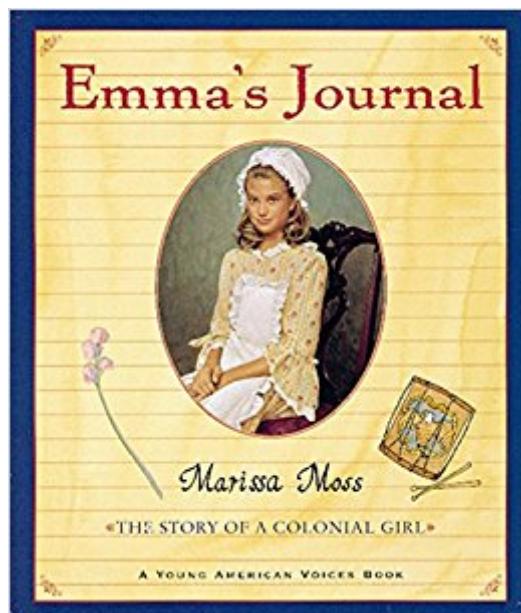


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# Emma's Journal: The Story Of A Colonial Girl



## **Synopsis**

The year is 1774, and the British army has blockaded Boston. Ten-year-old Emma is stuck at Aunt Harmony's house in the city, far from her family. Emma desperately wants to help the American struggle for freedom. When Papa gives her a secret code the militia uses, she finally gets her chance to change the course of history.

## **Book Information**

Series: Young American Voices

Paperback: 56 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (May 1, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152163255

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Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #548,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #226 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #306 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #878 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 3-5-Caught in the British blockade of Boston from 1774 to 1776 and separated from her family, young Emma describes the events she witnesses or overhears. While she works at her elderly aunt's boarding house, she meets or hears about such famous figures as Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, George Washington, and Dr. Joseph Warren, as well as British General Burgoyne, Governor Gage, and others. The story unfolds with secret messages, spying, snippets of rude songs printed in the margins that are sure to provoke giggles, and Emma's trials with the vain young Tory boarder, Thankful, who is in love with a British soldier. Emma's final entries tell of the reunion with her family and of the stirring reading of the "Proclamation of Independence" in July of 1776. As in Moss's "Amelia" journals (Tricycle) and her Rachel's Journal (Harcourt, 1998), information appears in tiny drawings or souvenir bits "pasted" in the margins. The handwritten text is

eye-catching and printed on aged, lined yellow paper. An author's note separates fact from fiction, provides extra information on women spies in the Revolution, and reveals the author's sources. All in all, a seductive introduction to the period, especially for readers who remain neutral to textbook accounts. Susan Hepler, Burgundy Farm Country Day School, Alexandria, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Like Moss' popular Amelia series, these books in the Young American Voices series are first-person "handwritten" accounts told in journal form through words and childlike illustrations. The difference is Amelia is modern day, whereas the American Voices are historical. Emma's Journal records events in Boston from 1774 to 1776 from the point of view of 10-year-old Emma, who has been sent away from the family farm to help her Aunt Harmony and ends up helping the Revolutionary cause. Fresh and readable, the text offers a simple introduction to the times, while colorful, informal little drawings add visual appeal to the hand-lettered pages. The Young American Voices series, which includes Rachel's Journal (1998), will attract Amelia's fans as well children who have read the American Girl books. A prelude to longer, more challenging historical fiction. Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My 7 year old daughter has read all the books in this series. She loves them! Historical fiction and biographies are her favorite genres so I'm happy to see these journals as wonderful options that appeal to her. They make history come to life and inspire her. I find the printing and layout of the pages a little distracting but my daughter hasn't seemed to notice or care and it does give them an authentic journal feel. Some younger readers might struggle with reading the handwriting.

Great read for my daughter

In 1774, 10-year-old Emma was sent away from home to be a servant in her Aunt Harmony's manor in Boston. Little did the simple serving girl expect that war would brew up in Boston harbor. Emma helps with war effort. I only gave this book 3 stars because it was too short and it didn't tell much of Emma's life as a serving girl.

I liked the book Emma's journal because it was partially based on the life of a real girl. I enjoyed how it was somewhat detailed about life in the past. I did not particularly like how the days jumped around though.

I think this book would be a good birthday present for a girl because I think girls would be interested in it.

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