What A Cool Book!

Once there were four lads... John (Hancock), Paul (Revere), George (Washington), and Ben (Franklin). Oh yes, there was also Tom (Jefferson), but he was always off doing his own thing, so people usually forgot about him. The lads were always getting into trouble for one reason or another. John's handwriting was bigger than all the other kids. Paul's ear-splitting job as a bell-ringer made him speak a LITTLE TOO LOUDLY all the time. George was too honest for his own good. Ben was always talking in proverbs... And Tom, well, he was just plain independent. But somehow, these five lads grew up to start a revolution one that would change this country forever. Legendary artist Lane Smith has created a totally fresh and funny way to learn about the Founding Fathers of our country with just a few liberties mixed in.

This book is equally appealing to both me and my five-year old. There are a couple of Beatles references for us old folks (the credits begin "I get by with a little help from my friends", the first page parodies the Abbey Road album cover), a little American history for all of us, and plenty of fun for the kids; the funny stories (Paul Revere using his loud voice as a store clerk selling pink breeches & extra-large underwear) actually help the kids remember what is important -- that Paul Revere had a loud voice to announce "The Redcoats are coming." In addition to the American History angle, the story shows that some traits that can be very valuable on occasion can also be terribly annoying on occasion. Nothing is all good or all bad. At one point, after listening to Ben Franklin spout off a pithy saying after pithy saying, the townspeople shout at a young Ben "Please Shut Your Big Yap!" Ben's response? "I like it"..."work a fox or turkey in there, and I think you've got something."

The book doesn't spend much time on John, Paul, George or Ben -- just a few pages each. It also touches on the contributions of Thomas Jefferson.
-- but he was independent, always off doing his own thing, so he didn't make it onto the cover.

Overall, very clever, well-illustrated, fun for all ages.

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John, Paul, George & Ben (Bccb Blue Ribbon Picture Book Awards (Awards)) by Lane Smith - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!