Quick--name five noteworthy children in U.S. history. If you're like most, you probably stalled after Sacagawea and Pocahontas. Young people have always gotten short shrift when it comes to the record of American history. And yet, wouldn't the study of history be far more compelling to students if they could relate to figures their own age? Author Phillip Hoose believes so. He found that behind every major event in U.S. history were young people--brave, fearful, poor, rich, adventurous, clever, tragic, curious, and strong. *We Were There, Too!* examines the lives of dozens of youth who helped shape our nation: Nine months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin did the very same thing. On one of Columbus's voyages to the New World, 56 (out of 99) crew members were 18 or younger. In 1814 two sisters from Massachusetts, Rebecca Bates, 19, and Abigail, 15, routed approaching British soldiers by playing Yankee Doodle on fife and drum. The British, believing an American army was congregating for an attack, turned and fled. And in contemporary times, 13-year-old Ryan White, infected with AIDS, stood up to a school district that wanted to prevent him from going to school, eating in the cafeteria, and having a normal life with his friends. Every story in this beautifully written volume is a heartening example of the spirit of young people. Each essay is accompanied by photos or illustrations, as well as sidebars with fascinating related tidbits of information. Readers of all ages will find a multitude of new heroes to respect and emulate. This is one history book that should be on every shelf. (Ages 10 and older) --Emilie Coulter

My Personal Review:
If you've got a student who is bored by history as we know it *We Were There, Too!* will go a long way to getting that student re-engaged again! Across the parade of time, from Diego Bermudez sailing off into the unknown with Christopher Columbus (did you realize that most of the crews of those three ships were in fact boys?) to the well-known peacemaker Pocahontas in 1607 to unknown Oloudah Equiano from Benin, Africa of
1756. Pictures from books of those years & sidebars which illustrate the way people lived & thought as well as a paragraph about What Happened to... bring our story to life. From Strangers in Paradise: The British Colonies where young boys ran away to sea to see the New World to those captured by the First People & taken away to live with them to those in Africa sold into slavery. From Breaking Away: The American Revolution when boys & girls, each with their own skills helped sound the alarm, translated the melting pot of languages, listened to the enemy & joined up in the Continental Army. From Learning to Be a Nation when youngsters confused the enemy, sewed flags & uniforms, discovered alphabets & fled other parts of the world to come join in the making of this new nation. From One Nation or Two? When thousands of young men & a few young women joined up to fight the Civil War which tore this nation apart. Girls who became doctors & sculptors, boys who went whaling, were POWs & pilots in the Underground Railroad. From Elbow Room when hundreds of thousands of parents headed West & their sons & daughters went along for the ride (more often they walked!) & took along cows, journals, horses & the children of the First People who survived the encounter with this flood of strangers who would change their lives forever. In Shifting Gears in a New Century the children of our history worked terribly hard - in sweatshops & mines, led strikes for better, safer conditions & worked on ocean liners, put their lives on the line for politics & began to work in front of the cameras in that newfangled Hollywood industry. In Hard Times: War, Depression, and Dust - from one World War to the next, children fully participated beside their elders - whether braving mob actions, riding the rails to food & a future or fighting for world freedom in faraway places or playing national baseball for the first time at home. When the Times That Kept a-Changin came around children braved hate-filled crowds on their way to school; were migrant workers who organized unions; got bedazzled by computers in their infancy (the computers, not the kids!) & fought for a girls basketball league, the right to go to school & to save the environment. All in all - We Were There, Too! is an important book to help young people feel how we used to live & think about life & how some young people, in today's world, are still making history.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price: We Were There, Too!: Young People in U.S. History by Phillip Hoose - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!