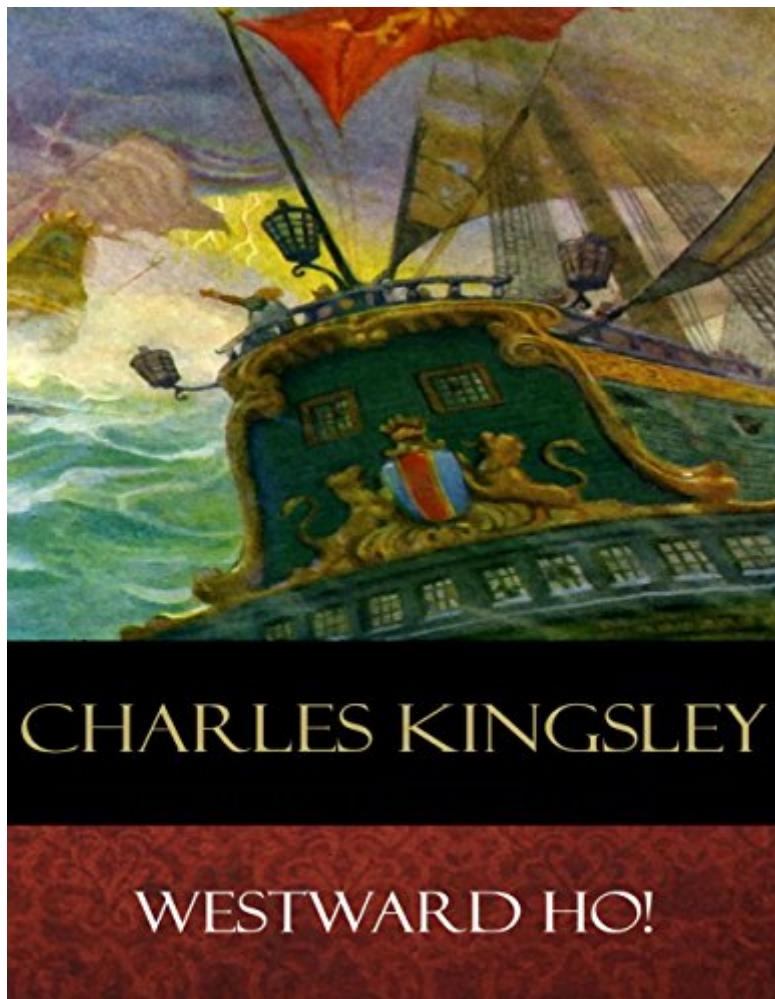


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Westward Ho!: Illustrated



Synopsis

Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley with illustrations by N. C. Wyeth, is an 1855 British historical novel by Charles Kingsley. The novel was based on the adventures of Elizabethan corsair Amyas Preston, who sets sail with Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh and other privateers to the New World, where they battle with the Spanish. Set initially in Bideford in North Devon during the reign of Elizabeth I, Westward Ho! follows the adventures of Amyas Leigh, an unruly child who as a young man follows Francis Drake to sea. Amyas loves local beauty Rose Salterne, as does nearly everyone else; much of the novel involves the kidnap of Rose by a Spaniard. Amyas spends time in the Caribbean coasts of Venezuela seeking gold, and eventually returns to England at the time of the Spanish Armada, finding his true love, the beautiful Indian maiden Ayacanora, in the process; yet fate had blundered and brought misfortune into Amyas's life, for not only had he been blinded by a freak bolt of lightning at sea, but he also loses his brother Frank Leigh and Rose Salterne, who were caught by the Spaniards and burnt at the stake by the Inquisition. Westward Ho! is a historical novel which celebrates England's victories over Spain in the Elizabethan era. Although originally a political radical, Kingsley had by the 1850s become increasingly conservative and a strong supporter of British imperialism. The novel consistently emphasises the superiority of English mercantile values over those of the Spanish. Although originally written for adults, its mixture of patriotism, sentiment and romance deemed it suitable for children, and it became a firm favourite of children's literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This two-star review is specifically for the Scribner's edition--it is HEAVILY abridged, but doesn't say so. I gave it a second star only because it has some beautiful artwork. Get the unabridged edition--it will make far more sense and you will enjoy the fabulous story much more. There's one with introductory material written by Malcom Day! Westward Ho! or, the Voyages and Adventures of Sir Amyas Leigh, Knight, of Burrough, in the County of Devon~ in the Reign of Her Most Glorious Majesty Queen Elizabeth (Scribner's Illustrated Classics)

An extraordinary tale of adventure in the time of the sea pirates of Queen Elizabeth. It is a spell binding story with a twist and turn on every page. Fascinating. I must say the writing style is of the florid late 19th century variety with lengthy sentences that meander a bit, That said the illustrations by N C Wyeth more than make up for that flaw. A book written for readers who expected to take their time reading for pleasure. Worth the effort..

Our children, Virginia and Liam, have the surname Gubbins and their father, James and I found this book years ago in a book shop in Lyme Regis. We gave it James' father, and the book disappeared after his death, so it was wonderful to be able to purchase another copy, thank you. They were a feared race of cannibals and could out run a horse apparently. They have been likened to Goblins or Gremlins as they were feared. It wasn't safe to travel from Plymouth to London in the 1500's or you faced being attacked by the Gubbins! The chapter on 'slewing' the King of the Gubbins is great reading. They are originally from the Tavistock , Exeter region in England it states, which the Exeter library we visited also confirmed. Marcia Howard.

For a book more than 150 years old, its language is remarkably accessible to a modern reader -- a bit 19th-century prolix, but not tiresomely so. It's an involving, inventive tale, and the details of late Anglo-Saxon life should interest any reader drawn to fiction about the period.

A great period novel for boys, girls, moms and dads. It was very popular in decades past and is at least as much fun as, say, Treasure Island or Tarzan. Although this book takes place in the Elizabethan period and was written in the Victorian era, some Catholic reviewers below seem to feel that the novel lacks a 21st century sanitized viewpoint about Catholicism/Spanish imperialism. I've heard the same sort of argument made regarding the stereotype of Jim in Huckleberry Finn. Similarly in cowboy movies the Indians are usually portrayed as the bad guys (we now know, of course, that this is simplistic at best); likewise, the Spaniards in this book are the bad guys. It shouldn't be too tough to infer that all Catholics aren't bad, unless one is a simpleton. My family is Catholic and we all love the book. This is a fine adventure for young adults that is so much better than the product on most bookshelves today. The wonderful N. C. Wyeth illustrated edition is the one to get.

A great read for those who are into history. Lots of background giving an understanding of why the events happened. For me it gave a life to all the dry facts that are fed to us from childhood and later taken for granted that we should know. I'm glad to be able to recommend this book to fellow readers

Did not enjoy the way it was written. It seemed half story and half documentary

I purchased this book for my 12 year old son. He was reluctant to read it but once he got into it, loved it!

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