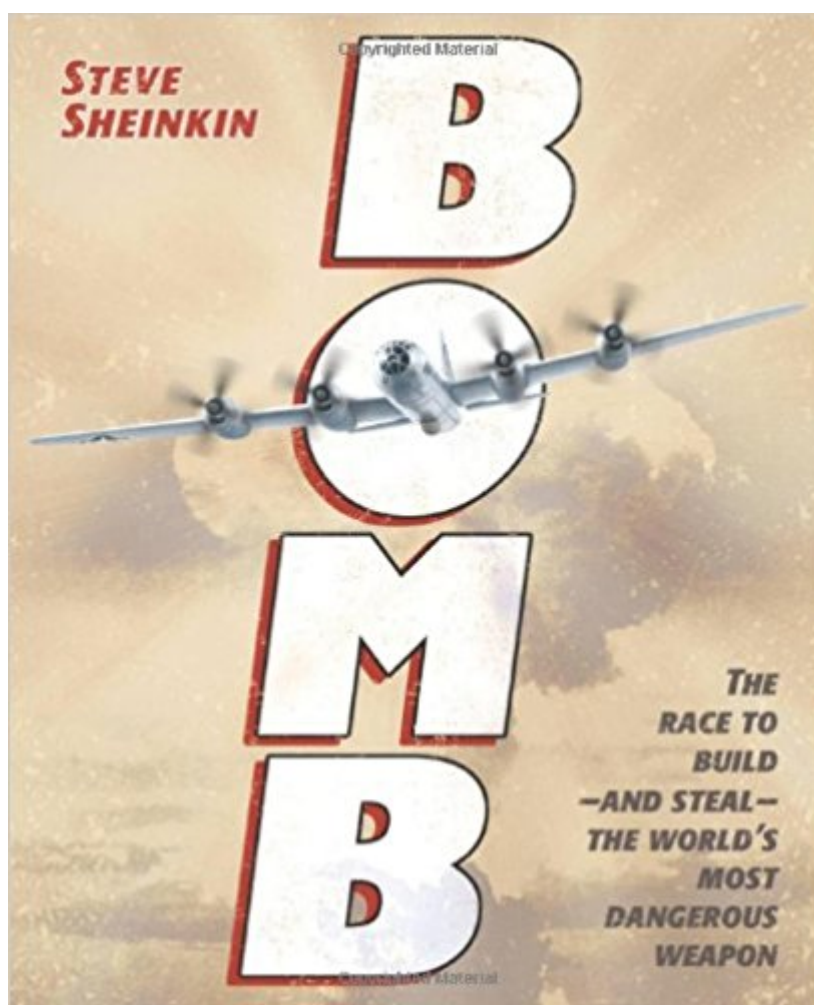


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# Bomb: The Race To Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon (Newbery Honor Book)



## Synopsis

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. Bomb is a 2012 National Book Awards finalist for Young People's Literature. Bomb is a 2012 Washington Post Best Kids Books of the Year title. Bomb is a 2013 Newbery Honor book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Series: Newbery Honor Book

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Flash Point (September 4, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596434872

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Product Dimensions: 0.9 x 7.7 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 312 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,733 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Military & Wars #2 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Military Technology #3 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Inventions & Inventors

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up-"Harry Gold was right: This is a big story." So begins this depiction of the "creation-and theft-of the deadliest weapon ever invented." As he did in *The Notorious Benedict Arnold* (Roaring Brook, 2010), Sheinkin has again brought his superior talent for storytelling to bear in what is truly a gripping account of discovery, espionage, and revolutionary changes in both physics and the

modern world. This fascinating tale, packed with a wide cast of characters, focuses mainly on three individuals: spy for the Soviets Harry Gold, leader of the Manhattan Project J. Robert Oppenheimer, and Knut Haukelid, who sabotaged German bomb efforts while working for the Norwegian resistance. Sheinkin skillfully combines lucid, conversational snapshots of the science behind the atomic bomb with a fast-paced narrative of the remarkable people who made it possible and attempted to steal it. Handsomely designed and loaded with archival photos and primary-source documents, the accessible volume lays out how the bomb was envisioned and brought to fruition. While the historical information and hard facts presented here will likely be new to the intended audience, they in no way overwhelm readers or detract from the thoroughly researched, well-documented account. It reads like an international spy thriller, and that's the beauty of it.-Brian Odom, Pelham Public Library, ALA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

• This superb and exciting work of nonfiction would be a fine tonic for any jaded adolescent who thinks history is "boring." It's also an excellent primer for adult readers who may have forgotten, or never learned, the remarkable story of how nuclear weaponry was first imagined, invented and deployed--and of how an international arms race began well before there was such a thing as an atomic bomb. • The Wall Street Journal • This is edge-of-the seat material that will resonate with YAs who clamor for true spy stories, and it will undoubtedly engross a cross-market audience of adults who dozed through the World War II unit in high school. • BCCB, starred • ...reads like an international spy thriller, and that's the beauty of it. • School Library Journal, starred • [a] complicated thriller that intercuts action with the deftness of a Hollywood blockbuster. • Booklist • A must-read • Publishers Weekly, starred • A superb tale of an era and an effort that forever changed our world. • Kirkus, starred

I am in eighth grade and I think this book describes both the race to develop and use the atomic bomb perfectly. The main plot is about the discovery of fission and the making of the first atomic bomb and the ones that followed. It is also about the race between America, the Soviet Union, and Germany to finish constructing the atomic bomb as soon as possible in order to use it if there is a possible or definite threat from the other country or countries. The book is well written and is also full of suspense. The main characters in the novel are Robert Oppenheimer (a physicist who was in charge of the making of the first atomic bomb), Leslie Groves (an army general who was in charge of the entire Manhattan Project), Klaus Fuchs (a physicist who ended up spying for the Soviet

Union), and Harry Gold (a chemist from Philadelphia who betrayed his country by giving top-secret information to the Soviets.) The main locations the novel takes place in are America, Japan, and Northern, Central, and Eastern Europe. The subplots talk about the scientists and physicists who were involved in the making of the atomic bomb and the ones who were also spies or were not spies but were accused of being a spy. The subplots also talk about the different locations where each bomb was tested. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in American history or physics (science.)

**Bomb: The Race to Build - and steal - the World's Most Dangerous Weapon** supplies some necessary history for teen readers primarily, yet any adult who has had the misfortune of spending periods of time under desks in grade school during air raid drills on Tuesday mornings will benefit from this read. The author does his research, moves the book at an appropriate speed, and weaves the names and events so that any lapses in reader interest are avoided. The book is written for young readers - nothing wrong with that - considering how ignorant present young people are about culture changing events. Pick up a copy: you can finish it in a couple of days and feel like you learned something about the dawn of the nuclear age.

I have now read several of his books, some of his books that are more geared towards younger ages and still enjoyed them. I love the source notes he includes in all of his books as evidenced for where he obtained his facts and information for the book. Full disclosure so did read this with the Audio Books voice reading it to me while I read along. Some of the names would have probably taken a lot longer to read the book if I hadn't done that bc I would have been stuck on trying to figure out the proper pronunciation of each challenging name. LOL I also liked the pictures to go along with some of the people as well as things referenced throughout the book. I love the way he gives historical information and ties it in with more recent updated information of things I have either heard about or wondered as of 2017. My 12 yr old son would listen along to the Audiobooks reading aloud, and stop and want to read along with me as well, & see the pictures. He also wanted to know more about the bits that he heard. We were able to use the source notes in those cases. This one was a little more detailed with less humor, as to be expected given the subject & content and probably targeted audience than his other books my son and I have read. Overall I enjoyed reading it and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a little learning while reading a good book. Being able to take away information after the book is completed is a great feeling for me. If anyone had read this book or any of his other books, and felt the same way about them, please feel free to leave

a comment of other books you might recommend. I am always looking for another good book to read.

BOMB was mentioned in a review of another book and I decided to order a hardback edition. When it arrived and I opened the package my first thought after looking at the cover, was, this is either going to be a very good, or a very bad book. I was delighted to discover it was a very good book. Having been involved with the nuclear weapons program with a high security clearance, assigned to the Defense Atomic Support Agency, Field Command at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, NM, and a person who has researched the Manhattan Project, later using my knowledge to write my first novel based upon the Soviet version of the Manhattan Project (the Soviet program has several names), I was delighted by the author's attention to detail, ability to explain the program in an understandable and interesting manner, and his historical and technical accuracy. The Manhattan Project was in the 1940s the greatest engineering, scientific and manufacturing effort in the history of mankind. A program that made America the first real superpower, and something all Americans should be proud of. I will add a couple of facts the author may not have known. The Little Boy dropped on Hiroshima had a yield of 12-13 kilotons, not 20KT. The reason was pre-detonation, the fission reaction began as the U-235 projectile entered the U-235 target rings, reducing the yield. The Soviets detonated a 50 megaton weapon (the yield may have been greater) known as the Tsar Bomba and the bomb detonated was scaled down from the designed yield of 100MT. The Soviet ability to penetrate the Manhattan Project illustrates how difficult it is to keep secrets—something true then and still true today. Written for school children, BOMB is a book anyone interested in American history, and the history of the Manhattan Project will enjoy. BOMB is an easy, insightful read, and I highly recommend it.

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