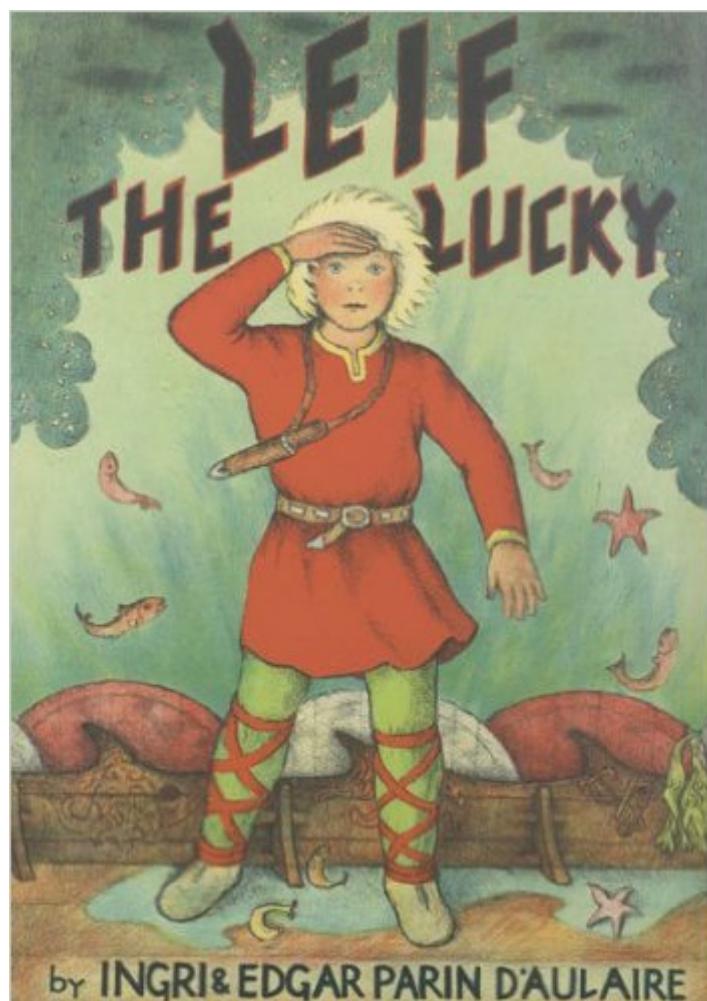


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# Leif The Lucky



## Synopsis

Considered to be one of the finest works of Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire, children and adults alike will delight in the adventures of Leif the Lucky, son of Erik the Red, who sailed with his father to Greenland and who later sailed farther west and found the continent of America. In this charming and lavishly illustrated hardcover edition, Leif is a sturdy, blond-haired Viking boy who crosses uncharted seas to an unknown land with his father. Written in the spirit of the ancient sagas and rich in color and detail, Leif the Lucky is a fascinating biography of the young Viking explorer.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 60 pages

Publisher: Univ Of Minnesota Press (October 15, 2014)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0816695454

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.6 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #17,931 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #60 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical #153 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This fascinating biography of Leif Erickson is another classic work by the D'Aulaires. Lavishly illustrated with their wonderful lithographs it accurately relates the adventurous tale of the young Viking explorer, his conversion to Christianity, and his colonization of North America. A must for anyone studying the age of exploration!

We loved this book! The illustrations were so rich in color! The pages were alternated between black and white and color. The story was so interesting. I seriously do not remember studying about the Vikings in school! Do you? What a great introduction!

Leif the Lucky is about Leif Ericksson when he found "Wineland". Leif the Lucky is about Leif Ericksson and his adventures. Including one when he found "Wineland" America. He was given the

name lucky when he found America. His father was named Erik the Red who went from Iceland to Greenland. Then Leif picked up and went to America. It is a good book.

Apart from their tales on mythology, Leif the Lucky is one of my favorite D'Aulaire tale. The book begins by telling us about Erik the Red and his three sons - Torstein, Torvald, and Leif. When Leif was a young boy, Erik the Red took a boat to a new land that he had "discovered." Along with 24 chieftains in 24 boats crammed with people, cattle, and food, they had to battle harsh weather on the sea. Not all the ships made the trek successfully. Some of them sank, and others turned around out of fright. In the end, Erik's boat made it with thirteen other chiefs. The land they "discovered" was Greenland. We then read of Leif growing up, travelling to Norway, and "discovering" America, which he dubbed Vinland. There are tales of Leif sending people to Vinland for commerce and tales of Leif converting his mother and people in Greenland to Christianity. All of this is very interesting and fascinating to read, because it reads like a saga or mini-epic. Apart from the story, which has a nice blend of history and legend, the make-up of this book is what makes the book. For starters, it is a 9 x 12 hardcover with a dust jacket. The illustrations make up two-page spreads, with each spread alternating between color and black and white. The pages even have an old-timey look and feel to them, which matches the illustrations perfectly. I know this is a book that I will read often to my son, and I think it would make a great addition for any parent who homeschools as well.

Leif the Lucky was the first book of our American History curriculum and we fully enjoyed it. It brought many questions to our minds including what happened to the Viking race?

I thought this book was a good introduction for my 2nd and 5th graders for the Beautiful Feet American History series, but I was expecting more history that was not detailed. It is possible that the history is "lost", written no where, and so the authors were unable to put it in the book. Admittedly, I knew next to nothing about Leif Erikson prior to reading this book. There's still much more to learn, and the next book in the series for our curriculum is on Columbus. Sometimes the authors would exaggerate to make a point (the waves were so high they nearly touched the moon). That may be fun to read, but I think it could be difficult for a child to believe that this is an actual person of history when the book is written in this style. In the same way that someone may want to tell their children about St. Nicholas, but then there's so many myths surrounding him that the kids would be confused. It felt at times that I was crossing the line between fact and fiction, which I don't like to do. It can still be fun and completely factual. Did he really have a pet polar bear that he

brought to the King of Norway? Well, with so many other fictitious phrases, I don't know. I couldn't confirm that with my brief internet search either. So I think you see the conflicts I have in using this book. The art however is fabulous and my children enjoyed studying the pictures for details. Their art teacher also appreciated the book's illustrations.

I have used the D'Aulaire's books as supplements to history texts for years. The beautiful pictures and interesting stories are so memorable, I hear the kids referencing them in day to day situations. They definitely make it easier to remember events from history and place characters and events in context, making history into more of a narrative and less of a jumble. Leif the Lucky may have made even more of an impression than usual; the events related are so adventurous and striking that there is the feeling of reading a fictional adventure story. I did explain that the transformation of Vikings into Inuits was entirely fictional; in fact, I have to wonder at its inclusion in the otherwise carefully- researched story. The book is much loved here, and I think anyone who wishes to include enrichment along with their entertainment would enjoy it.

The book is good, but I feel like it's an abridged version. I can't find this information anywhere. I'm pretty sure it is because we are using Beautiful Feet Books curriculum and they ask questions that lead me to believe it's not complete. There are no details and descriptions in this version. I feel like things have been left out of this version. Better off to buy this one from Beautiful Feet Books.

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