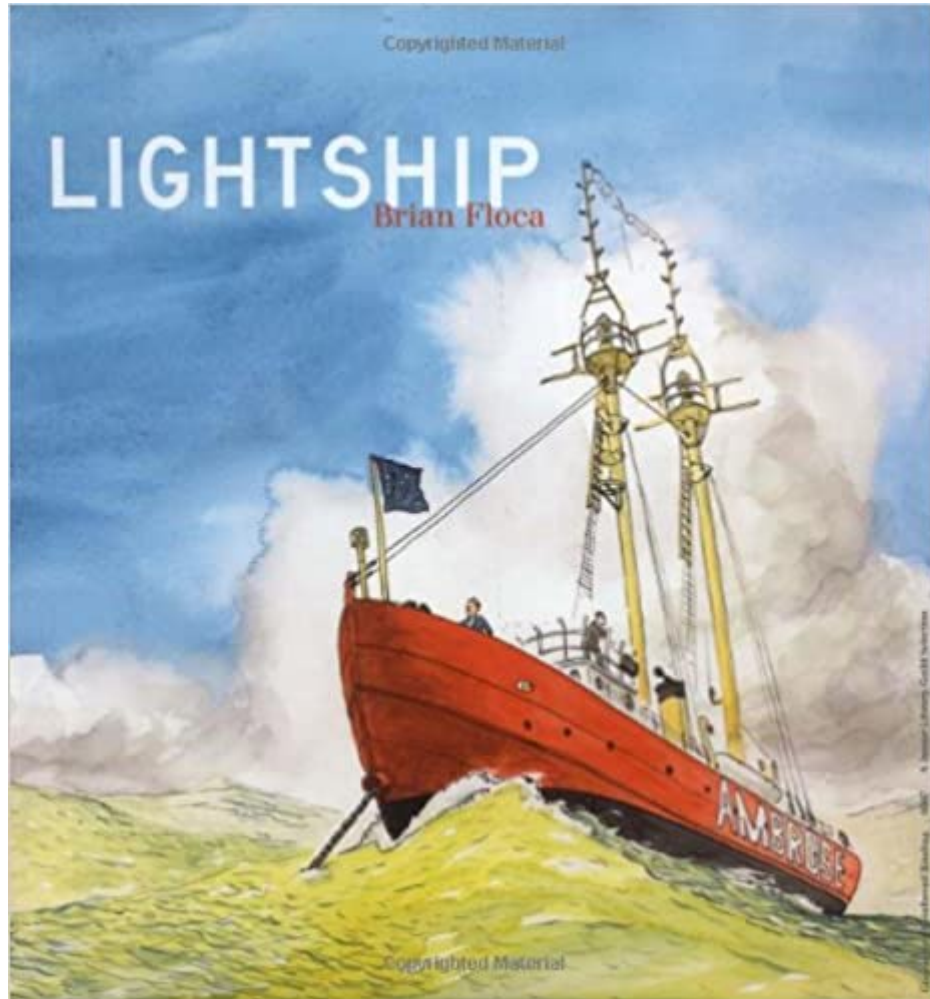




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# Lightship



## Synopsis

You may never have heard of a lightship. Once, lightships anchored on waters across America, on the oceans and in the Great Lakes, floating where lighthouses could not be built. Smaller than most ships, but more steadfast, too, they held their spots, through calm and storm, to guide sailors toward safe waters. In these pages one lightship and her crew (and cat) again hold their place. The crew goes again from bow to stern, from keel to mast, to run their engines, shine their lights, and sound their horns. They run the small ship that guides the large ships. They are the crew (and cat) that work to make the ocean safe, that hold their place, so other ships can sail. Come aboard!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 600L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books (March 6, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416924361

ISBN-13: 978-1416924364

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #94,729 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Oceans & Seas #47 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Water #54 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 2 "Lightships were anchored where lighthouses could not be built. They protected our ocean harbors as well as points along the Great Lakes. The last one was decommissioned in 1983, so this fascinating picture book is a piece of nautical history. Floca's watercolor drawings depict daily life aboard one of these vessels, cooking, sleeping, working, all the while rolling with the rhythm of the waves. There were many hazards involved. Big ships came too close, anchors lost their mooring, and weather caused many problems. But when the fog rolled in, the lightship sprang into action. Lights flashed and horns sounded, allowing ship traffic to make it

"through fog and night, past rocks and shoals, past reefs and wrecks, past danger." The drawings are very detailed. Some pages are collages of small scenes. Many are full spreads. The sailors' facial expressions are amusing to watch, and the resident cat appears on almost every page. The front and back endpapers show a cutaway view of one of the vessels. This fascinating, little-known slice of history should prove interesting to every child who loves big boats.â "Ieva Bates, Ann Arbor District Library, MI Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** Lightships--floating lighthouses--were retired in 1983, but they live on in Floca's handsome picture book, which uses simple words and repeated phrases to emphasize the vessels' purpose and uniqueness as well as their day-to-day operation. "Here is a ship that holds her place," begins the text, which takes children on a sensory tour of the Ambrose, complete with the slapping of the waves on the hull, the rocking motion of the ship, the smell of the sea and of fuel, and--in one climactic blast that sends the ship's cat leaping straight up into the air--the sounding of the foghorn. Meanwhile, the ink-and-watercolor illustrations offer close-ups of the crew at work as well as wide, double-page scenes of passing ships (including the SS Ardizzone). Varied in composition and perspective, the art shows the little ship inside and out, in summer and winter, in calm and stormy weather. Some pictures include elements of humor, while other scenes are notable for their quiet beauty. Floca explains in an informative note that before it was possible to build platforms in deep water, lightships served as floating lighthouses, using powerful lights and blaring foghorns to signal other ships. From the endpapers, showing a cutaway view of the ship, to the final phrase, "the lightship holds her place," this handsome book respects both its subject and its audience. Carolyn PhelanCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

I have bought all the Brian Floca books and read them to my son regularly. Light ship follows in the tradition of Locomotive and Moonshot telling the story of the ship and those who work on it. As always the illustrations are superb. I wish though the story was longer with more text and description of how things work. You can see the actual lightship docked at Pier 25 in NYC.

My almost-four-year-old LOVES this book, and so do I. Brian Floca excels at picking out interesting bits of history that we don't already know and turning them into compelling and beautiful books that can be consumed by children and adults alike. I learned a lot from this one, including from the end notes. To make reading this more interactive with your child, go to your favorite maps app--be sure

to use 3D mode--and zoom in on the South Street Seaport museum in NYC where the actual ship is docked! Also, you can zoom in on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, which also makes a very obvious appearance in the book. Both ships are obviously identifiable to the illustrations in the book.

This is a terrific book. I got it for my kid, but I enjoy it, too. The artwork is excellent and the story is well-written. This book is a nostalgic trip down memory lane for me. I remember sailing past the lightship stationed off the North Carolina coast when I was little.

One of the best presentations of the subject because it was intended for children...which made it exceptionally readable and understandable for adults too.

Beautifully illustrated book with loads of information. I have been so impressed with all of Brian Floca's writings for children.

I bought this for my two year old grandson. He loves all the Brian Floca books. They are longer than most of his books but he will ask for them to be read again and again.

Thank you Brian Floca for writing an excellent children's book on a little known subject of a by-gone era! My son and my husband love this book. For the past few years we had been picking up this book from the library but decided to surprise our son this year for Christmas! He is 6 and was very excited to sit down with dad and re-read the book. I would recommend this to anyone who loves boats, lighthouses, history or just wants to read an excellent children's story.

Beautiful and accurate illustrations

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