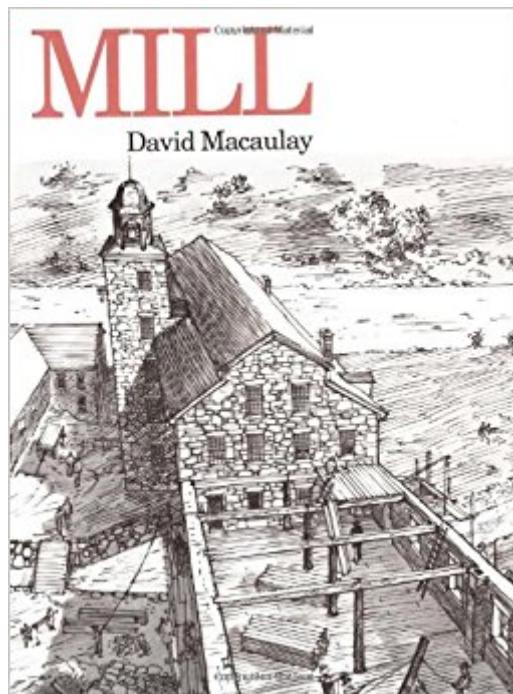


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# Mill



## **Synopsis**

The mills at Wicksbridge are imaginary, but their planning, construction, and operation are quite typical of mills developed in New England throughout the nineteenth century.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

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## **Customer Reviews**

In *Mill*, a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, David Macaulay pays tribute to the historically important mills of 19th-century New England. Using close-up pen-and-ink illustrations, Macaulay thoroughly explains the Yankee ingenuity that went into the elaborate process of running machines that were generated by the flow of water. In the case of this cotton mill in the imaginary town of Wicksbridge, Macaulay also demonstrates how important the mill was to a community's economic and social viability. In one scene, he shows the men and women celebrating the framing of the mill with a festive, barn-raising-style party. Macaulay tracks the mill's history, expertly explaining how all its new fixtures and materials reflect the political and industrial changes in the country. For example, in 1852 the owner sides with his abolitionist wife and shuns the use of "Negro cloth," inexpensive cloth made from slave-picked cotton. Instead he decides to start producing multi-colored, finer fabrics--a decision that leads to the expansion of the mill and the introduction of the steam engine. This is a finely woven offering, filled with technical intricacies and intriguing historical details. But ultimately, Macaulay's *Mill* is generated by the human story that led to the building of New England's cotton mills--as well as their eventual demise. (Ages 9 and older) --Gail Hudson --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is another strikingly original lesson in history from the widely praised author/illustrator; the construction of a mill in a 19th-century Rhode Island town is "eloquently" depicted in text and "artistic, meticulous" drawings, said PW. All ages. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a fascinating account of the life and times of a millwright and his trade. Details on choosing a location for the mill, building the mill, and how the machinery to grind the grain worked puts the reader in the position as the millwright himself. This book is written as part history book, part informational, and even part journal, using fictional diary entries to give the reader a sense of the everyday life of a miller. A touch of drama is thrown in as we read of mill-workers who are injured and/or killed while on the job - "1864 August 15: Mary McDonnell was drawn into the machinery by the belting today and lost her right arm below the elbow. I fear the heat will not help her recovery August 17: Mary McDonnell died today, the infection having spread too quickly from her injury. I will send her wages on to her mother in Southbridge." This book is supposedly written for children - I first discovered it in an elementary school library - but I find it more suitable for adults. I have found that many history books geared toward the younger set can have information not found in the more adult-oriented books. The Mill by David Macaulay is one of them. The illustrations themselves are very well done, and the details of running a mill is probably the best I have seen thus far. Great reading about the lifeblood of a 19th century community.

While the fictional story creates the thread by which the development of the mill can be followed, it's the detailed drawings and descriptions that bring a lost industry that once was critical in our early world to life. Macaulay's renderings provide a rich insight into an 18th century mill-- from site planning to the development of the dam and the initial mill works. The growth of the mill is then seen over the decades as it expands and finally falls into disuse as economic conditions contribute to its demise. Anyone who is familiar with the writing and illustrative stories of artist/author Eric Sloane will enjoy this work as well.

Mill shows why David Macaulay is the greatest architect artist

It is an informative book from a very enjoyable series

Loved this book, because in our grade school introduction to American history, nothing was said

about these mills or about their critical part in a developing American economy. I wanted to know the parts of the story that had been omitted, and this was one of the best tellings of what these mills were and who engineered them. This story and all Macaulay's other books will be easy to share with young students some day, and for that, I am truly grateful.

David Macaulay has produced a great resource for history teachers with his lushly illustrated book MILL. Within the first few pages he draws the reader into the fascinating story of the birth of the industrial revolution in America. The story begins in the present with the discovery of a Roman coin on the dig site of an old textile mill along the bank of a river in central Rhode Island and continues with a step by step explanation of how and why a textile mill is built and run. Adults as well as children will enjoy this book with its engaging story and detailed illustrations. We are using this book to teach visitors to our historic two hundred year old mill how a mill is built and how it affected the birth of industry which built our country and made it the greatest nation in the world.

Another good, solid book by Macaulay.

I am redeveloping two historic cotton mills in Baltimore so this book has special meaning for me. It proved to be so accurate., and I learned lot. I have given the book to business colleagues and to family. I have read other Macaulay books, and they make great reading for both young adults and grown-ups.

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