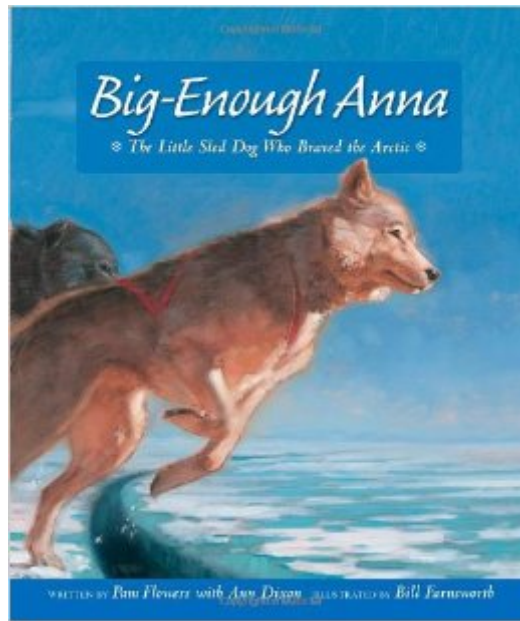


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# Big-Enough Anna: The Little Sled Dog Who Braved Th



## Synopsis

Pam Flowers tells of a dog who played a pivotal role in Flowers's expedition in the Arctic.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Alaska Northwest Books; No Edition Stated edition (October 1, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,177,352 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Iditarod & Dog-Sledding](#) #168 in [Books > Travel > Polar Regions > Antarctica](#) #199 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Polar Regions](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

This exquisitely illustrated book is based on the true story of a little sled dog who rose to the occasion and became a hero in her own right. Anna, a small Alaskan Husky female, was judged too small to be of any use when Pam Flowers made her historic journey across the Arctic with a team of sled dogs (chronicled in *ALONE ACROSS THE ARCTIC*). But when Pam's wise old leader dog disappeared, Pam put little Anna in the front because in spite of her size she was such a hard worker. Douggie, the wise old leader dog, was eventually found, but was so exhausted that little Anna had to take over and take charge of the trip. This lovely book not only teaches an important lesson--- that what matters is how much heart and spirit you have, not how big you are--- it is so beautifully done that I'm giving it to all my adult dog loving friends for Christmas.

I really like this book! It's a kid-friendly story with great pictures and message. Pam Flowers tells the true story of how the smallest dog in her dog-sled team saved the life of her biggest, strongest one...and also made possible the successful finish of her expedition across the American and Canadian Arctic. And she subtly sends the message that each of us can maximize our strengths

and lead useful, productive lives, even if others think we have too many weaknesses. We may even become heroes! Anna's small; and small dogs aren't usually what mushers want in their teams. But Pam sees Anna has a big spirit and is curious, intelligent, willing to learn and a hard worker. So even though Anna's young, Pam puts her where her exceptionally-good leader, Douggie, can teach Anna the ropes of that critical position. Then things happen; and physically-small Anna is "big enough" to do what needs to be done. She saves not only Douggie but also the expedition. I'd read "Alone Across the Arctic" (also by Pam Flowers with Ann Dixon,) and admired Pam's own fortitude, intelligence and perseverance. I wanted to know more about the adventure. Here's a gold nugget of a book that does that. And it's well written; both youngsters, and the adults who may share it with them, will read it all the way through...several times. The great illustrations (paintings) by Bill Farnsworth perfectly capture the story and the attention of young children. I love looking at them each time, too. This is a great Christmas present. If you've finished your shopping, surprise everyone for Valentine's Day.

Big Enough Anna is a winner all around. The message is encouraging without being patronizing or syrupy; the illustrations will draw in even children who might think dogs are a little bit scary; and the story itself is full of a sense of daring and adventure and, most of all, the love between the musher/storyteller and her team of sled dogs. A great classroom unit could be built around this book, using the adult/teen version of the same story (Alone Across the Arctic) for additional background info or activity inspiration. (Both books could be read by a teacher in a weekend.) You will fall in love with Anna and all the dogs, and be cheering for them throughout all 3,000 miles of their expedition!

One of my jobs at our local library is to read stories to young children, sometimes also at elementary schools. I recently read this story to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders and it received rave reviews. One teacher had each of her students draw a picture of his or her favorite story, and 25 of the 30 drawings were of Anna, the amazingly brave little sled dog. The illustrations were beautiful and large enough for groups of children to see them, while the text had a good amount of drama that held their interest.

This is a book that will delight readers of all ages. Not only are the illustrations masterpieces, the story is as well. Anna is a beautiful husky who is the runt of her litter. She and her littermates train for a 2,500 - 3,000 mile run that will take them an estimated six months. The curly tailed dog and her

littermates are followed as they are being trained for the run. Mushers and dogs alike work well together; the bond of cooperation between them is not only strong; it is paramount. The beautiful husky, once dismissed because of her small size proves herself to be up to every challenge during the training and the run. The Little Husky Who Could can take her place with Akiak, another husky who proved her stamina and determination even when her mushers wanted to retire her. An excellent family, classroom and general discussion book, the message can never be shared enough. This wonderful book makes me think of McFadden & Whitehead's 1979 classic, "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" and Matthew Wilder's 1983 hit, "Ain't Nothing Gonna Break My Stride."

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