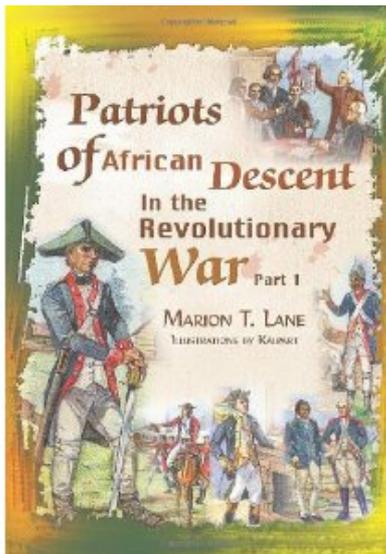




# Readers' Favorite® Book Reviews and Award Contest

## Book Review Mini-Critique



Below you will find ratings (scale of 1-5) with descriptions for the major parts of your book followed by your Readers' Favorite review. Although these are general ratings we hope they will give you an insight into how others may view the different components of your book.

These are the opinions of your reviewer, and although your reviewer is not an expert literary critic or professional editor, they are at the very least, an avid reader of books just like yours.

**Title:** Patriots of African Descent in the Revolutionary War  
**Subtitle:** Part 1  
**Author:** Marion T. Lane  
**Genre:** Children - Grade 4th-6th



**Appearance:** The appearance of a book can make a significant impact on the experience of a reader, whose enjoyment is often enhanced by an enticing cover, an intriguing table of contents, interesting chapter headings, and when possible, eye-catching illustrations.

**5**

**Plot:** The characters of a book should be well defined with strengths and flaws, and while they do not have to be likable, the reader does have to be able to form a connection with them. The tone should be consistent, the theme should be clear, and the plot should be original or told from a unique perspective. For informative books--those without plot and characters--this rating refers primarily to your concept and how well you presented it.

**5**

**Development:** Development refers to how effectively you told your story or discussed

**5**

your topic. The dialogue should be realistic, the descriptions should be vivid, and the material should be concise and coherent. Organization is also a key factor, especially for informative books--those without plot and characters. The order in which you tell your story or explain your topic and how smoothly it flows can have a huge impact on the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the material.

**Formatting:**

**5**

Formatting is the single most overlooked area by independent authors. The way in which you describe scenes, display dialogue, and shift point of view can make or break your story. In addition, excessive grammatical errors and typos can give your book an amateurish feel and even put off readers completely.

**Marketability:**

**5**

Marketability refers to how effectively you wrote your book for your target audience. Authors may include content that is above or below the understanding of their target reader, or include concepts, opinions or language that can accidentally confuse or alienate some readers. Although by its nature this rating is very subjective, a very low rating here and poor reviews may indicate an issue with your book in this area.

**Overall  
Opinion:**

**5**

The overall starred rating takes into account all these elements and describes the overall reading experience of your reviewer. This is the official Readers' Favorite review rating for your book.

**Review:**

Reviewed by Emily-Jane Hills Orford for Readers' Favorite

Jeremy loves history. In fourth grade, he had learned about the early colonists to the United States. Now that he's in fifth grade, he's about to learn about the American Revolutionary War. He decides to ask his great-grandfather, who lives with his family, what he knows about the Revolutionary War. It turns out that Pop-Pop, as he's fondly called, knows quite a bit. In fact, being the expert storyteller that he is, Pop-Pop is able to bring the Revolution to life for the eager young boy. Not only that, Pop-Pop tells Jeremy about some of his ancestors who fought for American Independence.

That's certainly not unusual, considering that a good number of Americans can trace their ancestry back to the Revolutionary War. But Jeremy and his family are black. What Pop-Pop teaches Jeremy is the history of the black population's involvement in the War of Independence, not just the black slaves, but the free black people who owned land and businesses. He even shows Jeremy documents listing his ancestors' names and their involvement in the war.

Jeremy is so impressed that he can't wait to return to school on Monday and tell his teacher what he learned over the weekend. Not only will he share his story with the class and they, too, will learn about the black population's involvement and patriotism, but the young readers of Marion T. Lane's *Patriots of African Descent in the Revolutionary War: Part 1* will also learn another fascinating aspect of American history. This is a

wonderful story, told in the age-old art of storytelling. A good read for young and old alike, it is an outstanding, easy-to-read history lesson. Well done and nicely illustrated, too.