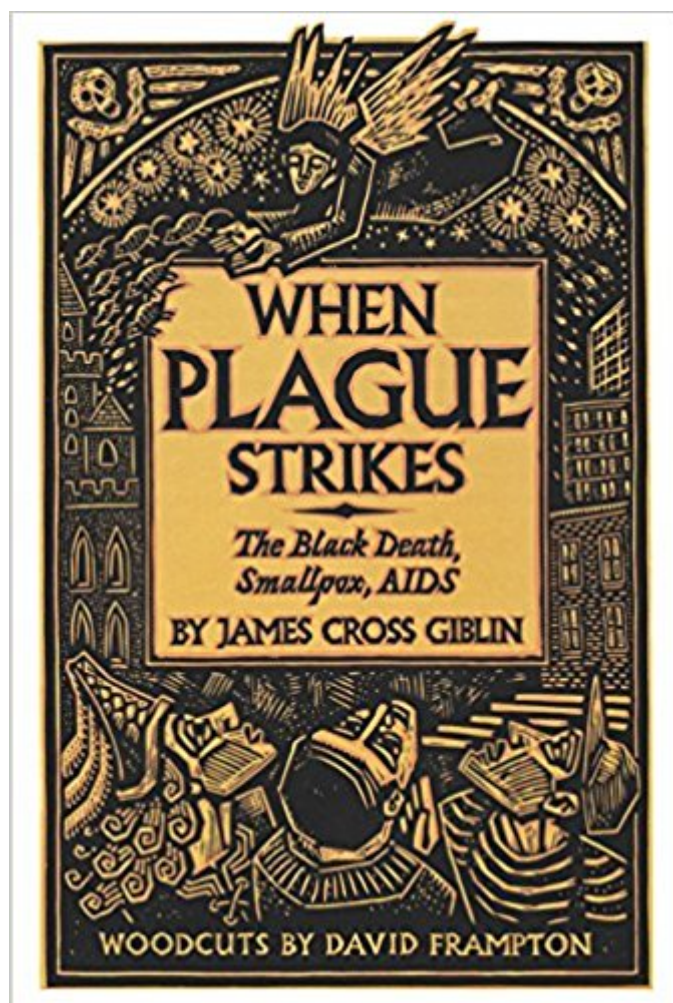


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# When Plague Strikes: The Black Death, Smallpox, AIDS



## Synopsis

Compassionate and arresting, this exploration of three major diseases that have changed the course of history—the bubonic plague, smallpox, and AIDS—chronicles their fearsome death toll, their lasting social, economic, and political implications, and how medical knowledge and treatments have advanced as a result of the crises they have occasioned. "A book that would serve well for reports, but it is also a fascinating read."—SLJ. Best Books of 1995 (SLJ) Notable Children's Trade Books in Social Studies 1996 (NCSS/CBC) 1995 Young Adult Editors' Choices (BL) 1995 Top of the List Non Fiction (BL) 1996 Best Books for Young Adults (ALA) Notable Children's Books of 1996 (ALA)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The devastating spread of three epidemic diseases, and the many responses they have evoked, are ably and insightfully covered in this illuminating book. Discussing the bubonic plague that killed about half the population of 14th-century Europe and smallpox epidemics that ravaged, among other sites, ancient China and the Americas during the Age of Exploration, Giblin (Chimney Sweeps) sets the stage for the final section, devoted to AIDS. The parallels between contemporaneous attitudes toward victims of the Black Death or smallpox and the hostility often shown to people with AIDS or HIV emerge clearly, but are not overemphasized. After giving an overview of medieval (and obviously erroneous) explanations for the spread of the Black Death, for example, Giblin reports on the often callous treatment of the sick and chillingly on the persecution

of those who were blamed for it (e.g., the Jews of Germany). His lessons that ignorance and fear lead to cruelty establish the tone for the AIDS section, where he skillfully outlines the reactions of politicians, health officials and gay activists to the gradual discovery of the AIDS virus. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7 Up?While the Black Death, smallpox, and AIDS may seem to have little in common, Giblin draws parallels between them that are both striking and fascinating. The Black Death was often blamed on Jews, leading to hatred, mistrust, and violence against them. In much the same way, many people have blamed AIDS on homosexuals. The author's tracing of the medical community's fearful and confused reactions to these diseases and his portrayal of the infighting among AIDS researchers are certainly eye-opening. Overall, the text is brutally matter-of-fact. The medical terms are clearly explained and Giblin moves deftly from one historical highlight to another, touching briefly, yet thoroughly, on the major events that make up the history of each disease. This is a book that would serve YAs well for reports, but it is also a fascinating read.?Melissa Hudak, North Suburban District Library, Roscoe, ILCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I purchase this book because my daughter has an assignment that's due her first day of high school and I never heard of this book until now. I read this book twice and love it because its very informative not only to me but my teenage daughter who is 14yrs old and need to know about these things in today's world...she read it and completed the assignment with no problem because the book was very easy to read and understand what the author message is...I strongly recommend this book to parents and teenagers...

The first one had a faulty touchpad which didnt work. The replacement was pretty painless and the new one was fine but had to write to customer service thrice to get my money back.

Sister loves it

This is actually a really great book. As a high school senior I found this book a great read. It does have an easier reading style, so it is not an advanced book but the book is surely not limited to younger generations. It is packed full of information and is great for anybody who is interesting in

such a topic. I was actually surprised when I read these reviews and found out that many of the people who read it were middle schoolers. I enjoyed it and I'm a High School senior who reads college textbooks for fun =).

I read this book in 6th grade when I randomly picked it up from the new books section of the library. Up to that point I was never interested in anything medical, but this book inspired me to look in that direction. I was absolutely fascinated, from learning about the actual biology behind the plagues, to disease's influence on history. Fast forward 8 years, and I'm about to start college and work towards a Pre Med degree. I am so happy I found something I'm passionate about, and am so thankful I found this book when I did!

I read this book more than 15 years ago, as a 5th grader, when writing a report on Edward Jenner (who "discovered" the smallpox vaccine). It made quite an impression. It's written at a good level for middle grade readers, and very engaging, but it also provides very solid background knowledge on the three plagues discussed.

I am currently writing a term paper comparing Aids to the Black Plague and I have found his book to be a great deal of help. I recommend this book to anyone interested in Science or the tragedies caused by diseases. This is definitely one of the best books I've ever read. This book really opened my eyes and showed me how quickly a life can be taken away because of an illness.

I read this book when I was in the sixth grade. While I read it for fun, it was also useful later in the year for school. Being an avid disease book reader, this is one of the best. It could have gone in to a tiny bit more detail on the symptoms, but then again some people can't handle that much anyway.

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