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# Who Was Sally Ride?



## Synopsis

In 1978, Sally Ride, a PhD candidate at Stanford University, responded to a newspaper ad to join the US astronaut program. She was accepted and became the first American woman astronaut to fly in space! Among her other accomplishments, she played tennis like a professional, was an astrophysicist who helped develop a robotic arm for space shuttles, and later, through Sally Ride Science, worked to make science cool and accessible for girls. Sally Ride, who died on July 23, 2012, will continue to inspire young children.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 800L (What's this?)

Series: Who Was...?

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap (May 16, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0448466872

ISBN-13: 978-0448466873

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,764 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Aeronautics & Space](#) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology](#) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This series never seems to let me down! My students love to read these books, and I love that they are reading nonfiction and learning about great people in history. The book provides a nice mixture of pictures to go with the information that is presented about Sally Ride.

This is the best book ever because it told about how good of a astronaut she was and what NASA did in training. It also gives you small facts about other things and other people too. My uncle also went to the same school Sally Ride did. Ps. I love space a lot and I think what she did was

awesome.

Terrific book. My 10 and 8 year olds both read it, and thought it was very interesting. I'm not sure what all the negative hubbub is about! Yes, the book does mention that Sally was gay, and that Sally divorced her husband and lived with her partner Tam. For children whose parents are going through a divorce, this could be a sensitive topic. But from a humanistic standpoint, the description of her as being married, divorced, falling in love with and living with her lifelong friend, was tastefully done. For those who are \*worried\* about the sexual orientation from an appropriateness aspect, here are the sentences: "Sally had known Tam since their early days of playing tennis together. Sally and Tam were in love with each other. Sally and Steve Hawley got divorced in 1987. Sally was with Tam for the rest of her life." "The world was also surprised to learn that Sally was gay. Always very private, Sally had told only her close family and friends about her illness, and about her relationship with Tam. She did not want the public to know about that part of her life until after she died. Some wishes Sally had been more open about being gay. But that wasn't Sally's way. She never liked labels." "People live complicated lives. People get married, divorced, fall in love. This book treats her relationships respectfully and as part of who she was as a whole, complex person - as we all are. In a responsibly written biography, you can't leave out facts simply because they might spark a challenging conversation. Why not use it as a teaching moment? Talking to kids is often much easier than worried parents make it out to be. You can say simply, "People love each other." End of story.

This whole series of *Who Was* books is amazing! My daughter flies through them and shares tidbits I wasn't even aware of. It makes my heart happy to know my kids will learn a little about many people who are/ were an important part of our history!

The grand kids loved the books. The perfect gift as they are non stop readers for their age. They can tell you everything that they read. Biographies are a great way to introduce young readers to the people behind the name.

My 9 year old daughter absolutely loves these books! She is on a mission to read every single one. They are very informative, and she really enjoys reading them. I never have to push her to do any reading if we have one of these books available.

I think this is a great, informative book for children I disagree with it's bad reviews. Ms Ride's being gay is only mentioned once. I see no reason why this book is badly reviewed for one sentence. I have mostly all of this series. Great addition.

My 8-year-old daughter loved this book and loves this series. However, we will no longer purchase this series as the end of this particular book explains that Ms Ride was gay and left her husband for a woman. That Ms Ride was gay doesn't make a difference to the fact that she was still a great American. However, my daughter came to me confused as to who this "Tam" was and why would Sally leave her husband for her. At 8-years-old, my daughter doesn't even understand a crush on a boy let alone a homosexual relationship. Such a subject should not be discussed in a "young readers" book. For that matter, she doesn't even understand divorce and why people would break their vows to each other -- so why is that discussed in these books? I get that these subjects are part of life, but can't we stick to the specific facts about how these historic people became who they were -- such as education and hard work? Save the more adult content for adults, or at least teenagers.

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