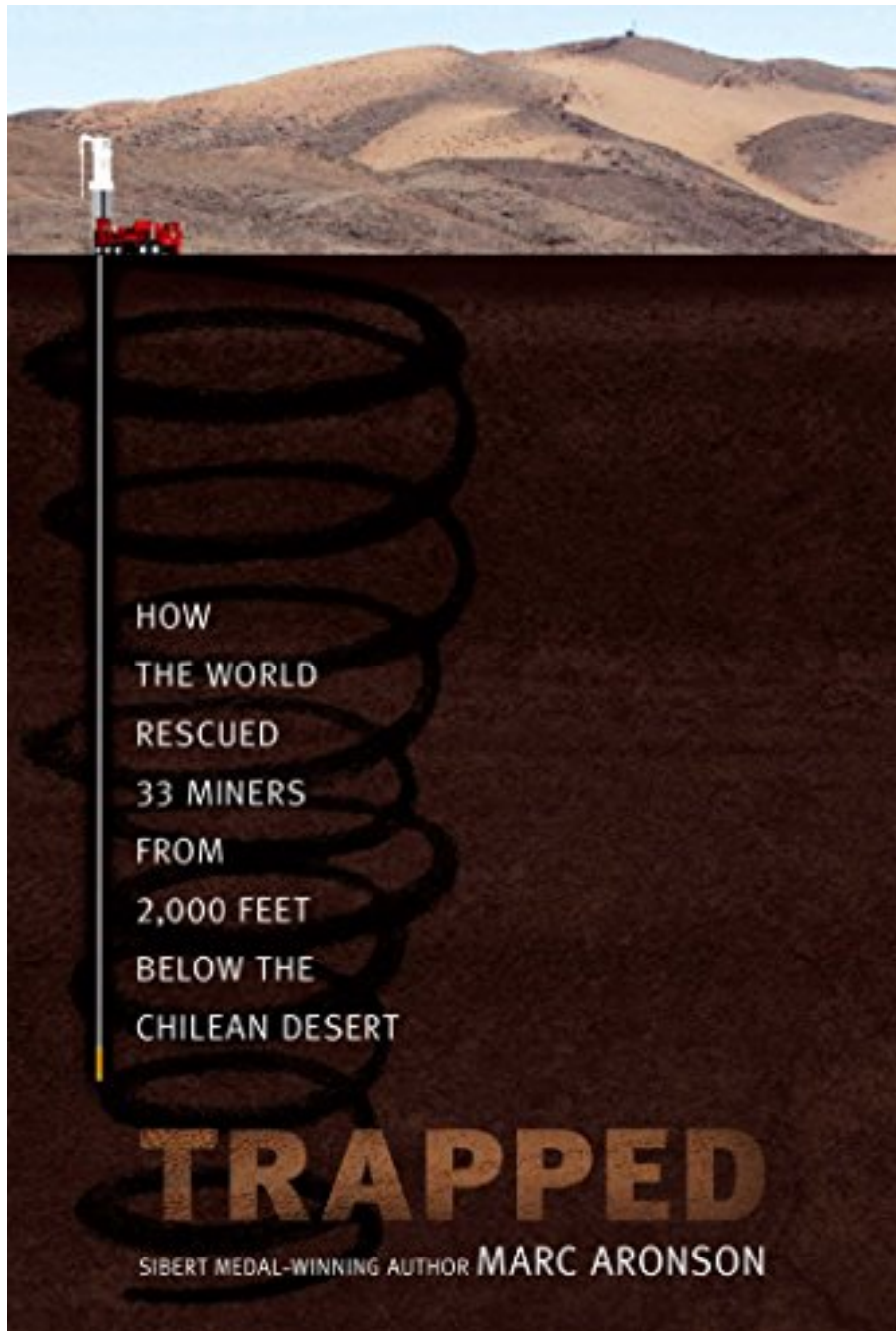


# **TRAPPED: HOW THE WORLD RESCUED 33 MINERS FROM 2,000 FEET BELOW THE CHILEAN DESERT BY MARC ARONSON**



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Review

Review of the Day: Trapped by Marc Aronson August 1st, 2011

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

By Marc Aronson

Atheneum Books for Young Readers (an imprint of Simon & Schuster)

\$16.99

ISBN: 978-1416913979

Ages 10 and up

On shelves August 30, 2011

The notion that history is always happening isn't necessarily obvious to a kid. I remember have several moments of revelation when I was younger, realizing time and time again that the folks we studied in school were real. That they walked around like I did. History has a tendency to play out like a movie when you're young. You might be moved but you wouldn't necessarily be able to wrap your head around the notion that there but for the grace of God go I. To hammer this notion home it might be advisable to find moments in recent history that have been recorded for all of posterity. Like, say, the Chilean miner incident of 2010. A lot of kids (as of this review) would remember when that was in the news. Yet they might not think of that as a historical incident yet. Enter **Trapped** by Marc Aronson. Here we have a book that sheds some light on the story that hypnotized the world. With its natural tension and everyday heroes, **Trapped** is that rarest of nonfiction beasts: A contemporary work of historical fact that has you gripping the edge of your seat.

The collapse of a San Jose mine on August 5, 2010 wasn't anything the world hadn't seen before. Mines collapse all the time. It's a dangerous occupation. The difference here, of course, was the fact that the 33 men trapped 2,300 feet underground were still alive. Suddenly the world was riveted by their story. Would the rescuers be able to find them? And even if they did, how would they get them out? Backmatter to this true tale includes brief biographies of each of the thirty-three miners, a Timeline, a Glossary of Names and

Terms, a word on “The World of the Miner” by a miner, a note to students, Notes and Sources, a Bibliography, a list of interviewed subjects, Useful Websites, and an Index.

A good work of nonfiction for kids makes you want to keep reading, even when you know the outcome. When I pick up a book like *Amelia Lost* by Candace Fleming, I love that I feel like there may be a chance that they’ll find Ms. Earhardt this time. Similarly, when I read *Trapped* I have to feel like there’s a chance that they won’t rescue the miners this time. Indeed there were several moments when it really seemed as though the miners wouldn’t be found. Aronson parcels out this tension, knowing better than to fill the narrative with foreshadowing or some kind of false narrative technique. And like Fleming’s book he makes sure to tell two different stories at once. We are both with the miners and with the rescuers as the tale unfolds.

Mr. Aronson is a fan of context. It isn’t enough to know that this story takes place 2,000 feet below the Chilean Desert. He must show you how that desert was formed. And it isn’t enough to simply know that these men were farmers of items like copper. He’s inclined to give you the very history of copper itself, going so far as to tie it into scenes from *The Lightning Thief* or *Harry Potter* (sometimes inexplicably). For me, these sidenotes distracted from the larger (and more interesting) story. I know why Aronson has included them, but most of this information appears at the beginning of the book in a big lump. I would have preferred it to be integrated evenly throughout the text. That way a sentence like, “Today, the average American uses sixteen pounds of copper a year” will have the adequate oomph it deserves.

Aronson writes for both child and teen readers, and you’re never quite certain which he’ll write for next. In this particular case he’s made certain that this book would appeal to kids as well as those in the throes of adolescence. Of course, to do that he has to tiptoe around some interesting issues. I didn’t follow the disaster very closely when it was occurring back in 2010, but one thing I do remember is hearing that one of the miners had the awkward problem of being visited via the hole by both his wife and his mistress. You’ll find no mention of that fact in this book. There are points where the men resolve to become better people when they leave the mine, and there’s a point where Aronson condemns the sordid stories that the press indulged in at times, regarding the miners’ personal lives as nothing more than tabloid fodder. Nothing sordid makes it onto these pages, though. Later we read an account of the items that were lowered to the miners. Amongst the listed objects is “a picture of a pretty girl”. Call me dirty minded, but it is possible that picture was more than just that. It doesn’t matter, though. That’s not the story that’s being told here.

At the end of *Trapped* Aronson includes a section called “How I Wrote This Book: And what I learned that could be useful for students writing research reports (and a couple of last thoughts from men I interviewed). The section distinguishes nicely between original research and merely trolling the web. The book certainly works as an example of how to do research, but I suspect that the primary readers will be those kids eaten up by curiosity. How does a person survive for months under the ground? How do you fight off the claustrophobia? And how do you rescue someone if you can’t quite get a lock on where precisely they are? *Trapped* seeks to answer all these questions and, in doing so, satisfies a variety of different kinds of readers. If you’re looking for an account of recent history with a happy ending (no small feat no matter what the year) seek ye no further. This, as they say, is it.

On shelves August 30, 2011

Source: Galley sent from publisher for review.

Professional Reviews:

- A star from Publishers Weekly
- A star from Kirkus

Misc: Happy Nonfiction Monday! Lori Calabrese Writes! has today's round-up. Check it out for more tasty nf fare.

--School Library Journal Blog, Betsey Bird (August 9, 2011)

? Aronson, Marc

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

2011. 144pp. \$16.99 hc. Atheneum (Simon & Schuster). 978-1-4169-1397-9. Grade 8 & Up

Nonfiction the way it is meant to be—riveting, educational, and entertaining! Aronson not only does a fine job of chronicling both the physical and mental ordeals the Chilean miners faced, but explains how the problem occurred, provides historical background, and details the various participants in the rescue attempts. Even though we all watched it, to have it all come together and to grasp the magnitude of what was accomplished makes for fascinating reading! Graphics, diagrams, and photographs serve to enhance the storytelling. Appended are brief descriptions of the trapped miners, a timeline, a glossary of terms and names, an essay on mining, notes, and sources. Give this to students who don't think they like nonfiction. Those that love history, geology, survival stories, scientific exploration, or even mythology will definitely enjoy it. Bibliography. Websites. Index.

--Library Media Connection, November/December 2011

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--Publishers Weekly, November 7, 2011, a "Best Books of 2011" selection

“Aronson marks the one-year anniversary of the collapse of a Chilean copper mine that entombed miners for more than two months with a riveting, in-depth recounting of the events that held the world rapt... Twelve short chapters with photos and diagrams keep the story well-paced as it alternates between above- and below-ground scenes, detailing the heroic efforts of the trapped men, their waiting families, and their rescuers, sometimes on an hour-by-hour basis. Extensive author and source notes, a bibliography, and suggested reading leave plenty for readers to explore.”

--Publishers Weekly, June 13, 2011, \*STAR

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anniversary of the collapse of a Chilean copper mine that entombed miners for more than two months with a riveting, in-depth recounting of the events that held the world rapt. His fluid narrative begins with a brief eyewitness account of the cave-in before contextualizing the disaster. Initial chapters cover mine layout and terminology, as well as prehistoric geology (and how it helped form Chile's Atacama Desert) and the mythology of the blacksmith god, Hephaistos, who "creates the tool the hero needs, and yet he is lame, ugly, a figure of fun." Aronson (*Sugar Changed the World*) smartly links this ancient pejorative attitude to contemporary ones toward mining despite reliance on its products, drawing on cultural connections between the underground world and hell, Hades, etc. Twelve short chapters with photos and diagrams keep the story well-paced as it alternates between above- and below-ground scenes, detailing the heroic efforts of the trapped men, their waiting families, and their rescuers, sometimes on an hour-by-hour basis. Extensive author and source notes, a bibliography, and suggested reading leave plenty for readers to explore. Ages 8–12.

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"Leave it to Aronson.... Photographs, maps, diagrams and a wild range of literary references, from Merlin to Harry Potter, Percy Jackson and Hephaistos, enliven the volume. The author uses these familiar touch points to help tell a complicated story, blending them with such highly technical information as mining machinery to keep his narrative flowing."

--Kirkus Reviews, July 15, 2011

Masterful storytelling brings to life a story that most think they already know; the 33 miners trapped in a Chilean copper mine for 69 days in 2010. It was headline news for two months, with people glued to their televisions watching those final, dramatic rescues. It was a gripping story then, and Aronson manages to make it even more exciting, more inspirational, and more personal, all by gathering pieces of the puzzle and showing how they fit together. Explanations of how the Earth's formation and plate tectonics created the copper lines that are so valuable to the world today are a critical beginning. Filling them in with a brief history of metalworking and mining leads readers to the small, out-of-the-way mine in the Atacama Desert region. From there the story becomes as intriguing and suspenseful as any work of fiction; the miners' struggle to survive below ground is juxtaposed with the frenzy of the work aboveground by the mine officials, the government, and many others working to save the men. Detailed descriptions of the conditions that the miners endured and how they coped paint a vivid picture of just what an ordeal it was. The global response to the disaster was enormous, with organizations, governments, and individuals from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Japan offering resources and expertise to find a solution. Ample source notes, black-and-white photographs, websites, and a brief explanation of research methodology round out this must-have for any library.--Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

SLJ, August 2011 \*STAR

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### Trapped

Such more than just a chronicle of the Chilean mining disaster of 2010, Aronson’s well-researched and riveting book gives readers the sense that they’re in the San José copper mine alongside the “thirty-three men, who had disappeared, eaten by the rock” as he describes their physical hardships (scarce rations, no medicines, ninety-degree temperatures) and emotional turmoil (“This hell is killing me”). He also details, in depth, the goings-on topside—the incredible rescue effort that included “everyone from experts on undersea and underground to outer space.” Another strong point of Aronson’s book is the helpful background info he provides: he delves into forty-million-year-old geological history (“the great dance of the shifting continents”) and discusses the economic conditions that drew men to San José, a mine with no escape routes, “where a man can get work if he doesn’t ask too many questions.” Peppered with engaging quotes, the text is fluid and attention-grabbing. Black-and-white photographs and diagrams are included. Lengthy end matter features a description of each miner, a timeline (unseen), a glossary, source notes, a bibliography, an interview list, websites, an index (unseen), a brief essay about “The World of the Miner,” and an author’s note titled “How I Wrote This Book.” tanya d. auger

The Horn Book Magazine, August 2011 \*STAR

“Much more than just a chronicle of the Chilean mining disaster of 2010, Aronson’s well-researched and riveting book gives readers the sense that they’re in the San José copper mine...Peppered with engaging quotes, the text is fluid and attention-grabbing.”

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Normal 0 false false false EN-US X-NONE X-NONE Aronson, Marc Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert.

Only the most news-averse adolescents would have failed to note last year’s disaster at the San Jose copper mine in northern Chile and its nail-biting aftermath in which teams of rescue workers struggled to make contact with the trapped miners, sustain them physically and emotionally, and finally devise a system to bring them safely to the surface. Here Aronson reassembles the events into a single comprehensive report, which not only covers the rescue effort but also offers background on sketchy mining practices and even the regional geology that gives birth to the veins of copper that makes its way into manufactured goods in industrialized nations. There’s something here to rivet just about anyone, from gearheads who follow the approaches to drilling, to humanists who empathize with the trapped men and their anxious families, to nascent activists who recognize that behind the heroics lies a corrupt, neglectful system of mine operation that endangers workers to maximize profit. Students using this title as a foundation for a written report will appreciate the annotated sourcing, timeline, index, glossary, and perhaps most important, the motherlode of useful websites. Teachers and librarians might also want to direct their students’ attention to Aronson’s appended essay on how he conducted his own Internet-based research. Black-and-white photos and a color insert will be included in the final copy.

--Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, September 2011

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--Booklist, September 2011, \*STAR

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Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet below the Chilean Desert.

Aronson, Marc (Author)

Aug 2011. 144 p. Atheneum, hardcover, \$16.99. (9781416913979).

On August 5, 2010, Raul Villegas was driving a truck deep in the San José mine in northern Chile when 700,000 tons of rock fell onto the road behind him. Villegas made it out, but 33 miners were left trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. The story captivated the world, and in his first book about a current event, Aronson recounts the fascinating effort to rescue the workers. After setting the stage with the crisis, Aronson zips readers through a whirlwind primer on geology, mining history and methods, copper, and Chilean economic conditions. The succinct text is enhanced by a strong selection of photographs, illustrations, and diagrams, all of which help make the abstract technical issues clear. The remainder of the book is structured in a riveting day-by-day, “above-and-below” account of the rescuers’ struggle to locate survivors and bring them to the surface. Well-chosen quotes and interviews humanize the headlines, and Aronson’s dramatic writing achieves a sense of taut suspense that will captivate young readers. The extensive back matter includes biographical sketches of the miners, as well as a glossary, time line, bibliography, and list of suggested websites. Teachers will welcome this excellent title for classroom discussion, which closes with Aronson’s “How I Wrote This Book,” detailing his research methods.

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#### About the Author

Marc Aronson is the author of the critically acclaimed *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado*, winner of the ALA’s first Robert L. Sibert Information Book Award for nonfiction and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. He has won the LMP Award for editing and has a Ph.D. in American history from NYU. He lives with his wife and son in Maplewood, New Jersey.

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The amazing story of the trapped Chilean miners and their incredible rescue that Publishers Weekly calls “a riveting, in-depth recounting of the events that held the world rapt.”

In early August 2010, the unthinkable happened when a mine collapsed in Copiapo, Chile, trapping 33 miners 2,000 feet below the surface. For sixty-nine days they lived on meager resources with increasingly poor air quality. When they were finally rescued, the world watched with rapt attention and rejoiced in the amazing spirit and determination of the miners. What could have been a terrible tragedy became an amazing story of survival.

In *Trapped*, Marc Aronson provides the backstory behind the rescue. By tracing the psychological, physical, and environmental factors surrounding the mission, Aronson highlights the amazing technology and helping hands that made it all possible. From the Argentinean soccer players that hoped to raise morale, to NASA volunteering their expertise to come up with a plan, there was no shortage of enterprising spirit when it came to saving lives. Readers will especially appreciate the eight pages of full-color photos, timeline, glossary, notes, and more.

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- Released on: 2011-08-30
- Format: Kindle eBook

## Review

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At the end of *Trapped* Aronson includes a section called "How I Wrote This Book: And what I learned that could be useful for students writing research reports (and a couple of last thoughts from men I interviewed). The section distinguishes nicely between original research and merely trolling the web. The book certainly works as an example of how to do research, but I suspect that the primary readers will be those kids eaten up by curiosity. How does a person survive for months under the ground? How do you fight off the claustrophobia? And how do you rescue someone if you can't quite get a lock on where precisely they are? *Trapped* seeks to answer all these questions and, in doing so, satisfies a variety of different kinds of readers. If you're looking for an account of recent history with a happy ending (no small feat no matter what the year)

seek ye no further. This, as they say, is it.

On shelves August 30, 2011

Source: Galley sent from publisher for review.

Professional Reviews:

- A star from Publishers Weekly
- A star from Kirkus

Misc: Happy Nonfiction Monday! Lori Calabrese Writes! has today's round-up. Check it out for more tasty nf fare.

--School Library Journal Blog, Betsey Bird (August 9, 2011)

? Aronson, Marc

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

2011. 144pp. \$16.99 hc. Atheneum (Simon & Schuster). 978-1-4169-1397-9. Grade 8 & Up  
Nonfiction the way it is meant to be—riveting, educational, and entertaining! Aronson not only does a fine job of chronicling both the physical and mental ordeals the Chilean miners faced, but explains how the problem occurred, provides historical background, and details the various participants in the rescue attempts. Even though we all watched it, to have it all come together and to grasp the magnitude of what was accomplished makes for fascinating reading! Graphics, diagrams, and photographs serve to enhance the storytelling. Appended are brief descriptions of the trapped miners, a timeline, a glossary of terms and names, an essay on mining, notes, and sources. Give this to students who don't think they like nonfiction. Those that love history, geology, survival stories, scientific exploration, or even mythology will definitely enjoy it. Bibliography. Websites. Index.

--Library Media Connection, November/December 2011

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--Publishers Weekly, November 7, 2011, a "Best Books of 2011" selection

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short chapters with photos and diagrams keep the story well-paced as it alternates between above- and below-ground scenes, detailing the heroic efforts of the trapped men, their waiting families, and their rescuers, sometimes on an hour-by-hour basis. Extensive author and source notes, a bibliography, and suggested reading leave plenty for readers to explore.”

--Publishers Weekly, June 13, 2011, \*STAR

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Marc Aronson. S&S/Atheneum, \$16.99 (144p) ISBN 978-1-4169-1397-9 Aronson marks the one-year anniversary of the collapse of a Chilean copper mine that entombed miners for more than two months with a riveting, in-depth recounting of the events that held the world rapt. His fluid narrative begins with a brief eyewitness account of the cave-in before contextualizing the disaster. Initial chapters cover mine layout and terminology, as well as prehistoric geology (and how it helped form Chile's Atacama Desert) and the mythology of the blacksmith god, Hephaistos, who "creates the tool the hero needs, and yet he is lame, ugly, a figure of fun." Aronson (Sugar Changed the World) smartly links this ancient pejorative attitude to contemporary ones toward mining despite reliance on its products, drawing on cultural connections between the underground world and hell, Hades, etc. Twelve short chapters with photos and diagrams keep the story well-paced as it alternates between above- and below-ground scenes, detailing the heroic efforts of the trapped men, their waiting families, and their rescuers, sometimes on an hour-by-hour basis. Extensive author and source notes, a bibliography, and suggested reading leave plenty for readers to explore. Ages 8–12.

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--Kirkus Reviews, July 15, 2011

Masterful storytelling brings to life a story that most think they already know; the 33 miners trapped in a Chilean copper mine for 69 days in 2010. It was headline news for two months, with people glued to their televisions watching those final, dramatic rescues. It was a gripping story then, and Aronson manages to make it even more exciting, more inspirational, and more personal, all by gathering pieces of the puzzle and showing how they fit together. Explanations of how the Earth's formation and plate tectonics created the copper lines that are so valuable to the world today are a critical beginning. Filling them in with a brief history of metalworking and mining leads readers to the small, out-of-the-way mine in the Atacama Desert region. From there the story becomes as intriguing and suspenseful as any work of fiction; the miners' struggle to survive below ground is juxtaposed with the frenzy of the work aboveground by the mine officials, the government, and many others working to save the men. Detailed descriptions of the conditions that the miners endured and how they coped paint a vivid picture of just what an ordeal it was. The global response to the disaster was enormous, with organizations, governments, and individuals from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Japan offering resources and expertise to find a solution. Ample source notes, black-and-white photographs, websites, and a brief explanation of research methodology round out this must-have for any library.--Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

SLJ, August 2011 \*STAR

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### Trapped

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The Horn Book Magazine, August 2011 \*STAR

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--The Horn Book Magazine, August 1, 2011, \*STAR

Normal 0 false false false EN-US X-NONE X-NONE Aronson, Marc Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert.

Only the most news-averse adolescents would have failed to note last year's disaster at the San Jose copper mine in northern Chile and its nail-biting aftermath in which teams of rescue workers struggled to make contact with the trapped miners, sustain them physically and emotionally, and finally devise a system to bring them safely to the surface. Here Aronson reassembles the events into a single comprehensive report, which not only covers the rescue effort but also offers background on sketchy mining practices and even the regional geology that gives birth to the veins of copper that makes its way into manufactured goods in industrialized nations. There's something here to rivet just about anyone, from gearheads who follow the approaches to drilling, to humanists who empathize with the trapped men and their anxious families, to nascent activists who recognize that behind the heroics lies a corrupt, neglectful system of mine operation



that endangers workers to maximize profit. Students using this title as a foundation for a written report will appreciate the annotated sourcing, timeline, index, glossary, and perhaps most important, the motherlode of useful websites. Teachers and librarians might also want to direct their students' attention to Aronson's appended essay on how he conducted his own Internet-based research. Black-and-white photos and a color insert will be included in the final copy.

--Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, September 2011

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Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet below the Chilean Desert.

Aronson, Marc (Author)

Aug 2011. 144 p. Atheneum, hardcover, \$16.99. (9781416913979).

On August 5, 2010, Raul Villegas was driving a truck deep in the San José mine in northern Chile when 700,000 tons of rock fell onto the road behind him. Villegas made it out, but 33 miners were left trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. The story captivated the world, and in his first book about a current event, Aronson recounts the fascinating effort to rescue the workers. After setting the stage with the crisis, Aronson zips readers through a whirlwind primer on geology, mining history and methods, copper, and Chilean economic conditions. The succinct text is enhanced by a strong selection of photographs, illustrations, and diagrams, all of which help make the abstract technical issues clear. The remainder of the book is structured in a riveting day-by-day, "above-and-below" account of the rescuers' struggle to locate survivors and bring them to the surface. Well-chosen quotes and interviews humanize the headlines, and Aronson's dramatic writing achieves a sense of taut suspense that will captivate young readers. The extensive back matter includes biographical sketches of the miners, as well as a glossary, time line, bibliography, and list of suggested websites. Teachers will welcome this excellent title for classroom discussion, which closes with Aronson's "How I Wrote This Book," detailing his research methods.

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#### About the Author

Marc Aronson is the author of the critically acclaimed *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado*, winner of the ALA's first Robert L. Sibert Information Book Award for nonfiction and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. He has won the LMP Award for editing and has a Ph.D. in American history from NYU. He lives with his wife and son in Maplewood, New Jersey.

#### Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

What a great book. My 11-year old daughter had to read ...

By V. Claro

What a great book. My 11-year old daughter had to read it for summer reading and it was so well written for a middle schooler. I read it as well and loved it. It's a quick read!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Blood on the coal

By E. R. Bird

The notion that history is always happening isn't necessarily obvious to a kid. I remember have several moments of revelation when I was younger, realizing time and time again that the folks we studied in school were real. That they walked around like I did. History has a tendency to play out like a movie when you're young. You might be moved but you wouldn't necessarily be able to wrap your head around the notion that there but for the grace of God go I. To hammer this notion home it might be advisable to find moments in recent history that have been recorded for all of posterity. Like, say, the Chilean miner incident of 2010. A lot of kids (as of this review) would remember when that was in the news. Yet they might not think of that as a historical incident yet. Enter *Trapped* by Marc Aronson. Here we have a book that sheds some light on the story that hypnotized the world. With its natural tension and everyday heroes, *Trapped* is that rarest of nonfiction beasts: A contemporary work of historical fact that has you gripping the edge of your seat.

The collapse of a San Jose mine on August 5, 2010 wasn't anything the world hadn't seen before. Mines collapse all the time. It's a dangerous occupation. The difference here, of course, was the fact that the 33 men trapped 2,300 feet underground were still alive. Suddenly the world was riveted by their story. Would the rescuers be able to find them? And even if they did, how would they get them out? Backmatter to this true tale includes brief biographies of each of the thirty-three miners, a Timeline, a Glossary of Names and Terms, a word on "The World of the Miner" by a miner, a note to students, Notes and Sources, a Bibliography, a list of interviewed subjects, Useful Websites, and an Index.

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Ages 10 and up

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great for middle school readers

By Maggie Knapp

A fast and riveting read (about 70 pages of text, 15 pages of photos and 35 pages of helpful notes, vocabulary, sources etc.) about (just as the subtitle tells us): How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert. Aronson deftly handles a complicated story in a way that middle grade(5th and up)readers will understand. He shows respect and compassion for everyone involved, not delving too deep, not focusing overly much on what/who failed and not trying to assign legal blame. He highlights the courage of the miners and the hard work of all who were involved in the rescue, as well as the geographic and geologic backstory of mining and that particular mine. My only comment (nothing like an armchair quarterback!) is that I felt a teensy bit disappointed that the hours of actual, physical rescue are covered in a few paragraphs acknowledging hugs and "rising slowly" and "all goes smoothly" and not much more. I wanted a page or two that more clearly explained the capsule and what it was like to ride in it. I wanted to hear the joyous greetings of the families...the words of the miners as they emerged. Maybe that was too personal to include, but after hearing so much about their life underground and the rescuers' valiant efforts to save them, I wanted more details and some photos of the capsule (there is a line drawing.) Perhaps copyright issues or privacy issues were in the way. Overall a great choice for MS readers with a love of adventure or a scientific bent towards what happens in a mine.

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# **TRAPPED: HOW THE WORLD RESCUED 33 MINERS FROM 2,000 FEET BELOW THE CHILEAN DESERT BY MARC ARONSON PDF**

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## Review

Review of the Day: Trapped by Marc Aronson August 1st, 2011

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

By Marc Aronson

Atheneum Books for Young Readers (an imprint of Simon & Schuster)

\$16.99

ISBN: 978-1416913979

Ages 10 and up

On shelves August 30, 2011

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A good work of nonfiction for kids makes you want to keep reading, even when you know the outcome. When I pick up a book like *Amelia Lost* by Candace Fleming, I love that I feel like there may be a chance that they'll find Ms. Earhardt this time. Similarly, when I read *Trapped* I have to feel like there's a chance that they won't rescue the miners this time. Indeed there were several moments when it really seemed as though the miners wouldn't be found. Aronson parcels out this tension, knowing better than to fill the narrative with foreshadowing or some kind of false narrative technique. And like Fleming's book he makes sure to tell two different stories at once. We are both with the miners and with the rescuers as the tale unfolds.

Mr. Aronson is a fan of context. It isn't enough to know that this story takes place 2,000 feet below the Chilean Desert. He must show you how that desert was formed. And it isn't enough to simply know that these men were farmers of items like copper. He's inclined to give you the very history of copper itself, going so far as to tie it into scenes from *The Lightning Thief* or *Harry Potter* (sometimes inexplicably). For me, these sidenotes distracted from the larger (and more interesting) story. I know why Aronson has included them, but most of this information appears at the beginning of the book in a big lump. I would have preferred it to be integrated evenly throughout the text. That way a sentence like, "Today, the average American uses sixteen pounds of copper a year" will have the adequate oomph it deserves.

Aronson writes for both child and teen readers, and you're never quite certain which he'll write for next. In this particular case he's made certain that this book would appeal to kids as well as those in the throes of adolescence. Of course, to do that he has to tiptoe around some interesting issues. I didn't follow the disaster very closely when it was occurring back in 2010, but one thing I do remember is hearing that one of the miners had the awkward problem of being visited via the hole by both his wife and his mistress. You'll find no mention of that fact in this book. There are points where the men resolve to become better people when they leave the mine, and there's a point where Aronson condemns the sordid stories that the press indulged in at times, regarding the miners' personal lives as nothing more than tabloid fodder. Nothing sordid makes it onto these pages, though. Later we read an account of the items that were lowered to the miners. Amongst the listed objects is "a picture of a pretty girl". Call me dirty minded, but it is possible that picture was more than just that. It doesn't matter, though. That's not the story that's being told here.

At the end of *Trapped* Aronson includes a section called "How I Wrote This Book: And what I learned that could be useful for students writing research reports (and a couple of last thoughts from men I interviewed). The section distinguishes nicely between original research and merely trolling the web. The book certainly works as an example of how to do research, but I suspect that the primary readers will be those kids eaten up by curiosity. How does a person survive for months under the ground? How do you fight off the claustrophobia? And how do you rescue someone if you can't quite get a lock on where precisely they are? *Trapped* seeks to answer all these questions and, in doing so, satisfies a variety of different kinds of readers. If you're looking for an account of recent history with a happy ending (no small feat no matter what the year) seek ye no further. This, as they say, is it.

On shelves August 30, 2011

Source: Galley sent from publisher for review.

Professional Reviews:

- A star from *Publishers Weekly*
- A star from *Kirkus*

Misc: Happy Nonfiction Monday! Lori Calabrese Writes! has today's round-up. Check it out for more tasty nf fare.

--School Library Journal Blog, Betsey Bird (August 9, 2011)

? Aronson, Marc

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

2011. 144pp. \$16.99 hc. Atheneum (Simon & Schuster). 978-1-4169-1397-9. Grade 8 & Up

Nonfiction the way it is meant to be—riveting, educational, and entertaining! Aronson not only does a fine job of chronicling both the physical and mental ordeals the Chilean miners faced, but explains how the problem occurred, provides historical background, and details the various participants in the rescue attempts. Even though we all watched it, to have it all come together and to grasp the magnitude of what was accomplished makes for fascinating reading! Graphics, diagrams, and photographs serve to enhance the storytelling. Appended are brief descriptions of the trapped miners, a timeline, a glossary of terms and names, an essay on mining, notes, and sources. Give this to students who don't think they like nonfiction. Those that love history, geology, survival stories, scientific exploration, or even mythology will definitely enjoy it. Bibliography. Websites. Index.

--Library Media Connection, November/December 2011

“Nonfiction the way it is meant to be—riveting, educational, and entertaining! Aronson not only does a fine job of chronicling both the physical and mental ordeals the Chilean miners faced, but explains how the problem occurred, provides historical background, and details the various participants in the rescue attempts...fascinating reading!.... Give this to students who don't think they like nonfiction. Those that love history, geology, survival stories, scientific exploration, or even mythology will definitely enjoy it.”

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“Aronson delivers a captivating account of the mine collapse...[and] crafts vivid portraits of the miners' experiences underground, as well as those of the families and countrymen breathlessly awaiting their safe return.”

--Publishers Weekly, November 7, 2011, a "Best Books of 2011" selection

“Aronson marks the one-year anniversary of the collapse of a Chilean copper mine that entombed miners for more than two months with a riveting, in-depth recounting of the events that held the world rapt... Twelve short chapters with photos and diagrams keep the story well-paced as it alternates between above- and below-ground scenes, detailing the heroic efforts of the trapped men, their waiting families, and their rescuers, sometimes on an hour-by-hour basis. Extensive author and source notes, a bibliography, and suggested reading leave plenty for readers to explore.”

--Publishers Weekly, June 13, 2011, \*STAR

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

Marc Aronson. S&S/Atheneum, \$16.99 (144p) ISBN 978-1-4169-1397-9 Aronson marks the one-year anniversary of the collapse of a Chilean copper mine that entombed miners for more than two months with a riveting, in-depth recounting of the events that held the world rapt. His fluid narrative begins with a brief eyewitness account of the cave-in before contextualizing the disaster. Initial chapters cover mine layout and



terminology, as well as prehistoric geology (and how it helped form Chile's Atacama Desert) and the mythology of the blacksmith god, Hephaistos, who "creates the tool the hero needs, and yet he is lame, ugly, a figure of fun." Aronson (*Sugar Changed the World*) smartly links this ancient pejorative attitude to contemporary ones toward mining despite reliance on its products, drawing on cultural connections between the underground world and hell, Hades, etc. Twelve short chapters with photos and diagrams keep the story well-paced as it alternates between above- and below-ground scenes, detailing the heroic efforts of the trapped men, their waiting families, and their rescuers, sometimes on an hour-by-hour basis. Extensive author and source notes, a bibliography, and suggested reading leave plenty for readers to explore. Ages 8–12.

--Publishers Weekly, June 13, 2011, \*STAR

"Leave it to Aronson.... Photographs, maps, diagrams and a wild range of literary references, from Merlin to Harry Potter, Percy Jackson and Hephaistos, enliven the volume. The author uses these familiar touch points to help tell a complicated story, blending them with such highly technical information as mining machinery to keep his narrative flowing."

--Kirkus Reviews, July 15, 2011

Masterful storytelling brings to life a story that most think they already know; the 33 miners trapped in a Chilean copper mine for 69 days in 2010. It was headline news for two months, with people glued to their televisions watching those final, dramatic rescues. It was a gripping story then, and Aronson manages to make it even more exciting, more inspirational, and more personal, all by gathering pieces of the puzzle and showing how they fit together. Explanations of how the Earth's formation and plate tectonics created the copper lines that are so valuable to the world today are a critical beginning. Filling them in with a brief history of metalworking and mining leads readers to the small, out-of-the-way mine in the Atacama Desert region. From there the story becomes as intriguing and suspenseful as any work of fiction; the miners' struggle to survive below ground is juxtaposed with the frenzy of the work aboveground by the mine officials, the government, and many others working to save the men. Detailed descriptions of the conditions that the miners endured and how they coped paint a vivid picture of just what an ordeal it was. The global response to the disaster was enormous, with organizations, governments, and individuals from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Japan offering resources and expertise to find a solution. Ample source notes, black-and-white photographs, websites, and a brief explanation of research methodology round out this must-have for any library.--Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

SLJ, August 2011 \*STAR

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### Trapped

Such more than just a chronicle of the Chilean mining disaster of 2010, Aronson’s well-researched and riveting book gives readers the sense that they’re in the San José copper mine alongside the “thirty-three men, who had disappeared, eaten by the rock” as he describes their physical hardships (scarce rations, no medicines, ninety-degree temperatures) and emotional turmoil (“This hell is killing me”). He also details, in depth, the goings-on topside—the incredible rescue effort that included “everyone from experts on undersea and underground to outer space.” Another strong point of Aronson’s book is the helpful background info he provides: he delves into forty-million-year-old geological history (“the great dance of the shifting continents”) and discusses the economic conditions that drew men to San José, a mine with no escape routes, “where a man can get work if he doesn’t ask too many questions.” Peppered with engaging quotes, the text is fluid and attention-grabbing. Black-and-white photographs and diagrams are included. Lengthy end matter features a description of each miner, a timeline (unseen), a glossary, source notes, a bibliography, an interview list, websites, an index (unseen), a brief essay about “The World of the Miner,” and an author’s note titled “How I Wrote This Book.” tanya d. auger

The Horn Book Magazine, August 2011 \*STAR

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--The Horn Book Magazine, August 1, 2011, \*STAR

Normal 0 false false false EN-US X-NONE X-NONE Aronson, Marc Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert.

Only the most news-averse adolescents would have failed to note last year’s disaster at the San Jose copper mine in northern Chile and its nail-biting aftermath in which teams of rescue workers struggled to make contact with the trapped miners, sustain them physically and emotionally, and finally devise a system to bring them safely to the surface. Here Aronson reassembles the events into a single comprehensive report, which not only covers the rescue effort but also offers background on sketchy mining practices and even the regional geology that gives birth to the veins of copper that makes its way into manufactured goods in industrialized nations. There’s something here to rivet just about anyone, from gearheads who follow the approaches to drilling, to humanists who empathize with the trapped men and their anxious families, to nascent activists who recognize that behind the heroics lies a corrupt, neglectful system of mine operation that endangers workers to maximize profit. Students using this title as a foundation for a written report will appreciate the annotated sourcing, timeline, index, glossary, and perhaps most important, the motherlode of useful websites. Teachers and librarians might also want to direct their students’ attention to Aronson’s appended essay on how he conducted his own Internet-based research. Black-and-white photos and a color insert will be included in the final copy.

--Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, September 2011

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Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet below the Chilean Desert.

Aronson, Marc (Author)

Aug 2011. 144 p. Atheneum, hardcover, \$16.99. (9781416913979).

On August 5, 2010, Raul Villegas was driving a truck deep in the San José mine in northern Chile when 700,000 tons of rock fell onto the road behind him. Villegas made it out, but 33 miners were left trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. The story captivated the world, and in his first book about a current event, Aronson recounts the fascinating effort to rescue the workers. After setting the stage with the crisis, Aronson zips readers through a whirlwind primer on geology, mining history and methods, copper, and Chilean economic conditions. The succinct text is enhanced by a strong selection of photographs, illustrations, and diagrams, all of which help make the abstract technical issues clear. The remainder of the book is structured in a riveting day-by-day, "above-and-below" account of the rescuers' struggle to locate survivors and bring them to the surface. Well-chosen quotes and interviews humanize the headlines, and Aronson's dramatic writing achieves a sense of taut suspense that will captivate young readers. The extensive back matter includes biographical sketches of the miners, as well as a glossary, time line, bibliography, and list of suggested websites. Teachers will welcome this excellent title for classroom discussion, which closes with Aronson's "How I Wrote This Book," detailing his research methods.

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#### About the Author

Marc Aronson is the author of the critically acclaimed *Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado*, winner of the ALA's first Robert L. Sibert Information Book Award for nonfiction and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. He has won the LMP Award for editing and has a Ph.D. in American history from NYU. He lives with his wife and son in Maplewood, New Jersey.

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