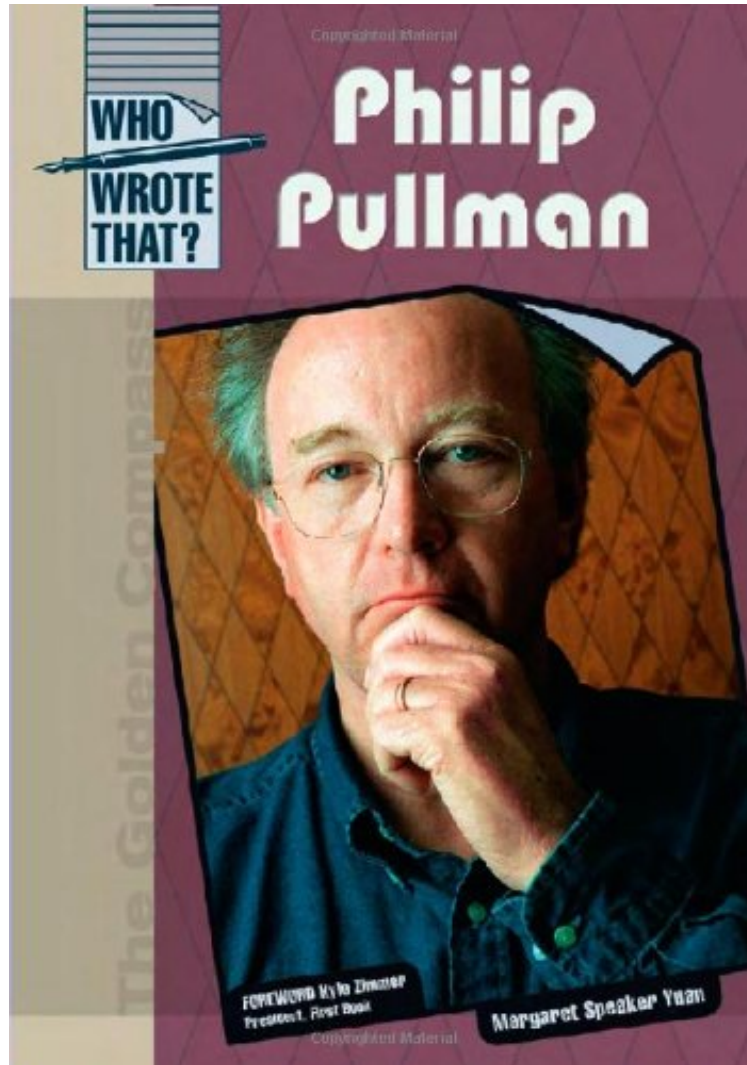


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Phillip Pullman (Who Wrote That?)

Margaret Speaker Yuan, Margaret Speaker-Yuan
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Margaret Speaker Yuan, Margaret Speaker-Yuan : Phillip Pullman (Who Wrote That?) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Phillip Pullman (Who Wrote That?):

A fun way to introduce readers to popular authors whose work they've probably already read. Authors such as J.K. Rowling, Theodore Geisel (Dr Seuss), and Louisa May Alcott are profiled in these exciting titles.

From BooklistGr. 7-10. One of few Pullman biographies available for youth, this entry in the Who Wrote That? series

draws upon an impressive array of sources--particularly Pullman's own writings--to present the groundbreaking author's life and work. Yuan competently narrates Pullman's itinerant military childhood, his Oxford education, and his rewarding years as a middle-school teacher. What may thrill readers most, however, are the insights into the writing process; Pullman produces precisely three pages per day and says that "making a plan first kills a story stone dead." The occasional photos are often generic, and Yuan's philosophical analysis of the His Dark Materials books is too brief to be effective, though quotation sources (as well as other useful end matter) are provided for those wishing to learn more. Skip the serieswide foreword by Kyle Zimmer, which reads like a direct-mail campaign for Zimmer's literacy organization; Pullman's own comments on the power of story--"Thou shalt not is soon forgotten, but Once upon a time lasts forever"--are far more compelling. Jennifer MattsonCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Both books are well-organized and clearly written. Each writer emerges as a recognizable figure seen against a background of particular historical events..."