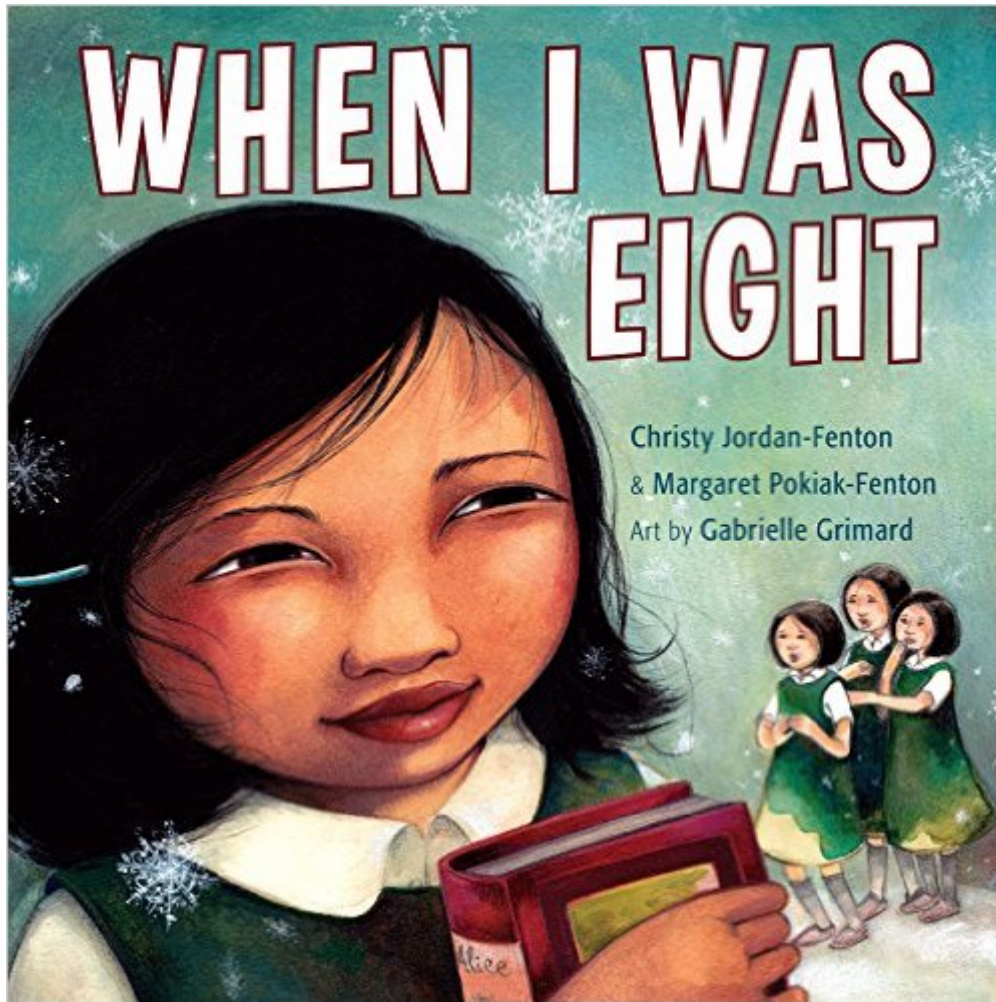


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# When I Was Eight



## Synopsis

Bestselling memoir *Fatty Legs* for younger readers. Olemaun is eight and knows a lot of things. But she does not know how to read. Ignoring her father's warnings, she travels far from her Arctic home to the outsiders' school to learn. The nuns at the school call her Margaret. They cut off her long hair and force her to do menial chores, but she remains undaunted. Her tenacity draws the attention of a black-cloaked nun who tries to break her spirit at every turn. But the young girl is more determined than ever to learn how to read. Based on the true story of Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, and complemented by stunning illustrations, *When I Was Eight* makes the bestselling *Fatty Legs* accessible to younger readers. Now they, too, can meet this remarkable girl who reminds us what power we hold when we can read.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Annick Press (February 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554514908

ISBN-13: 978-1554514908

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #815,953 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada](#) #121 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada](#) #1099 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 6 - 7 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

*When I Was Eight* by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton is an adaptation of *Fatty Legs*, in which Olemaun recollects her negative experiences in a church-run residential school. Because I have read both books, as I review *When I Was Eight*, I will also be comparing and contrasting the two versions. I'll start with what I liked about *When I Was Eight*. The well-crafted writing style stands out more in *When I Was Eight*. There are many active verbs, such as "shrugged" and "begged". In addition, there's a lot of figurative language, such as "the sun slept"

and "slumbering ice". The strong word choices exist in Fatty Legs too, but they feel more prevalent and significant in a picture book. When I Was Eight would make for an excellent mentor text in elementary schools. When I Was Eight is also more focused than Fatty Legs. The latter is about Olemaun (Margaret's Inuit name) and her family, her friends, her desire to read, her conflicts with a mean nun and brother, and more. In contrast, When I Was Eight is solely about Oleman's determination to read enabling her to withstand all forms of abuse from a nameless nun. In fact, the story is so tightly told that it develops a fairy tale quality, where the young heroine must battle an evil grown-up. Because of its overt theme, teachers could use When I Was Eight to help reluctant readers see how the power of books can change them. Next, I'll turn to what I didn't like about When I Was Eight. Due to the brevity of text required of a picture book, some important details were left out. For example, When I Was Eight tells readers that Olemaun enters the laundry room, stands beside a huge vat, and then "gets an idea" about how to get rid of the red stockings.

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