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The American Reader: Words That Moved the Nation

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From HarperCollins : The American Reader: Words That Moved the Nation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Reader: Words That Moved the Nation:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A 5 Star, All-American CompilationBy Benedict RocksWe gave an earlier edition of this book to a former intern of ours from Beijing, China. He's learned more from this one book than the average American seems to know about our great country these days, at least according to many surveys we've seen. We wish more Americans would buy and read this book. It is full of amazing insights into our country's cultural heritage that come direct and unfiltered from a highly diverse group of first-hand participants in our country's most pivotal events and movements.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Have for AP ClassesBy Terry LongIf you teach American Literature or American History, you need this book! Pieces from The Mayflower Compact to Ronald Reagan's speeches. It's a great resource to have, especially for high school AP courses.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy SueRequired reading for my son's class...

With the politicization of the schools and the increasing emphasis on race, gender and ethnicity as guides to the "multicultural" curriculum, we have lost the emphasis on our common heritage that should bind us together as a nation and a society. The sad proof of this is how little American kids know about the past that is their cultural patrimony. National Assessment of Educational Progress tests have revealed that three quarters of high school juniors tested did not know when Abraham Lincoln was president; one third did not know what the Brown Decision was about, and 70% could not identify the Magna Carta. One third did not know that the phrase "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"

is from the Declaration of Independence; many were unfamiliar with the Gettysburg Address. The American Reader is the best corrective to this situation that there is. Between its covers it presents those words that define our country's past and have expressed its goals and its dreams, its efforts and its achievements. This is what American children should be reading in school. Since many of them are not doing so, this book should be in every home, ready at hand to every parent and teacher. (Amazon customer)