



Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine

Heather Lang , Raúl Colón (Illustrations)

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On November 19, 1916, at 8:25 a.m., Ruth Law took off on a flight that aviation experts thought was doomed. She set off to fly nonstop from Chicago to New York City. Sitting at the controls of her small bi-plane, exposed to the elements, Law battled fierce winds and numbing cold. When her engine ran out of fuel, she glided for two miles and landed at Hornell, New York. Even though she fell short of her goal, she had broken the existing cross-country distance record. And with her plane refueled, she got back in the air and headed for New York City where crowds waited to greet her. In this well-researched, action-packed picture book, Heather Lang and Raúl Colón recreate a thrilling moment in aviation history. Includes an afterword with archival photographs.

Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine Details

Date : Published March 1st 2016 by Calkins Creek

ISBN : 9781620916506

Author : Heather Lang , Raúl Colón (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Biography, Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction, History, Aeroplanes



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From Reader Review Fearless Flyer: Ruth Law and Her Flying Machine for online ebook

Samantha says

I enjoyed this book about Ruth Law, a pioneering female flyer. She made a solo flight from the Chicago area to New York City. She was hoping for it to be a nonstop flight. That did not end up happening, but she was the first to make a solo flight that long. I liked Colon's illustrations. I'm not sure it would be appropriate for the book award list I read for, but it would certainly be eligible for Chickadee.

Sarah Nelson says

I enjoyed this fictionalized account of Ruth Law's historic solo flight from Chicago to New York City when she broke the record for longest non-stop flight. Some great tension is created with weather and engine problems. I loved how Lang made regular use of quotes from interviews of Law about her experiences as a pilot and a woman in this male-dominated field. Interesting back matter.

It's nice to see so many picture book biographies lately of lesser known historical figures, including women and people of color.

Ruth says

I had never heard of Ruth Law before, but this awesome children's book biography changed that. My son declared it "awesome" and then insisted I sit so he could read it to me. We both really liked the illustrations.

Jane says

Interesting, beautifully written and illustrated true story about a woman who merits the book's title. Young readers will find this nothing-gonna-stop-me pilot cool. Her actual quotes are colorful and skillfully interwoven with the suspenseful and inspiring text.

Abril says

Lexile: AD700L
AR Level: 0.5pts

Kellee says

Review at: <http://www.unleashingreaders.com/?p=1...>

I love Ruth. She just doesn't care if anyone tells her she cannot do something. She just goes about it her own way. Law is definitely a woman who should be taught about in schools because she really embodies someone that is not going to let lower expectations for women get in her way of doing exactly what she wants to do. And even next to flying, Law goes against everything that is stereotypical about women because she is also mechanical. (Also, interestingly enough, there is a flying book called Flying Solo which is about another Ruth pilot.) Ruth Law will definitely be added to my "Biographical Picture Books about Strong Women" update post when I do it.

LeAnne says

Exhilarating! Having been a child who lay in bed, staring at my window, willing it to burst open and Peter Pan to fly in to carry me off to Neverland (Look at me way up high / Suddenly here am I / I'm flying!), I identified strongly with the opening quote about aviator Ruth Law dreaming she was a swallow or an eagle and waking up disappointed to have no wings. I was constantly disappointed that Peter never came for me. More recently, our family has enjoyed our local aviation show, and so again, I was right there with Ruth when she was doing aerial tricks to entertain folk.

But Ruth's dream was to GO somewhere—like New York! In 1916 when few men flew and it was considered ridiculous for a woman to even consider it, this was no mean achievement. And her plane! It looks more like a bicycle with wings and a tail than anything I would consider flight worthy. She was so creative, adding gas tanks to allow her to go further, and cutting a map into strips she could scroll through on a box strapped to her leg. Her compass was strapped to her wrist. What an adventure! And what a challenge to boys AND girls to work for their dreams and not let anyone tell them it can't be done. Ruth did not find success by some kind of "affirmative action;" in fact, she fought an uphill battle against the prevailing thinking of the day--even among aviators. She succeeded by studying the mechanics of her machine until she understood it backwards and forwards and could tell by the sound of her motor what was happening. And by refusing to give up.

Beautifully illustrated and enhanced with scattered quotes, my only complaint is that page numbers were left out. That makes the source notes for quotes difficult to use since they reference page numbers that are non-existent. But I'm looking forward to sharing this book with my grandkids of both genders.

Christina says

Terrific picture book of Ruth Law's recordbreaking flight from Chicago to New York City in 1916, in a biplane, exposed to the elements, braving the cold and sleep deprivation, etc. Has inspiring quotes (properly sourced) from her, pulled out and spotlighted in dramatic fonts. Beautifully designed and illustrated book, where the text flows in curves to imitate flying; author's note gives photos of her and tells the rest of her story, how she wanted to fly in World War II but women weren't allowed in combat, so she did aerial shows and recruited new pilots.

Aliza Werner says

Everyone knows Amelia Earhart. Introduce readers to this brave and fearless female pilot who set a flight record in the early 1900s.

Sue Poduska says

In the early days of flight, many women and men distinguished themselves as clever, hardy, and fearless. None was more fearless than Ruth Law. Great tie-in with early twentieth century history, flight, and women's history.

Jo Oehrlein says

Great illustrations by Raul Colon.

Shows Ruth Law braving the elements and those who thought she couldn't succeed (and those who tried to ensure she couldn't by not letting her have access to the latest technology) to set a flight distance record and then continuing on to NYC to approval from the crowds.

Samantha says

A play-by-play of Ruth Law's historic flight from Chicago to New York City. Law made the flight during a time in which women were actively discouraged from flying and just a few short years after the Wright Brothers made history with their airplane design. She endured freezing temperatures and other weather phenomena in an era in which technology consisted of a lap map for directional purposes.

Prismacolor pencils and lithograph crayons were used to create the illustrations for the book. The story opens with a quote from Law and numerous quotes are worked into the text giving the book a diary-like quality.

Back matter includes an author's note, photos of Ruth Law, bibliography, websites, exhibit info, and source notes.

Recommended for grades 3-5+.

Sheri says

This non-fiction telling of Ruth Law's desire to fly her airplane non-stop from Chicago to New York City is brave and something a woman was not encouraged to do. But Ruth had a goal and a challenge and decided she could do it in her bi-plane. It explains her preparations and some stumbling blocks when a man who had

a better plane would not sell her one to make her journey. So she strapped on extra gas tanks to her plane and made the trip with a few stops and bundled up against the cold. This and many other stories of non-fiction give girls and students the drive to try what they think they cannot do. The back matter explains each illustration and details about Ruth and her quest during World War I.

Frederic says

A lesser-known bit of aviation history, and one that's different from the usual story because the flight attempt wasn't successful as originally planned -- the destination was reached, but not as a non-stop flight. It also effectively highlights the biases faced by Law as an early aviatrix. I also love Colón's illustrations!

Martha says

On November 19, 1916 Ruth Law, a young aviatrix, sought to break the distance record of flying between Chicago and New York in her tiny biplane. Although she had to make a stop because her small plane ran out of fuel, she did courageously reach her final destination. This exciting plane flight comes alive with Raul Colon's sumptuous double spread realistic colored pencil illustrations of her journey. Adding the dimension of including quotes from Ruth Law in bold contrast color script, gives younger readers a taste of important primary resources. Her statement about fear is powerful. " I wouldn't give a cent for any experience that didn't scare me a little. The scare is part of the thrill." The inclusion of a detailed mini biography with photographs of Ruth Law, bibliography, websites, and source notes make this a strong resource for young researchers as well as a great read aloud.
