

Amazing Annie: The Spectacular and Mostly True Adventures of Annie Kopchovsky

By Stephen Krensky | Illustrated by Adriana Predoi

READING GUIDE

About the Book

Amazing Annie tells of one woman's remarkable adventure as she cycled around the world, captivating local audiences along the way with fancifully exaggerated stories of her escapades, and proving that a Jewish immigrant woman can do much, much more than society expects.

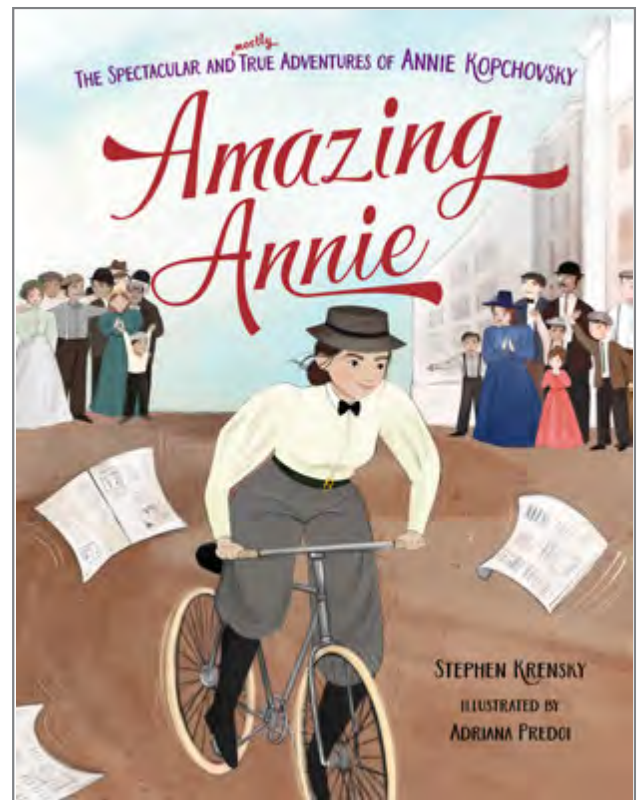
It was 1894 and Annie Kopchovsky was ready for a change. More than ready, for women in her time and position weren't allowed to do very much except marry and have children.

Annie wanted more. She didn't like washing clothes or cooking meals, and she certainly didn't like how her Boston neighbors looked down on her for being Jewish. She wanted excitement and adventure in her life. She wanted to feel exceptional, to be applauded, not snubbed. So when she heard of a new invention—a bicycle—she had an exceptional and outlandish idea. She decided to be the first woman to ride around the world on one.

Along the way, Annie learned more than just how to ride a bike. She realized people enjoyed hearing her stories, even if they weren't necessarily true, and she could draw them in. And Annie loved inventing stories.

Stephen Krensky was twenty years old when he first took up creative writing seriously. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1975 and published his first book in 1977. Since then, he has been a full-time writer for children, publishing more than 170 books over his illustrious career. He is in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Adriana Predoi's love for drawing began in childhood and has grown into a lifelong passion. With a BA in Fine Art and specialized training in Mural Art, Adriana's creative journey has been dedicated to continuous learning. In the last years, she's found much joy in creating captivating worlds in children's books. She lives in London, UK.



Key Themes:

Perseverance in the Face of Discrimination, Independence, Defying Roles

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Ages 5–8 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children. Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

Before Reading

- Look at characters on the cover of the book. Now guess: when do you think this story takes place? What do you see on the cover that makes you think so?
- Read the title out loud. Why do you think it says “mostly” true adventures?
- The title says that it will be about Annie, who is “amazing.” From what you see on the cover, what amazing things do you think Annie is going to do?

After Reading

- At the beginning of the story, it says that women in 1894 weren’t allowed to do very much except get married and have children. Why do you think that was?
- Why do you think Annie chooses to ride her bicycle around the world? What does having an adventure mean to her?
- Do you have a bicycle? Does someone in your family have one? How are they similar or different from Annie’s bicycle?
- If you have a bike: what’s the farthest you’ve ever ridden it? How many blocks? If you don’t ride, what about walking—what’s the farthest you’ve ever walked?
- Annie’s adventures take her to places all over the world, like Singapore, France, and Jerusalem. What’s the most adventurous place you’ve ever visited? Where would you like to go for an adventure?

Optional: Extension Activity

At the end of the book, Annie’s adventures are written about in the newspapers. Imagine that you are a reporter, writing a story about one of your own trips or adventures. Write a headline and short article about it. If you’d like, you can be like Annie and make up some details to make your journey sound even MORE adventurous!





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Character Cut Outs

