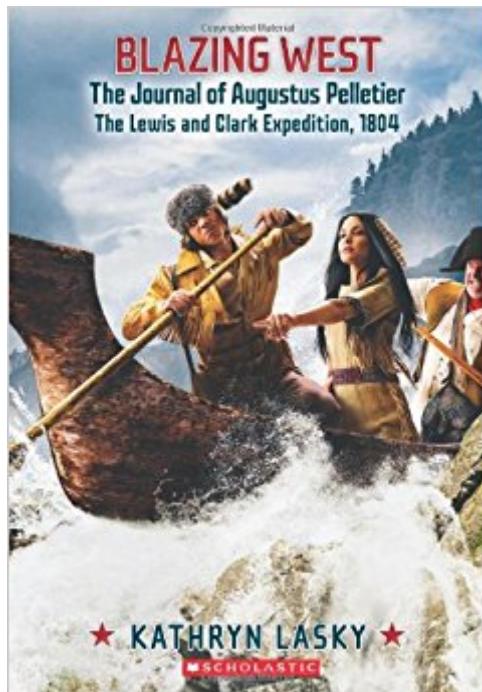


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# Blazing West, The Journal Of Augustus Pelletier, The Lewis And Clark Expedition, 1804 (My Name Is America)



## Synopsis

Newbery Honor author Kathryn Lasky's exciting JOURNAL OF AUGUSTUS PELLETIER is now in paperback with a dynamic repackaging! Fourteen-year-old Augustus, half French, half Omaha Indian, sets out to prove himself worthy of Lewis and Clark on their great adventure of discovery. He follows the explorers for two hundred miles before making his presence known to the commanding captain of the Corps of Discovery, Meriwether Lewis, himself. Gus's ability to read and write makes him useful to the explorers, and he starts to keep a record of their travels. But traveling west isn't easy, and the company faces constant danger. Is Augustus a tough enough explorer to survive such hardships?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850L (What's this?)

Series: My Name Is America

Paperback: 176 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #246,306 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries #295 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I'm revisiting Kathryn Lasky's writing (I previously read and really enjoyed her YA novel *Beyond The Burning Time*, regarding the Salem Witch Trials) with this epistolary novel that helps bring the Lewis & Clark Expedition to life for middle grade readers. *Blazing West* tells the history through the eyes of fictional figure Augustus Peltellier, a fourteen year old half French / half Native American boy. Augustus's biological father, a French trapper, is killed, leaving Augustus to be raised solely by his mother. But it doesn't take too long for his mother to remarry. Not long after her new marriage, she

falls ill and dies (from pneumonia, I believe it was). Augustus is then left with his stepfather, a horrid, brutally abusive man. To escape the now violent house, Augustus hides out in the woods outside the camp of Meriwether Lewis & William Clark and their Corps of Discovery Expedition team, knowing that if he walks in outright he will be turned away for being too young. So Augustus lives out in the woods, just out of sight, for some time until he finds the perfect time to casually introduce himself to Lewis. I cracked up at the image of Lewis not at all being ruffled by the sight of a teenage boy randomly walking out of the woods, Lewis just handing something to him, saying "hold this." X-D Proving himself useful, Augustus quickly becomes the general assistant / "go-for" boy to both Lewis and Clark. He also hunts for the crew and sketches wildlife for the expedition journals. A few months into the journey, Augustus also meets and becomes good friends with Sacajawea, just a year older than Gus but already married off with a baby on the way.

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