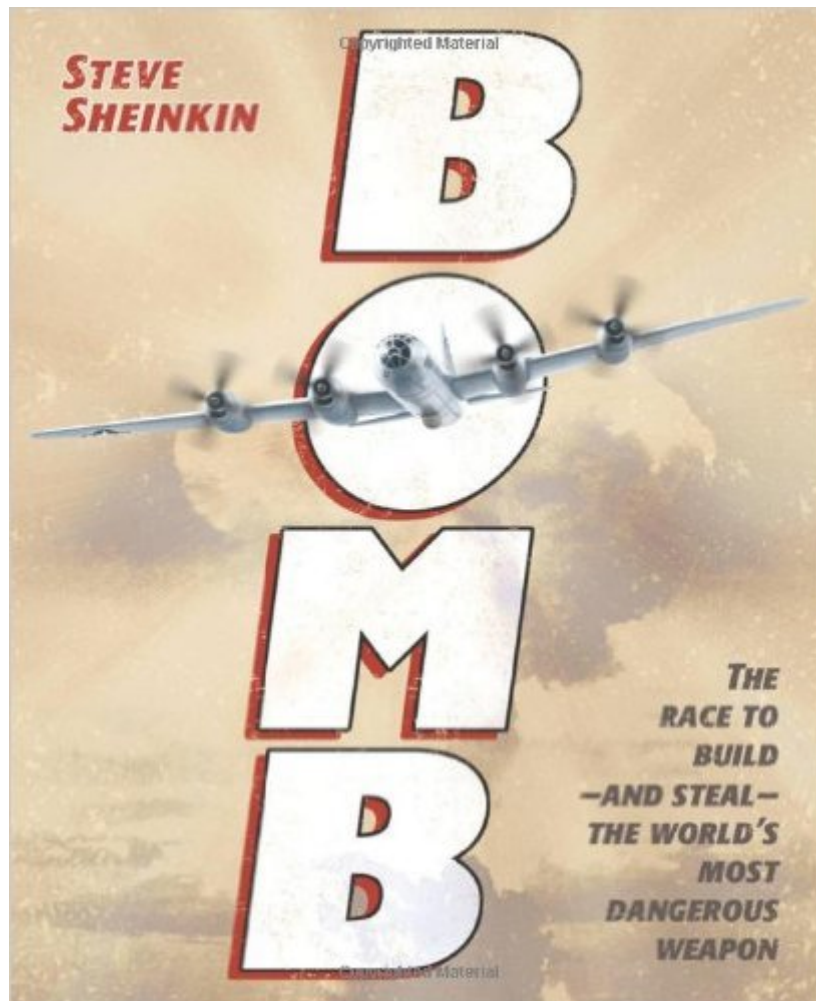


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# Bomb: The Race To Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon (Newbery Honor Book)



## Synopsis

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. Bomb is a 2012 National Book Awards finalist for Young People's Literature. Bomb is a 2012 Washington Post Best Kids Books of the Year title. Bomb is a 2013 Newbery Honor book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 920L (What's this?)

Series: Newbery Honor Book

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Flash Point; First Edition edition (September 4, 2012)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1596434875

Product Dimensions: 7.7 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (279 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #14,715 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Military Technology](#) #4 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Inventions & Inventors](#) #11 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#)

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

While this is a book aimed at the teenage market, it is an excellent overview worthy of adult readership. Not all of us have the time to wade through 700-page tomes like Kai Bird's "American Prometheus" (about Oppenheimer), Richard Rhodes "The Making of the Atom Bomb," or Gen. Leslie Groves' "Now It Can Be Told." The race to build the first atom bomb involves several stories:

the Los Alamos scientists, the Soviet spies stealing our secrets, and the Norwegian saboteurs stopping the Germans. I have read several books about each of these stories; this is the first book that ties them all together. It is well-written, and reads like a thriller in the way it flips from one headline to another, keeping you turn the page. My only quibble is that the footnotes do not give the page number of the source, but then this is a book for the general reader, not for historians like myself. It is an introduction to an important and fascinating topic, and it does the job well. After you read this book, you may well want to read more. If I make may an unusual compliment: even though I am very familiar with what this book talks about, I wasn't in the least bit impatient as I read this book. A joy to read.

Bomb is a fantastic read. I am a voracious reader, and was concerned that a non fiction, young adult book would not be enjoyable. Wow, was I wrong. Bomb is a fantastic literary review of the 'cool' part of world history. Everyone learns about World War 2 in school. Yet I was never privy to the amount of espionage that went on surrounding the development of the worlds most devastating weapon. This book provides a behind the scenes view of the prelude to the cold war. Overall a very enjoyable read. I highly recomend!!

My 15 year old pacifist daughter LOVES this book. I must admit when I heard her say, 'I just can't put this book down!' I was a little shocked. Liking a book about the atom bomb, my kid? Then I saw the author. Steve Sheinkin does it again! My twin 15 year olds have read all the other Sheinkin books three times each. Why can't all history texts be written like this?

Bomb: The Race to Build - and steal - the World's Most Dangerous Weapon supplies some necessary history for teen readers primarily, yet any adult who has had the misfortune of spending periods of time under desks in grade school during air raid drills on Tuesday mornings will benefit from this read. The author does his research, moves the book at an appropriate speed, and weaves the names and events so that any lapses in reader interest are avoided. The book is written for young readers - nothing wrong with that - considering how ignorant present young people are about culture changing events. Pick up a copy: you can finish it in a couple of days and feel like you learned something about the dawn of the nuclear age.

This book was purchased for a grammar school library, at the request of the school librarian. She was thrilled to get it and is constantly being taken out. The 5th grade teacher is also going to use it

for a history unit.

Spies, secret organizations, world leading physicists, and three different countries on three different continents all fighting for one thing... a bomb. This was no ordinary bomb however, this was a bomb that was capable of blowing up entire cities. This was a bomb that quite easily could give a country enough power to dominate the entire world. In Steve Sheinkin's non-fiction book "Bomb" many physicists have been disappearing out of universities and laboratories. Only when the residents of a small town notice army trucks driving along their streets and many lost people asking for directions to an "abandoned" house they become suspicious. Meanwhile military commandos are being sent into German research sites to destroy them, and Russian spies are getting as much information as possible about American research. All these various activities come together in this story and intrigue the reader. Steve Sheinkin's purpose of this novel was just to inform the average reader. He accomplishes this purpose by taking more time to explain people. For example, "Harry Gold had been living a double life for seventeen years. Overwhelmed by exhaustion" (Sheinkin 3). Also with, "Oppenheimer was a tough critic. 'A repulsively good little boy,' he said of himself. 'My life as a child did not prepare me for the fact that the world is full of cruel and bitter things.' " (Sheinkin 8). This book just works, and it works good for the soul purpose of loading your mind with interesting information of the invention of this deadly weapon. Personally it is hard for me to like a book. As a teenager who is, by no means, in love with literature I found myself clinging to this book. I suppose I liked Sheinkin's style of teaching. You know how you can read a book and completely forget what has been happening for the last ten minutes? Well, that doesn't happen here. As for dislikes on this book... I have none. I absolutely loved every aspect of this book.

Outstanding historical and scientific account of the whole picture around the development and building of the bomb. Full of intrigue! (spying) Well written and a good read for adult and young adult. As a middle school social studies teacher this book is a treasure! Must read and will make a great resource for interdisciplinary projects.

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