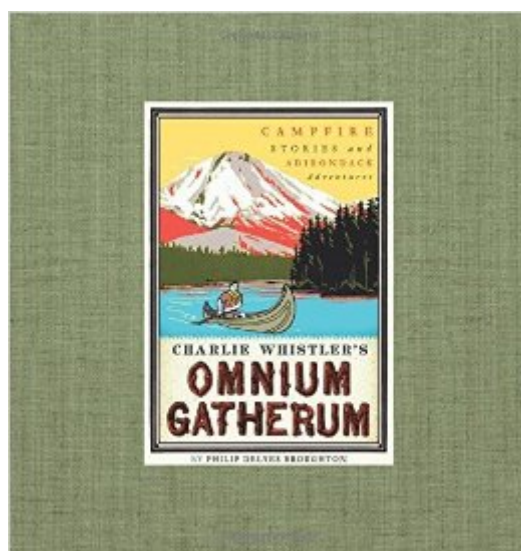


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# Charlie Whistler's Omnium Gatherum: Campfire Stories And Adirondack Adventures



## Synopsis

In the tradition of *The Dangerous Book for Boys*, a visually dazzling compendium of practical knowledge, fascinating trivia, and worldly wisdom for young boys—designed as a charming and informal full-color family scrapbook treasured by generations of one family at their Adirondack summer camp. On a late summer afternoon, while rustling around in his family's Adirondack cabin, a boy named Charlie Whistler finds a dusty cloth-bound scrapbook. It is the *Omnium Gatherum*, a colorful, illustrated grab bag of stories, arcana, and much more, faithfully collected over generations by Charlie's father, grandfather, and generations of Whistlers before them. Its pages hold a universe of age-old wisdom, from the simple—how to tie a slipknot—to the esoteric—how to find your way in the forest, or predict the tides—to the exotic—how to understand simple phrases in dozens of languages. Charlie Whistler's *Omnium Gatherum* is a delightful, ceaselessly readable, and unique gift book for boys of all ages: a nostalgic evocation of American childhood, a keepsake for modern fathers to hand down to their sons, and an irresistible, page-turning read for everyone who loves to lose themselves in the world of imagination.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Harper (May 17, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006232361X

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 1.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #402,880 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Camping #386 in Books > Reference > Survival & Emergency

Preparedness #545 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This is a fantastic book that will be loved and treasured by both kids (I'd say 10+, boys and girls) and adults alike. It is all based around these fascinating scrapbooks - the "Omnium Gatherum", which is a sort of mock Latin, I think, for 'everything gathered together' - that have been found in the

attic of an Adirondack summer house inhabited by generations of the Whistler family. The authors of the scrapbook are all called Charlie Whistler, and go back over one hundred years. In the scrapbooks we find many great stories from the Whistlers that today's kids need to know and will never forget. My personal favorite was the telling of Teddy Roosevelt's daring rush down the Adirondacks to succeed to the Presidency. But there are so many great and eclectic 'how tos' and stories here: how to fold the American flag, the tale of Yosemite founder John Muir clinging to the top of a high tree in a raging storm, a great one about the wild game Buzkashi in Afghanistan, how to throw a baseball, the race to the South Pole by Scott and Amundsen, and many many more. I particularly liked how it wove all these stories around the Whistler family and the Adirondacks, and think that it is the 'spirit' behind this book that is most enduring and special. It is a calling to us all to be less computer-driven and more outdoorsy, less 'helicopter parents' and more trusting of our kids to go on adventures and find out about the world by themselves. Coupled with the beautiful illustrations, I thoroughly recommend this wonderful book!

I was raised spending summers in the Adirondacks and returned as an adult so this book has a special and familiar hold on me. The album style is attractive and a compelling format for telling the story of "the Charlies." The mix of content is true to the Adirondack theme, but also allows the author to venture outside the geography without compromising the premise of the book. This is a book meant to be read and enjoyed on a summer porch -- read a bit, then sit back and absorb the world that surrounds you. It is magic. Author Broughton has done a fine job with *Omnium Gatherum*. We can only hope that there is a sequel.

A wonderful read, even for an adult "kid!" Snapped me abruptly away from the buzzing cell phone and workweek stress right into the blissful world of Raquette Lake. You can practically feel the coolness of the attic where Charlie discovers all his family history and puts together his "*Omnium Gatherum*." The water is clear, the sun shining, and the landscape still unmarred - as it has been for generations of Whistlers. The historic accounts are fascinating; educational but wound into the greater story in such a way that a child would not become bored with facts. The illustrations, most of all, bring the entire piece together and illuminate the childhood imagination. It is a work of art and a keepsake, a book that will (like its protagonist) remain in a family for generations. Recommended for children and adults alike, especially those fond of the Adirondacks.

This wonderful book has depth and character, a masterful package of enjoyment for 8-10 year old

children. Philip Delves Broughton, a proven journalist and business writer, has shown himself the master of yet another genre. I had bought copies for my own family and am so impressed that I'm now sending out to children of friends. Highly recommended. An unforgettable experience (and a pleasure to read aloud to younger children too).

A wonderful book.

brilliant!

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