

## Journey to the Soviet Union

*Samantha Smith*

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**Samantha Smith : Journey to the Soviet Union** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Journey to the Soviet Union:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well-written,colorfully illustrated book!By LPNThis book is about 11 year old Samantha Smith's trip to USSR in 1983 at the invitation of Yuri Andropov. Samantha wrote a letter to ask the Soviet Premier if he is going to have a war - nuclear war was on the minds of children on both sides of the ocean in the 1980s. The book describes the events after she mailed her letter. Well-written, colorfully illustrated it is a good resource for children who want to learn about getting along with others, different from us.

In 1982, young American Samantha Smith worried about war and dreamed of peace. While the United States and the Soviet Union (Russia) were still locked in the grip of the Cold War, she wrote to the Soviet leader. His three-page reply and her response to his invitation to visit his country drew attention all over the world and became a significant

part of the dramatic lowering of tensions between the two superpowers. Illustrated with many photographs, this is a new edition of the inspiring story written by a young American girl whose historic trip in 1983 helped to end the Cold War. Samantha and her father died in a plane crash in Maine only two years later, but her gift to peace in the world remains an inspiration to all who yearn to bring our world together.

From School Library Journal Grade 3-6 In 1982, the author, then ten years old, wrote to Soviet President Yuri Andropov asking "why you want to conquer the world or at least our country." In his answer, Andropov explained that that was not the case, and he invited Samantha to visit the Soviet Union. This first-person narrative is the result of that visit, as Samantha takes readers from press hype, including a spot on the Johnny Carson show, through her visit to the Soviet Union. This is not a geography book; it makes no attempt to describe the land, the government, culture, holidays or recreation. Casting aside governmental and political differences, with no attempt to explain Communism, it shows similarities among people, particularly children, and promotes a sense of likenesses rather than differences. The glorious photographs, most in color, show Samantha with groups of children or major Soviet landmarks the Kremlin, Red Square, the Hermitage. Granted, everything Samantha sees is favorable, and none of the food or housing shortages are mentioned, much less the lack of freedom. However, the book fills a gap in the much needed area of information about the Soviet people as opposed to the Soviet system. Trev Jones, "School Library Journal" Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. As long as children ask challenging questions and grown-ups respond, there will be hope for humankind. Samantha Smith has become a symbol of hope to all children. Her simple question...led to greater human understanding and has shown us the power of a child in lessening the tensions between two world powers. --Lee Salk About the Author Samantha Smith was ten years old when she wrote to the Soviet leader Yuri Andropov of her concern about war between our nations. Andropov responded, and in 1983 Samantha made a highly-publicized goodwill and discovery tour of the famously closed Soviet Union. American and Russian media were enchanted by this outgoing, engaging and magnetic young girl, who helped thaw Cold War relations. She wrote this book, richly illustrated with many photographs, upon her return home to Maine.