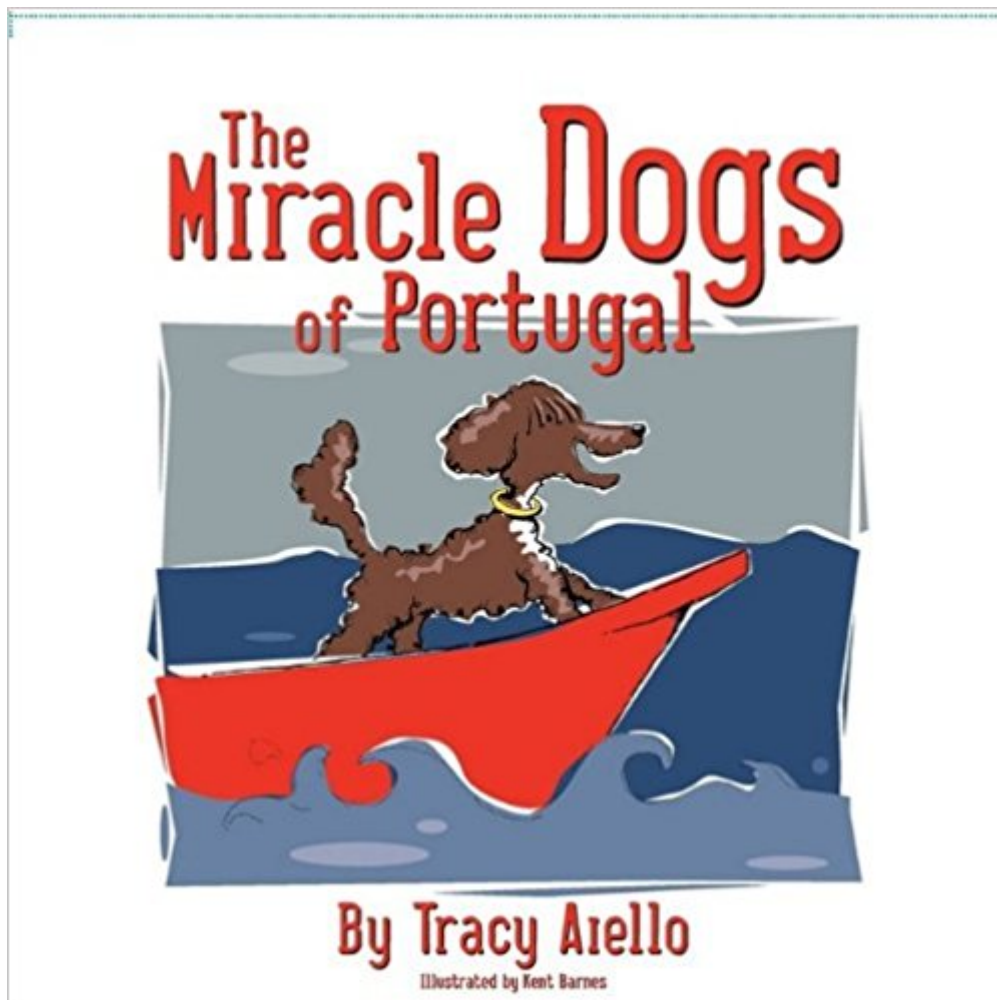


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The Miracle Dogs Of Portugal



Synopsis

Miracle Dogs of Portugal is the almost-true story of historical figure Henry the Navigator and the dog that saved his life - Milagro the Portuguese Water Dog. Set against a backdrop of actual historical events, the story is sure to remind kids of all ages to love their friends, summon their courage and follow their dreams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I liked that Henry became friends with the sea, and when he went to meet his friend the sea, he met Milagro, and her name means miracle. Henry was lonely, but because he was friends with the sea, he was able to make a new friend in Milagro and Milagro helped the sea save Henry! Ellie, 5 What's the moral? I think it's that the things we're born to love exert a sort of gravitational force on others who love the same things, and this is foundational to living life to the fullest. Out of the mouths of babes...Thanks Ellie - and Tracy and Kent - for the joy and hope this book has brought to a father and daughter who love to read together! Ellie's dad, forever young at heart

My 6-year-old son and I both loved this book. The story was captivating --- so much so that we've reread this several times on our Kindle already. I love stories about dogs as heroes, and my son just loves a good story, period. Another way I know he loved the book: He's still quoting a line that's mentioned several times in the book. Highly recommended.

This book was a joy to read aloud, with all the different languages and sounds of the sea. The kids

loved it and I enjoyed a virtual trip through time.

Everyone knows Christopher Columbus but how many people know the true father of exploration, Henry the Navigator. This book details Henry's relationship with the ocean as a child. He believes the sea is his friend and calls to him. During a storm, he slips away from his parents and convinces Diego Garcia, a fisherman, to take him out on the water. Diego owns a prize Water Dog named Milagro, which means Miracle. Milagro, nicknamed Millie also has a special relationship with the sea. She speaks with the seahorses, the turtles, and even the tuna. When Henry falls overboard into the ocean, the courageous dog leaps into the water. The dog speaks to the sea creatures and Henry speaks to the ocean. The waves stop and both dog and Henry are rescued. Upon returning to shore, Diego discovers that Henry's parents are the king and queen. When they discover the dog saved their son's life, they insist that he live with them in the castle but Henry says no. She is a prize water dog; she belongs with the sea. The king decrees that all Milagro's descendants shall be named Portuguese Water Dogs and shall protect kings and fishermen. When Henry grows up, he sails to Africa and India and inspires and assists such explorers as Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan. He builds a school where he teaches his students to navigate with the stars and listen to the sea. He is the spearhead of the Age of exploration. Portuguese Water Dogs help fishermen for hundreds of years and become highly prized pets and working dogs. The author has a talent for description that helps us empathize with the protagonist. "Henry ran down the cobbled road. He ran and ran, ignoring his heavy coat and pants as they grew soaked, forgetting about his cold hands in the rain seeping down his neck."

•Tracy Aiello has used a clever and interesting strategy to engage children in the study of history. Most children love dogs and also using Henry as a young boy for the protagonist guarantees kids will connect with this story. This book is the perfect size for children who are between picture book and early chapter book. The left side of the page is full text and the right is illustration. The illustrations are done by Kent Barnes. They are loosely drawn cartoon type pictures with odd white outlines as though they have been cut out and paste it on the page. Prince Henry has a hairstyle that reminds me of Beavis of Beavis and Butthead. The backgrounds are minimal, generally a wash of color. I would have liked the illustrations to have some flavour of the time period. A great book for children who like dogs or are interested in true adventure. A copy of this book was donated by the author to my Little Free Library.

Olive (not Olive), being Portuguese, this book speaks to my heart. I like the story and its characters, all very important to the Portuguese: the ocean, kings and queens, the water dogs... However, it is very sad that the characters have Spanish names and not Portuguese. The names should be Diogo not Diego, Milagre not Milagro and "water dogs" are Cães de Água, not Cães do Água. Ultimately, I believe the story's main idea of friendship and courage is the most important part of this book...

As a dog-blogger and author, I love the way Miracle Dogs of Portugal cleverly makes use of the natural bond between children and dogs. Learning history is fun when a dog is the star of the story! I look forward to the next "syria" account by this author who knows the value of the dogs who have helped shape the future.

My daughter loves this book and soaks up every word! She was glued to it during the whole story (which doesn't happen too often!) and I'm sure it's going to become a new favorite in our house!! It's a very well written book and fun to read! I would definitely recommend it to anyone with children!

"This well-intended tale offers a passing glimpse of history and a reminder about trusting one's instincts." Colorado Sunday, The Denver Post, 3/14/10

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