

Imogene's Last Stand
Author: Candace Fleming
Illustrator: Nancy Carpenter

- **Summary:** From the time Imogene was little she was in love with history. Her first words were even “Four score and seven years ago.” Anything associated with history she enjoyed. She painted the Oregon Trail and even cleaned up an old Historical Society to show everyone more history. She will do anything to get people to come and see but these people don’t feel the same as her. This book is filled with quotes from famous people in history.

- **Awards received:**

- **Reviews:** From *School Library Journal*: Imogene is a feisty child who loves history and spouts quotes from famous people on all occasions. When she discovers the now-abandoned Historical Society building in her New Hampshire town, she cleans it up and opens it as a museum. No one comes. Then one morning she finds a sign posted outside the building stating that it will be torn down to make room for a shoelace factory. Imogene tries to enlist the aid of the mayor and other influential people, but they all say that the factory will put them on the map. At the last minute, she finds a letter in the museum that was written by George Washington to indicate that he had slept there. She notifies a historian and then puts herself in a stockade on the porch as the wrecking crew approaches. Soon the whole town turns out to watch the spectacle, and people tell her to move. "In the immortal words of the Vietnam War protesters,' she shouted, 'Heck no, I won't go!'" (There is no mention of the fact that the quote has been changed.) The President of the United States (an African-American woman) appears and declares the museum a national landmark. Illustrations done in pen-and-ink and digital media provide a lot of historical details and humor, featuring a determined child who rides in a sidecar on her father's motorcycle. This title could serve as a jumping-off place for some early elementary history lessons. - *Ieva Bates, Ann Arbor District Library, MI*

- **Author Information Candice Fleming** - <http://www.candacefleming.com/>

- **Illustrator Information Nancy Carpenter** - <http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Nancy-Carpenter/1067026>:
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - Why is history important?
 - Who makes history?
 - Why are famous quotes so important?
 - Why was Imogene so determined to save the building?
 - Do you think that 1 person really could make a difference?

- **Curricular Activities**
 - Reading/oral language/Drama – Read book out loud and become the characters, as they do the quotes.
 - Writing – Students write a paper on how they want to make history.

- Math/ Technology –
 - Make a graph or chart of the students’ birthdays.
<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathScienceOtherBeginSchoolBirthdayBarGraphIdeaMO.htm>
 - Make a birthday pictograph:
<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathBirthdayPictograph12.htm>
- Social Studies –
 - Discuss history from your local community. Do you have an Historical Society? Do you have any monuments and what are they for? Do you have an historical site?
 - Look up all the famous people used in the book and see what and how they made history.
- Art – Create posters to advertise an historic site in your community
- Music – Sing “My Country Tis of Thee”

- **Related Books:**

- *Marven of the Great North Woods* by Kathryn Lasky
- *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* by Margo Theis Raven
- *Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco
- *Uncle Jed’s Barbershop* by Margaree King Mitchell

- **Other titles by Fleming:**

- *Amelia Lost*
- *Clever Jack Takes the Cake*
- *The Fabled Fourth Graders of AESOP Elementary School*
- *The Fabled Fifth Graders of AESOP Elementary School*
- *Seven Hungry Babies*
- *The Great and Only Barnum*
- *The Lincolns*
- *Tippy-tippy-tippy-hide!*
- *Boxes for Katje*
- *Lowj Discovers America*
- *Sunny Boy!*
- *Our Eleanor*
- *Gator Gumbo*
- *Smile Lily!*
- *This is the Baby*
- *The Hatmaker’s Sign*
- *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*
- *Ben Franklin’s Almanac*
- *Who Invited You?*
- *When Agnes Caws*
- *A Big Cheese in the White House: the True Tale of a Tremendous Cheddar*
- *Westward Ho, Carlotta!*

- **Other titles by Carpenter:**

- *My Uncle Emily*
- *Apples to Oregon*
- *Twenty Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore*

- **Websites for further study or enrichment:**
 - http://suzyred.com/2011_Imogenes_Last_Stand.html
 - The Historic Preservation site for your state
 - Illinois Historic Preservation Agency - <http://www.illinoishistory.gov/>
 - Landmarks Illinois - <http://www.landmarks.org/>