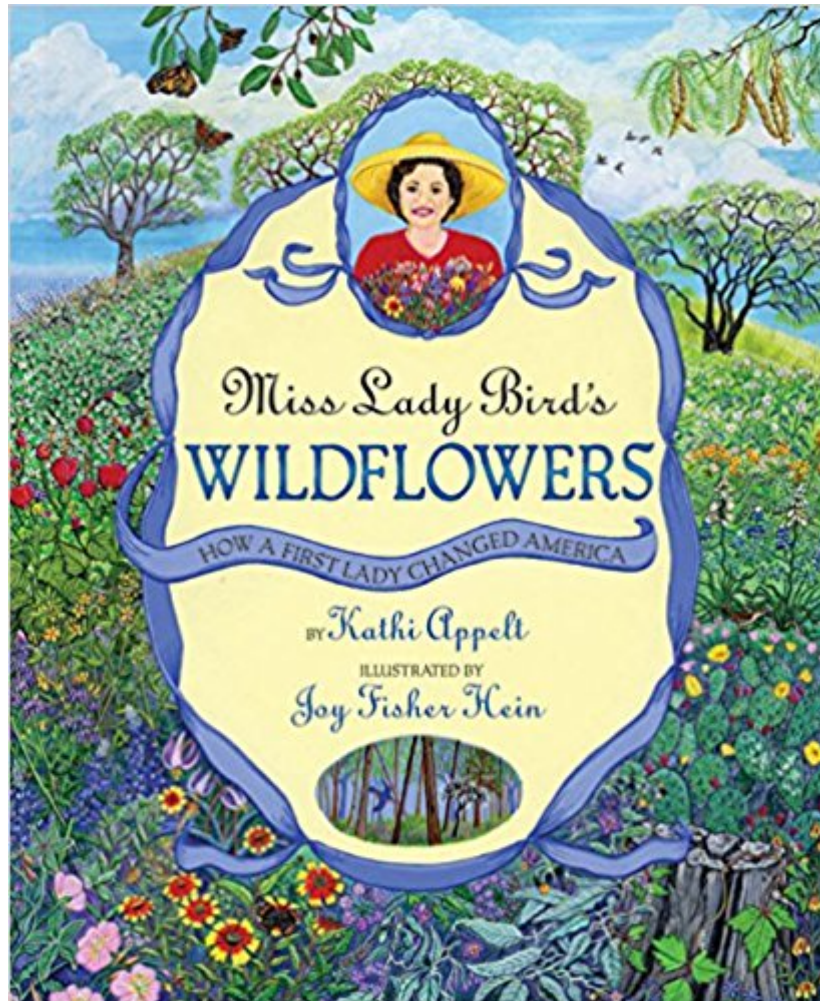




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Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers: How A First Lady Changed America



Synopsis

Bluebonnets and lady's slippers, larkspurs and blazing stars, black-eyed Susans and Granny's nightcaps. From a lonely childhood in the Piney Woods of East Texas to an exciting life in the White House, Lady Bird Johnson loved these wildflowers with all her heart. They were her companions in her youth, greeting her everywhere as she explored wild forests, bayous, and hills. Later, as First Lady, she sought to bring the beauty of wildflowers to America's cities and highways. She wanted to make sure every child could enjoy the splendor of wildflowers. In this warm, engaging look at the life of a great First Lady, Kathi Appelt tells the story behind Lady Bird Johnson's environmental vision. Joy Fisher Hein's colorful wildflowers burst from every page, inviting us to share in Lady Bird's love for natural beauty.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 1st edition (February 15, 2005)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #608,983 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #171 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > U. S. Presidents & First Ladies](#) #204 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Flowers & Plants](#) #454 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr. 1-3. Causes celebres are as commonplace among First Ladies as red suits and pearls, but few are as accessible to children as the wildflower-planting campaigns of Lady Bird Johnson. Appelt traces Johnson's botanical passions to her rural, East Texas childhood, finding parallels between the solace her subject drew from nature after her mother's death and her launch of the Highway Beautification Act to soothe a nation grieving for JFK. Psychological correlations of this sort appear throughout, and Appelt doesn't provide specific evidence to back them up; however, source

citations for quotations and bibliographic resources are listed. Newcomer Hein's figures are awkwardly handled, but children will pore enthusiastically over her riotous, millefleur landscapes, each bloom so meticulously rendered that bluebells can be distinguished from bluebonnets by using the identification key provided. This is ideally suited for children lucky enough to attend schools where gardens are part of the curriculum; elsewhere, a stroll through Hein's stunning gouache meadowlands may be the next best thing. An endnote describes the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center that Johnson founded in 1982. Jennifer Mattson

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"Children will pore enthusiastically over her riotous, millefleur landscapes, each bloom meticulously rendered." (Booklist) "This warmly attractive volume tells a graceful braid of stories Hein's delicate pictures are in bright, clear colors." (Kirkus Reviews) "Colorful pictures add sparkle to the work." (Dallas Morning News) "A colorful and readable account." (Grand Rapids Press) "Joy Hein's spectacular paintings veritably burst off the page." (Orlando Sentinel) "Joy Fisher Hein's illustrations will captivate readers of all ages." (Austin American-Statesman) "Joy Fisher Hein's illustrations for the picture book give readers an easy lesson in wildflower identification." (Houston Chronicle)

I purchased this book because one of our visiting granddaughters found it in our local library and loved it. When they left, I ordered the book. Later I was able to deliver it to her and she was delighted. She is 3 and almost knows it by heart. I think it is a very good book for that age group and higher.

Nice addition to my library!

A beautifully written and illustrated book. Highly recommended.

I bought this book for my momma, a life-long fan of wildflowers and children. She teaches Sunday school in a rural Texas town and shared this book with her 3 year olds, emphasizing the glory of our God, as revealed in these beautiful little flowers! Thank you for the book, for the fast shipping, and for the good price and ease of purchasing it!

I used this beautiful picture book to prepare my lesson for Garden Club. The Garden Club liked it so much that we purchased it for the local Grade School library.

Author Kathi Appelt and illustrator Joy Fisher Hein have put together a beautifully illustrated children's book about the life and legacy of Lady Bird Johnson. A wonderful story highlighted with beautiful illustrations tell the story of this unique and important lady in American History that children will long remember. If you don't know the story of Lady Bird Johnson and the legacy she left about her beautiful wildflowers that enhance the beauty of Texas and the United States then I recommend this book for you and your children. Joy Fisher Hein has done a beautiful job painting scenes of Lady Bird in the wildflowers she loved so much. The front cover shows Lady Bird in her famous flower-gardening hat with a bouquet of flowers. The rest of the cover shows the Texas Blue Bonnets, thistles, pansy's, buttercups and other wildflowers that Lady Bird loved. The story of Lady Bird Johnson begins with her birth in Karnak, Texas. From there the author tells of how she met Lyndon Johnson, their life in Washington D.C., when he became President, their life on the LBJ Ranch, and the life of Lady Bird after LBJ passed away, how she and actress Helen Hayes started the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas, and the book also illustrates a few of the flowers you will find at the center. What a wonderful children's book this is! It is the PERFECT introduction about the wonderful life of Lady Bird Johnson. It was published in 2005, a few years before her death in 2007, and I know she would of had a smile on her face as she reviewed this outstanding book!

Claudia Alta Taylor was born on December 22, 1912 in Texas. Her nanny called her Lady Bird because she was pretty. This book tells the life of Lady Bird Johnson from her birth to her days in school to marrying Lyndon B Johnson and becoming the First Lady of the United States. Lady Bird Johnson with the help of her husband was able to get Congress to pass the "Highway Beautification Act" which cleaned up all the roads across America and planted wildflowers in the trash and junk's place. Why I liked this book - This is a great Nonfiction book! I like that it taught me about a person I didn't know about - "Lady Bird" Johnson (I think maybe a lot of kids don't know who she was). She was more than the wife of Lyndon B. Johnson (Heeey... I just realized! Both of their initials are "L.B.J." :)). I liked learning about the National Wildflower Research Center that Lady Bird started and how they try to preserve wildflowers and birds. The story of her life is told in a nice way that was interesting to me. The story is pretty long and is a good picture book for older kids, but I think it would make a great read aloud for parents and kids. The illustrations are marvelous! When I was reading the book I thought the pictures really made me calm. *NOTE I reviewed a library copy of this

book

This is a picture book type biography of First Lady Bird Johnson. First we learn of her childhood. We learn that her nanny gave her the nickname ladybird. She was playing with her one day and said she was as pretty as a Lady Bird and the name stuck. We then learn that her mother died after a tragic accident. She fell down the stairs and never recovered from her injuries. Her father then tried to raise Lady Bird on his own but he wanted a better life for his daughter. He asked one of her aunts to come and help take care of her. Aunt Effie came and shared her love of flowers with Lady Bird. As Lady Bird grew up she met and married Lyndon Johnson who later became the president of the United States after Kennedy was shot. As First Lady she worked hard to help the nation heal from the shock of losing Kennedy. She knew how much flowers meant to her and how much joy they brought to her life so she decided to share them with the world. She set out on a campaign of her own to plant wild flowers along the interstates. What did you like or not like about the book? At the end of the book were pictures and titles of various wild flowers. Some of them I had never heard of before. I learned a lot about wildflowers through this book.

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