward and his family. When his father was called away to watch for a raid from the north, only Edward was left to protect Mama and little Trudy. His father had shown him how to use the huge matchlock gun, an old Spanish gun that was twice as long as he was, but would Edward be able to handle it if trouble actually came? This classic, first published in 1941, has an updated, kid-friendly format that includes the original black-and-white illustrations.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860 (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (November 23, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698116801

ISBN-13: 978-0698116801

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.2 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (73 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,732 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #55 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #737 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

This book is currently being criticized for its negative, stereotypical depiction of Native Americans. The forward explained that the characters were real people. The Van Alstyne family actually lived and experienced the story's events. Teunis and Gertrude, the mother and father of Trudy and Edward, trekked from Holland, to England, and finally to America to be free. The year was 1757, when Native Americans were aiding the French in the French and Indian War. Edward is the small boy whose actions during an attack on their home by St. Francis Indians provide the central action. The matchlock gun is a huge antique that rests above the fireplace. It has a trumpet-like barrel like a blunderbuss and is too big for Edward to pick up. Before Teunis goes out on a military foray, he

shows Edward how to prop up the gun on the table and light it in the event of an Indian attack. Sure enough, Indians attack while Teunis is gone. Gertrude is outside at the time and runs for the house in a pre-arranged scheme of defense. When she gains the porch she screams "Ateoord!" ("Edward!") the cue for Edward to light the gun. He does, but not in time to save his mother from being tomahawked in the shoulder. The gun blasts and kills the three Indians. I believe the criticism of this book is unwarranted, especially since it relates a true story of adult men attempting to murder a woman and two children in their home. I regard true events as immune to political correctness. In addition to this, it offers a fascinating account of a period in American history that is usually overlooked.

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