



Betsy Maestro

The Discovery of the Americas
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In history, there are two sides to every story. Too often students only hear one side of a story. We must give kids access to correct information from the beginning - we don't need to throw out all that we have learned, we just need to broaden the picture. Presenting both sides of every story gives young readers a whole picture.

In our "American Story" series, we want kids to begin to understand the connections between the people and events they are already familiar with - to see that Columbus, the Pilgrims, and George Washington are parts of one story. That the action of one led to the others in a direct way. Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, and Washington's Birthday are celebrations of connected events - happenings that

involved real people and led to life in the United States as we know it today.

Our books often bring complicated subjects to young readers for the first time - the Constitution, the history of money, world religions, the workings of government. Each new topic presents its own challenge, which is what keeps our work so interesting. We enjoy sharing our enthusiasm for our work with students and teachers. We derive great reward from a feeling of contributing to the education of children in a positive way. We have a role in the shaping of young minds - of helping kids to open their eyes and hearts to all the wonders of our world both past and present and to helping them to feel the connections that we all truly share.