Theodore Roosevelt: A Teacher’s Guide

Prepared by

C. Michael Torres

Theodore Roosevelt in the Standards .......................................................... 2

Biographical Summary ............................................................................. 3

Interpretations over Time ........................................................................ 8

Recommendations for Teachers ............................................................... 11

Select Annotated Bibliography ................................................................. 13

About the Author ...................................................................................... 16

In conjunction with the 4th Annual Summer History Seminar, sponsored by

Center for History Teaching & Learning

www.utep.edu/chtl

© June 2009

May be copied for incidental, noncommercial, and educational purposes
Theodore Roosevelt in the Standards

TEKS §113.32.c.3.A  (US History)

The student understands the emergence of the United States as a world power between 1898 and 1920. The student is expected to: explain why significant events and individuals, including the Spanish-American War, U.S. expansionism, Henry Cabot Lodge, Alfred Thayer Mahan, and Theodore Roosevelt, moved the United States into the position of a world power.

National Standards, US History 5-12, 1B

Evaluate the presidential leadership of Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson in terms of their effectiveness in obtaining passage of reform measures.
Biographical Summary

When Theodore Roosevelt died, January 6th, 1919 at the age of sixty, he had significantly outlived his father, Theodore Sr. who passed away at age forty-six. In and of itself outliving one’s father is no great accomplishment, except that Teedie, as he was known by his siblings, had been a weak and sickly child, in an era when many children died before reaching adulthood. Asthma, his nemesis, he shared with his sister Corrine; his older sister Anna suffered from a bone disease, and brother Elliott had psychological problems and epilepsy. That Teedie lived at a time that coal dust, dried horse dung and other pollutants fouled the city air, made his childhood difficult if not miserable. Two of the common cures for asthma at that time were alcohol and caffeine. Theodore was a teetotaler as an adult, but drank a gallon of strong coffee daily.

Theodore, who was to become the most enigmatic figure to inhabit the Executive Mansion (which he re-named the White House and added the West Wing) was strongly influenced by his childhood. His father was a staunch Lincoln Republican, while his mother was a product of the antebellum south, having grown up in Georgia. In his autobiography, Theodore (T.R. as he liked to be referred to) stated “My father was the best man I ever knew. He combined strength and courage with gentleness, tenderness and great unselfishness.” Theodore Sr. had no tolerance for the selfish, the cruel, the idle, the cowardly or those who lied, and demanded right living from all of his children, with no double standard allowed for males versus females. T.R. remembered his father as a hard working businessman, who had a strong interest in social reform, and involved himself in charitable works, as he had a soft spot in his heart for those who needed a helping hand or protection from injustice. This right or wrong, good or bad, black or white view of life was imprinted on T.R. and his siblings. T.R.’s public and private life reflected this imprint.

T.R.’s asthma did however have an ancillary benefit. He was home schooled. T.R.’s parents and tutors took on the task of educating and socializing a sickly child. This meant that T.R. studied at home, avoided the classroom regimentation of a formal school environment. That left him plenty of time for his many interests and pursuits: nature, history, reading, and travel. Frequently the travel was motivated by the search for crisp clean air for T.R. to breathe, but it was fun, educational, and healthful nonetheless. Travel, adventure, and exploration would be an overriding interest for T.R. all of his life. After his second trip to Europe, he came home to study with tutor Arthur Cutler for the Harvard entrance exams. By the time he graduated from Harvard in 1880, he had already begun writing a book on the United States Navy in the War of 1812.

T.R. announced his engagement to Alice Hathaway Lee on Valentine’s Day, 1880 and on March 25th of that year wrote that he would enter law school at Columbia in the autumn. He worked in his uncle Robert Roosevelt’s law office, but found the law boring. Uncle Robert, the

---

1 Teedie also frequently complained of stomach pains, intestinal distress, headaches and fevers.
lone Democrat among the Roosevelt males, had served a term in Congress, and it was politics that interested T.R. Robert owned the anti-Boss Tweed, anti-Tammany Hall newspaper, The New York Citizen. It would be as a Republican politician that T.R. would start his career, running for the state assembly and winning at the age of twenty-three. In the state assembly, T.R. found the work tedious and many of his colleagues, corrupt. T.R.’s beliefs and ideals came directly from his father’s reformist Republican convictions. On the floor of the state assembly working on an important bill, T.R. received two telegrams, the first announcing the arrival of his first child, a girl; the second saying he must return home at once. Both wife Alice and mother Martha passed away Valentine’s Day 1884. “The light has gone out of my life,” T.R. wrote in his diary.3

Leaving baby Alice with his sister Anna, T.R. headed west to a ranch in the Dakotas where he would deal with his grief from the loss of his spouse and mother. The strenuous life of a rancher, spending more than half a day in the saddle, agreed with T.R. He slept well at night. When not ranching, T.R. indulged his love of hunting and nature, going for long hunting trips, and camping enjoying the company of his friend and guide Bill Merrifield, and cook-camp master Lebo who was half Native American and half French. After a spring and summer in the western lands, T.R. was bronzed, fit looking and self-assured.

Such was his physical persona when T.R. chanced to meet Edith Carow at his sister’s house in September of 1885. Edith and Theodore were seen together at public events that autumn and winter. The relationship grew and the couple decided to marry. As the Dakotas were no place for a refined intelligent lady, T.R. moved back to the east, staying with his sister Anna. The couple married in December 1886, honeymooned in Europe, and on their return took up residence at Sagamore Hill on Long Island in 1887. Edith and T.R. would have five children from 1887 to 1897: Theodore, Kermit, Ethel, Archibald and Quentin. The political reformist was back in town.

Always busy with his ranching operations, his writing, and his interest in politics, T.R. took on the job of Civil Service Commissioner of the United States. In 1895 he resigned from Civil Service to become the Police Commissioner of New York City, for which he received national attention and praise for his reforms and the establishment of the Police Academy, one of the first in the United States. For his stellar results and as a reward for campaigning for the Republicans, President William McKinley appointed T.R. Assistant Secretary of the Navy in April 1897, a critical career move.

T.R. worked hard in Washington, staying close to get the job done, though it meant not seeing his family in New York. The Japanese, who perceived themselves as a nascent world power had their eyes on Hawaii, where many Japanese worked and lived. There was growing unrest in Cuba, where the possibility of ousting monarchial, Catholic, decadent Spain from the Caribbean kept the U.S. government busy and concerned. The issue came to a head with the destruction of the U.S.S. Maine in February of 1898. There would be war with Spain, and T.R.

was determined to be a part of it, despite his forty years of age. T.R. accepted a commission as Lieutenant Colonel in the First Volunteer Cavalry which was made up of cowboys, hunters, scouts and Indians. From May 15, 1898 to September 16, 1898, Lt. Col Theodore Roosevelt served with the Rough Riders cavalry, including the July 1st advance at San Juan Heights for which he was cited for bravery. Upon his return home autumn 1898, T.R. was nominated and elected governor of the state of New York.

Roosevelt soon found himself on the horns of a dilemma; though he was governor of the state, the entrenched political machines, Democrat and Republican, wielded much of the political power in the state. Unwilling to build or create a machine of his own, T.R. decided that when an issue came before him that went contrary to the wishes of the machines, he would go directly to the people in order to bring pressure to bear on the machines. T.R. refused to let pass any measure or bill which would not be totally supported and enforced by the various state agencies. In T.R.’s mind, to enact legislation and then to allow it to lay about with no execution or support worked a fraud upon the people who voted for their legislators.

Because of T.R.’s opposition to the party machine, and due to the discomfort of the large corporations with T.R., it was decided that he would be nominated to run as Vice President under McKinley in 1900. This proposed nomination created a terrible problem for Roosevelt. His supporters in New York wanted him to stay on as Governor, while his friends and supporters outside of New York desperately wanted T.R. on the national ticket to strengthen McKinley’s chances against William Jennings Bryan. T.R.’s friend and counselor, Cabot Lodge, argued in favor of running on the national ticket. The untimely death of Vice President Garret Hobart brought a sense of urgency to the decision process. One of McKinley’s supporters was heard to exclaim this prescient sentiment, “Here is this convention going headlong for Roosevelt for Vice President. Don’t any of you realize that there’s only one life between that madman and the Presidency?” On September 14th, 1901, Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as the twenty-sixth president of the United States, following President McKinley’s assassination by an anarchist.

President Theodore Roosevelt now had the position, the power and the support of his followers to push forward the legislation and programs that best fit the needs of the country, regardless of party politics. The Republican Party would now have to deal with a zealous reformer in the White House. T.R. was sensitive to the fact that he was about to serve out President McKinley’s term of office. Accordingly, he was careful not to make wholesale changes to the cabinet officers and other major appointees. However, as new issues, programs and proposed legislation came to his attention, T.R. would act in the best interests of the country. If he did not have the support of the Congress or his party, he would go to the people and use the power of his magnetic personality and the Bully Pulpit to rally public support for his decisions and ideas.

---

The following is a list of legislation and accomplishments of T.R.’s administration:

- February 2, 1902 - the government brought suit against J.P. Morgan’s Northern Securities Co. under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act for attempting to monopolize the northwestern railroads.
- June 17, 1902 - signed the New Lands Reclamation Act which provided funding to bring thousands of arid acres of land under irrigation in the west and southwest, of which Elephant Butte Dam was one.
- June 28, 1902 - signed the Isthmian Canal Act which provided funding for the building of the Panama Canal.
- October 15, 1902 - settled the national Anthracite Coal Strike in favor of labor due to the danger the strike posed to the country as winter was approaching.
- February 14, 1903 - created the Department of Commerce and Labor.
- November 13, 1903 - recognized the new country of Panama which won its freedom from Colombia, and would be the site of the new Panama Canal.
- December 6, 1904 - issued the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine which served notice that the United States and only the United States would keep the peace in the Western Hemisphere.
- June 30, 1906 - signed the Pure Food and Drug Act, and mandated the federal meat inspection law.
- December 10, 1906 - received the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to settle and end the war between Russia and Japan.
- Created national parks and wilderness areas that set aside over 230,000,000 acres as the United States’ heirloom to its people.

Theodore Roosevelt, one of our most productive and energetic presidents, could also be said to be our most enigmatic president. He was a sickly, asthmatic child who worked hard to develop himself physically and become a robust, masculine figure. T.R. always loved nature and the outdoors, but was an avid hunter and brought down many animals as personal trophies and for museum displays. He was a born Republican, but had progressive ideas and promoted legislation, like the Square Deal, that one would have expected of a Democrat or Progressive. He was a man of action but also a voracious reader and prolific writer. He was a child of privilege but, like his father, sought to help the underprivileged and protect the weak. Although he was born into wealth, he strongly believed that too much power and wealth concentrated in too few hands was a detriment to the health and well being of the country. T.R. let the European powers know that the United States would not suffer their interference in the Western Hemisphere, and any meddling would not be tolerated. However, T.R. fomented a revolution in Colombia to gain access to build the Panama Canal. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and also was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor in the Spanish American War. He was a burly, robust, take-no-prisoners politician, but was laid low by the death of his youngest son, Quentin, in World War I, a loss from which he never recovered.
T.R.’s strenuous lifestyle, his hunting, exploring and exercising had taken their toll on his body, and Quentin’s loss wounded his soul. He passed away not long after. The country would mourn his passing, and many would pay tribute to this political bulldozer the public called “Teddy.”
Interpretations Over Time

Most elementary school students are familiar with the rhyme about Christopher Columbus, *In fourteen hundred ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue*. This handy device helps students remember the year Columbus discovered the New World. In school we are taught the positive aspects of Columbus’s brave gamble to sail west from Europe in order to find a new route to the Indies. Students do not normally learn any of the not-so-positive facts, such as Columbus’s desire for wealth and glory, nor do they learn about the cruel fate of the native Indian population that came as a result of Columbus’s discovery. In addition, the way historians perceive historical figures like Christopher Columbus changes over time, as new or undiscovered research becomes available to be added to the historical literature.

Opinions of T.R. have changed, too. What most students first learn about Theodore Roosevelt is that he led the United States’ First Volunteer Cavalry, the Rough Riders, in a brave charge up San Juan Hill. Bully! Actually, it was Kettle Hill, a part of the San Juan Heights, but the charge was a part of the definitive battle of the Spanish American War. T.R., as he liked to be referred to, was cited for his bravery and nominated to receive a decoration for valor, but the award was not confirmed. The regiment did, however, receive a unit citation for bravery. A hundred years later, Theodore Roosevelt was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery. Clearly, the country changed its mind about T.R.’s role in the charge up Kettle Hill.

The foregoing was one view of Theodore Roosevelt serving his country in time of war. Three of T.R.’s contemporaries had their own opinion of him. William Jennings Bryan called T.R. “a man who loves war.” Mark Twain felt that T.R. was “clearly insane...and insanest upon war and its supreme glories.” Not to be outdone, T.R.’s friend, historian Henry Adams more than once allowed “that Theodore is insane...I see nothing for him but the asylum.” What we do not know from the last two quotes is the context in which these diagnoses were given. Were the comments delivered tongue-in-cheek, or in all seriousness? That T.R. was no shrinking violet is beyond question. In fact some historians accused Roosevelt of “almost pathological bellicosity,” according to Thomas Bailey of Stanford University.5

Joshua David Hawley’s book, *Theodore Roosevelt: Preacher of Righteousness*, states that in the past T.R. was dismissed as an opportunistic politician. In the world of politics, any player who does not practice *carpe diem* (seize the day) will tend to come in second best to those who do. Additionally, to look down on T.R.’s practice of politics is to overlook his legacy as a progressive politician that energized a “twenty year period of national reform.”6 Many of T.R.’s progressive reforms are still with us today. As Civil Service Commissioner, T.R. replaced the old ‘spoils system’ with the still functioning merit system. When T.R. served as Police Commissioner of New York City he regularly made surprise visits to patrolmen’s areas of

---

responsibility to make sure they were on the job. To ensure that New York had a professionally trained police force, T.R. started a police academy. The creation of the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Meat Inspection program came about as Roosevelt reforms. The unchecked destruction of wildlife areas and nature preserves were mitigated by the 230,000,000 acres of wilderness T.R. set aside as national parks. Today, the agriculture produced in the state of California can be traced to the 1902 Reclamation Act, which provided funding for dams and irrigation systems that brought millions of acres of land under cultivation.

Hawley noted that T.R. had many praiseworthy accomplishments, but also commented on some negative aspects of T.R.’s reputation. T.R. had a take-no-prisoners philosophy when exercising power politics. As Hawley stated it, “T.R.’s life philosophy provided no internal restraint on the exercise of the will, and no guide for the proper use of power.”

The power of the will is a phrase normally associated with German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, and exercised by the Nazis in World War II Germany.

A very recent book with a new view of Roosevelt and the Progressive Era is Jackson Lear’s *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America*. Lear, a cultural historian, “describes his book as a synthetic reinterpretation of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.” In reviewing Lear’s book for the New York Times, Beverly Gage, a history professor at Yale, called *Rebirth of a Nation* a “fascinating cultural history that locates the origins of Bush-era belligerence in the anxieties and modernizing impulses of the late nineteenth century.” Over many years, Lear has written about the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the raw consumerism, religion, capitalism and the ills of modern living. With this new book Lear “expands his vision to include politics, war and the presidency.”

T.R. is the ‘American Macho’ mentioned in the title of the book review.

There are some intriguing parallels between the turn of the twentieth century and recent history. The Gilded Era saw powerful business barons making incredible amounts of money as the country transitioned from a basic agricultural economy to a modern industrial powerhouse. Wealth became concentrated in the grip of a handful of powerful industrialists and financiers, like J.P. Morgan, Roosevelt’s nemesis. Advancements in transportation, manufacturing and mass production created prosperity and job opportunities for Native Americans and the thousands of immigrants who were needed to fill all of the new jobs in an expanding economy. The threat of war and financial Armageddon hung over the country, while progressives and labor pushed for much needed reforms and curbs on corporate power. “A great deal of waste, fraud and corruption went into the making of the modern American economy” writes Lear. This description is strikingly familiar.

Theodore Roosevelt may indeed fit Lear’s description of the American Macho, and may indeed be the philosophical father of the Neo-conservatives and George W. Bush. But what is undeniable is that while “W” talked the talk, T.R. walked the walk, talking softly but carrying a

---

7 Hawley, *Theodore Roosevelt*, 262.
9 As cited in Gage, “American Macho,” 17.
very big stick with an ego to match. When the European powers began to muscle their way in to influence the Western Hemisphere, T.R. loudly and publicly invoked the Monroe Doctrine and added the Roosevelt Corollary that left no doubt that this hemisphere was American turf and all others were not welcome. When T.R. went to war it was at the head of his troops, and there was no doubt that their mission was accomplished. T.R. was a highly educated man, graduating magna cum laude and earning a Phi Beta Kappa key. Throughout his life he was a voracious reader and a prolific writer. This might not have made T.R. the sort of fellow the man on the street would like to have a beer with (T.R. was a teetotaler), but the people loved “Teddy” as the public knew him.

Viewed with the benefit of hindsight, Theodore Roosevelt was not perfect. He was a Social Darwinist and believed that practicing eugenics would create better human beings. T.R. believed that the English-speaking Anglo-Saxon race was destined to rule the world, but had an obligation to help others better themselves. T.R. won the Nobel Prize for Peace for negotiating the end of the Russo-Japanese war in 1906, but did so by extracting a concession from Japan that they would not allow any more of their citizens to emigrate to the United States in the famous “Gentlemen’s Agreement.” After his exploits in the Spanish American War, T.R. was elected governor of the State of New York. He became such a thorn in the side of the Republican power bosses that they decided to get rid of him by nominating him to run as Vice President with McKinley in 1900. Much to their dismay, President McKinley was assassinated a few months into his second term and T.R. ascended to the presidency. It would be difficult to think of a more enigmatic president than Theodore Roosevelt.

By the same token it would be difficult to come up with a better symbol of America at the turn of the twentieth century than T.R. He was bold, brash, loud, robust and anxious for America to take its rightful place among the world powers. He knew power had a cost. When war came, he resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy and volunteered to serve with the westerners and cowboys in the Rough Riders Cavalry. He taught his sons that they, too, had a responsibility to serve. His youngest son Quentin was a pilot in World War I and was killed over Germany. Archibald, the next youngest, was severely wounded in that same war. Theodore, his eldest son, served in World War I and made the landings on D-Day in World War II as a general, earning a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor.

Will history have a different view of T.R. in the future? It is possible that history and historians will continue to change the perception of men like T.R. For good or ill, they will not be able to change the fact that Theodore Roosevelt was an important president who established the bona fides of the United States as a new world power. His legacy will be with us for some time to come.
Recommendations for Teachers

Lesson Plans

Theodore Roosevelt Association, Curriculum Based Lesson Plans (Grades 5-12)
The TRA web site provides basic tools for student research, including a biography of
Theodore Roosevelt, a TR Timeline, Quotations, TR’s Conservation Legacy, and a page
titled “Just for Kids.” In addition the TRA adds a series of lesson plans based on National
Standards. Each lesson plan includes applicable standards, lesson objectives, an
introduction, and a selection of activities for students focusing on the Era of the
Emergence of Modern America, 1890 – 1930.

Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Era (History Now)
A quarterly journal of American History Online, the site has multiple resources for the
teacher, including, photographs, documents, a review of books for classroom use, and
curriculum based lesson plans for high school, middle school and elementary school
classrooms. Focused thumbnail biographies accompany each level’s lesson plans. Each
lesson plan provides the instructor with an introduction, objectives based on national
standards, and recommended activities, as well as books for further study.

Places to Visit

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (National Park Service)
Sagamore Hill was the beloved adult home of Theodore Roosevelt, his wife Edith and
their six children. The Old Orchard Museum has exhibits, video programs and
collections for viewing. The home and museum are now administered by the National
Park Service. The home is located at Cove Neck, Oyster Bay, NY.

The Theodore Roosevelt Collection (Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA)
This unique comprehensive group of publications, pictures, documents, and archives
relating to Theodore Roosevelt was donated by the Theodore Roosevelt Association
with the permission of his family. Now located at the Houghton Library at Harvard
University, it is a major research facility for the study of TR, his life and times.

USS Theodore Roosevelt, CVN-71
The USS Teddy Roosevelt, a modern aircraft carrier was launched in 1981 and still serves
with the fleet in a carrier task force that has its current home port at San Diego, CA. If
you are lucky enough to be in San Diego when “the great lady of the sea” is in port you
may be able to visit on special days. However, access is strictly limited as the carrier is
nuclear powered. There is a website for friends, fans and family of the current crew,
with photos and multimedia presentations.
**Websites**

Theodore Roosevelt Association

USS Theodore Roosevelt

National Park Service

Audubon Society

The White House

Public Broadcasting Service

Spanish American War

**Additional Resources**

Wikipedia Online

E-HOW
Select Annotated Bibliography

Primary Source Materials


This collection of over 350 letters and four speeches is an excellent primary source for students and teachers. The letters to friends, relatives and associates give us a true sense of their relationships over time. The speeches are four famous speeches that give insights to T.R.’s character.


An interesting primary source published in 1920 after T.R.’s death. The talks come from entries in Leary’s diaries. The author refers to T.R. as “the Colonel” which was T.R.’s preferred title, originating from his time in the Rough Riders. The commentary is lively and interesting as it offers the author’s impressions of T.R.’s thoughts, ideas, and memories.


A collection of letters to friends, family and associates, is organized chronologically from 1868 to 1899. A complete family genealogical table of the Roosevelt clan is included in volume 1 helps to identify T.R.’s parents, siblings, children, cousins, aunts and uncles for the purpose of understanding the correspondence and who is being addressed in the letters.


This book contains Roosevelt’s story in his own words from his birth until 1913.


This is a superb collection of mostly political cartoons of T.R.’s life from 1884 to 1909, which cover his career starting in the New York state assembly through the presidency. This is a good source from which to copy cartoons for student interpretation.


This is a description of the newspaper article announcing T.R.’s memorial service in New Mexico on 02/10/1919. It also includes a copy of the tribute delivered by the author at the service. This may be an especially good source for New Mexico teachers and students.


*Full-length Biographies*


One of the more popular and readable of the newer biographies of Theodore Roosevelt this volume contains over 800 pages of information about T.R.’s childhood, family, his health, his education, careers and his reform presidency. If you can only read one biography of T.R., this is the one to jump into.


This biography, one of the newer ones, puts more focus on T.R. the reformer. T.R. fashioned himself as a heroic, fearless champion of common people like a knight-errant of old. There are some good historiography comments in the book’s introduction.


The title says it all, this book is about T.R. and his political career. The book begins with his election to the New York state assembly, and then flashes back to his childhood and the influence of his father. Then the book begins a chronological review of T.R.’s life focusing on politics, how and where he learned to play in that game.


Published in 2008 the focus of this biography is T.R.’s black and white view of the world, i.e. no shades of grey. This philosophy was imprinted on the Roosevelt children by Theodore Sr., a well-to-do businessman who had a soft spot in his heart for those less fortunate, or those who were weak and needed protection.


This biography and the sequel *Theodore Rex* are the best known and referred to biographies about T.R.‘s life. No T.R. scholar would be without a copy of Morris’s books.


The book is a continuation of Theodore Roosevelt’s biography begun in Morris’s *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*. See above entry.


The author begins his narrative with T.R. ascending to the presidency in 1901. The book is neither a biography of T.R. nor a history of the Progressive Movement. Rather the book is about how T.R. influenced the Progressive movement from his first day as President through his campaign for the Bull Moose Party.
Article- or Chapter-Length Biographical Sketches

Theodore Roosevelt Association (TRA) Online. Rogina L. Jeffries, Site Editor. “Timeline.” When T.R. died, his wife Edith did not want to release his private papers as she was afraid his thoughts and words could be misinterpreted. After much badgering she relented and to her dismay the result was a nasty twisted interpretation of her husband’s writings. Later she entrusted the job to a pro T.R. organization which the Roosevelt family still supports and endorses, the Theodore Roosevelt Association and its online website. This is an excellent source for primary and secondary information.

Juvenile Biographies

Kraft presents the life and career of TR, a popular president, a champion of women’s and working class rights. The book is richly illustrated with photos, cartoons and Roosevelt’s own drawings from letters to his children. Juvenile biography, grade 5-8.

This book describes the life of the 26th president from his sickly youth to his varied career as rancher, author and politician. Juvenile biography grade 8-12.
About the Author

A native of El Paso, Michael has lived and worked in New York City, Detroit, Los Angeles, Albuquerque, South Texas, and El Paso. A 1972 graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, the author spent 32 years in the financial services industry at Merrill Lynch and Smith Barney before retiring in 2009. He is now working on his Master’s degree in History in preparation for a new career in education.