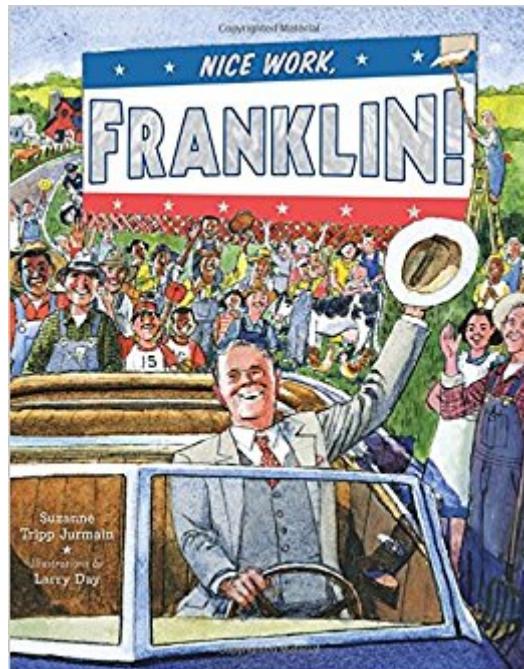


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# Nice Work, Franklin!



## **Synopsis**

As one of our most inspirational and determined presidents, Franklin Roosevelt overcame his disability to lead the country out of the Great Depression. Franklin Roosevelt idolized his cousin Teddy Roosevelt. He started wearing eyeglasses like Teddy, he spoke like Teddy, and he held the same public offices as Teddy. But then one day his life changed—he got sick. He developed polio and he could no longer walk. But Franklin also had Teddy's determination, so after physical therapy and hard work, he ran for governor of New York and won. Then a different kind of sickness, the Great Depression, spread across the country: Banks were closing, and thousands lost their jobs. Franklin said that if you have a problem, solve it. If one solution doesn't work, try another but above all TRY SOMETHING. So Franklin ran for president, and on Inauguration Day, he made it clear that together they would conquer this sickness. He got to work creating jobs and slowly America started getting better. Suzanne Tripp Jurmain and Larry Day of George Did It and Worst of Friends fame are teamed up again to tell the story of how our only disabled president saved himself and then saved the country.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 0720 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## **Customer Reviews**

Besides being an award-winning author, Suzanne Tripp Jurmain was a child and teen actor

appearing in many television shows and soap operas. She is currently a freelance writer and editor and lives in Los Angeles, California. Larry Day is an award-winning illustrator. He also works as a storyboardist at a large advertising agency. He lives in Chicago, Illinois.

It brings history alive for young adults. The artwork the words flow

Summary: Some presidents have faced personal challenges, some have faced national challenges, and some, as the author describes on the first page, have faced both. She then goes on to a light-hearted introduction to Franklin Roosevelt, and how he aspired to be like his famous cousin Theodore. He got off to a good start— young Franklin was rich, smart, and determined. He soon was making a name for himself in the New York legislature and as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. But shortly after his 39th birthday, he was struck with polio and paralyzed from the waist down. Although he never recovered use of his legs, he learned to stand with braces and went on to become NY governor, then President of the United States. And there he was faced with a national challenge, the Great Depression. Using the same determination that helped him overcome polio, he worked hard to improve Americans' lives. The book ends with Roosevelt's second term inauguration. An author's note gives more information about Roosevelt's life and some of the programs he started during the Great Depression. 32 pages; ages 6-10. Pros: This is the third book of U.S. history by this author-illustrator team (George Did It and The Worst of Friends are their other two). Although the subject matter is serious, both the text and the illustrations are upbeat and humorous. While Franklin Roosevelt comes off in a positive light, there is some balance in describing why some Americans didn't like him as President. Cons: The book begins when Roosevelt is a young man and ends in early 1937, so this is not a complete biography of his entire life.

This is a nice book with an inspiring story. It tells about the 32nd president, Franklin Roosevelt, and how, as a young man, he aspired to be like his cousin, president Teddy Roosevelt. But he faced a major setback when he lost use of his legs to polio at the age of 39. After overcoming the limitations placed upon him, he was better able to help the nation get better after the Great Depression. The illustrations in pencil and watercolor, are realistic, yet fun. I'm enjoying this book with my children, and hope they can learn that when faced with a problem, they can "above all, try something—because ultimately, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

I can't say that I have read too many non-fiction biographical picture books. This is something I think I need to remedy. Did you all realize that we have only ever had one disabled President of the United States? I am sure that I was probably taught this tidbit of information and then have just forgotten it over time... Thank you, dear picture book, for reminding me of this! I enjoyed this story. It was a nice, fun, and pleasant way to learn about Franklin Roosevelt. There was a lot of information about it. I do, however, wonder if he really was as into copying what his cousin Teddy Roosevelt as this book claims he was. It is kind of funny if it is true, but if they exaggerated it a bit, it made it a little bit more fun. I am not a huge fan of the artwork in this book, but we can't win with illustrations every time. It isn't that it is bad, but sometimes the pictures are a little iffy - especially for poor Eleanor Roosevelt... Definitely a nice fun, educational read! This review is based on a copy provided by the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review. Find more of my reviews here: <http://readingwithcupcakes.blogspot.com/>

"Do presidents have challenges? You'd better believe it." What a great way to start a book about a president who overcame some incredible challenges. Franklin, or FDR, overcame an incredible challenge when he was stricken with polio when he was thirty-nine. So many people died or were permanently lamed by the disease, but he worked and worked to strengthen his legs. He went on to be elected the governor of New York, because that job required brains and not legs. While he was busy trying to help the people of New York, the country got sick. The US didn't have polio, but it had the Great Depression. Franklin didn't let that stop him; he was elected president of the United States, and his motto of "Above all, TRY SOMETHING," was put to the test as he tried to help the country get better. He put many programs into place to help people find jobs and help the economy recover. When there were places he couldn't go very easily because of his legs, his wife Eleanor went instead. Just as his family had cheered him on when he was recovering from polio, Eleanor supported him in the presidency. And even though his legs were not as strong as they once were, he still made "big steps to help America." Picture book biographies are an easy way to introduce famous people to younger students. They are short enough to be read-aloud during a class period. They have illustrations to capture the attention of young readers and help with words or concepts that may be unfamiliar. And they bring history to life for students. Books like this one can show what a particular historical period looked like through the clothing, cars, and other objects pictured. *Nice Work, Franklin!* also shows that even presidents were once children and had their own heroes and role models, as well as having to overcome their own challenges. Highly recommended for

elementary school students. Great for introducing a study of FDR or the Great Depression. The introduction and the Author's Note provide additional information about other presidents who faced challenges and about the results of all Franklin's programs to fight the economic problems of the Depression.

Informative, engaging and beautifully illustrated. Inspirational story--good pick for teaching diversity and acceptance of people with disabilities.

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