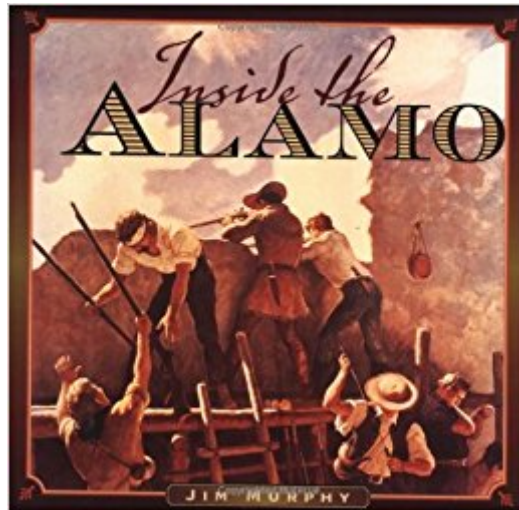




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# Inside The Alamo



## Synopsis

Texas won its independence from Mexico with the battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" But just what exactly was the Alamo, and what happened there to change the history of the United States? This is a comprehensive look at that famous siege as well as its background and consequences. It provides profiles of the famous men who died there, many quotes from contemporary witnesses (including entries from the memoirs and diaries of Mexican soldiers), fascinating details about everything from the weaponry of the time to the fate of the women and children who followed the Mexican army north, and a rousing description of the final battle—all copiously illustrated with paintings, photos, maps, diagrams, and more. This is history at its vivid and exciting best.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1100L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 128 pages

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up-Murphy boldly broaches the near-mythical battle of the Alamo, a Spanish mission in San Antonio whose name has become synonymous with Texas's independence. Acknowledging in his notes that "[m]ost of these questions [regarding "unresolved issues" of Alamo legend] will probably never be answered definitively," Murphy gives it his best shot and the result is an absorbing, interpretive, highly readable account of a two-week period in American history in which a

couple of hundred independent Texans (Anglo Texians and Hispanic Tejanos) played a major role in U.S. expansionism. The siege of the Alamo is a well-told tale but lore, strongly abetted by Hollywood, has clouded the facts surrounding this suicidal stand. Murphy has done an admirable job of separating prejudicial speculation (by survivors on both sides) from documentation. He addresses the volatile issue of exemplary bravery, especially regarding the fate of David Crockett, diplomatically. Sidebars abound and the one-page biographical sketches, including photographs, of the major figures-especially the trinity of Jim Bowie, William Travis, and David Crockett-supplement archival photographs and illustrations, helping to set perspective, while "fast and loose" visual interpretations of the final battle show historical revisions. An extensive, annotated bibliography provides an excellent sampler of the plethora of articles and books on the Alamo. John Sigwald, Unger Memorial Library, Plainview, TX Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 4-8. Murphy's thorough research and solid narrative style combine to provide an in-depth account of this famous 1836 siege. Beginning with a description of the early Anglo settlement in Texas, the author explains how relations between ranchers and Santa Ana's government became strained, leading the Anglos to feel they had little choice except to defend their crumbling fortress to the death. He also discusses the strained leadership within the Alamo, why other Texans decided not to help, and Santa Ana's motives for wanting to annihilate the Anglos. Murphy's forte is his ability to tell a good story while retaining his integrity as a historian. Point by point he documents and identifies facts, rumors, myths, and conflicting testimony, allowing readers to judge where the truth may lie and giving them insight into how historical research works. Frequent inset articles highlight the important participants on both sides (including Santa Ana, Jim Bowie, David Crockett, and Jose de la Pena), providing military and personal details that add to the account, and a variety of period illustrations--maps, etchings, and artwork reproductions--complement the text. With an appended list of Alamo participants and an extensive, annotated bibliography, which features some primary sources, this resource is not only a valuable addition to American history units but also a great introduction to the historical writing method. Kay Weisman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Didn't like it. Waste of money. Not good pictures and would not be interesting to children. Would not recommend this book.

This is an outstanding book. There are several good books about the Alamo but this one by Jim

Murphy is well written and has a true feel of endearment for those that sacrificed their lives and left loved ones behind. The cover is very striking and captivating and I immediately was drawn to the book. The layout of the book is exquisite. It really captures the historical meaning and importance of this event of heroism and bravery and enables you to imagine a feel for the time, place and people. This is a beautiful looking and splendidly written book. I flip through its pages often and just remember.

The Washington Post was right in saying that no one does non-fiction better than Jim Murphy. The story of the Alamo is one that I passed over in history books. I felt this was an appalling gap. Jim Murphy's book is fascinating and riveting -- as well as beautiful. We have made this a family project to read this extraordinary story. It's a lesson in the making of myth and legend as well as history. An important story that all Americans should share. With a new PG-13 Disney distributed feature film on The Alamo coming out this winter, the Alamo will be on the lips of kids and parents everywhere. Why not read the definitive presentation. It's riveting!

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