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Review of *The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem* by Colleen Paeff

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The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem

Paeff, Colleen

Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2021

9781534449299

The Great Stink examines the sewage systems of London from 1500 to present day, by following the individual and combined histories of the Thames River, cholera, and Joseph Bazalgette's attempts to remove human poop from the river and its putrid smell from the city. The story follows these three timelines to show the reader that poop and a lack of sewage is not merely a stinky matter, but rather shows that environmental cleanliness is necessary for health and life. Its illustrations depict poop and cholera outbreaks as deadly, while easily capturing a child's interest with scenes of people dumping poop from their windows and families walking under umbrellas to avoid being sprinkled with waste. As it balances the seriousness of thousands of deaths with humorous scenes, parents and teachers can introduce difficult history in a fun-filled way. Both children and adults will enjoy this fact-filled story as it discusses unique, poop-related incidents.

Recommended *Hannah Smith, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University*