

2018

Review of *An Inconvenient Alphabet: Ben Franklin & Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution* by Beth Anderson

Kristen Farley
Cedarville University, kristenafarley@cedarville.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/intern_book_reviews



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#), and the [Modern Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Farley, Kristen, "Review of *An Inconvenient Alphabet: Ben Franklin & Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution* by Beth Anderson" (2018). *Library Intern Book Reviews*. 262.
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/intern_book_reviews/262

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Intern Book Reviews by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.

An Inconvenient Alphabet: Ben Franklin & Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution

Anderson, Beth

Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018

9781534405554

During the American Revolution, Ben Franklin and Noah Webster were fighting against more than English rule— they were fighting against the irregularities of the written English language. Together, these men challenged phonetic standards with new phonetic rules of their own, even though it took years before any real progress occurred. Against the habits of old, established writers, the publication of Webster's standardized American dictionary guided America towards a more unified standard of English. As a whirlwind tour of a very technical subject, the author attempts to create an engaging story, but the limited narrative might be hard for students to latch onto. To that end, the illustrations seem to compensate for the limited narrative, but they leave a busy visual distraction upon the page. More suitable for individual student use, but probably not suitable content for a new or struggling reader, as the pages are inundated with the difficulties of problematic spellings and the English language.

Optional

Kristen Farley, Centennial Library Intern