

# We the People

by Lynne Cheney

Illustrated by Greg Harlin

From Lynne Cheney, for children and their families: the dramatic illustrated story of how our Constitution came to be. When 1787 began, our young country was in turmoil. The central government was unable to pay off debts, there was armed insurrection in Massachusetts, and foreign governments were taking advantage of our weakness. The question of the hour, James Madison wrote, was "whether the American experiment was to be a blessing to the world or to blast forever the hopes which the republican cause had inspired." So in May of that year, delegates from across America -- including George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin -- gathered in Philadelphia. There they debated and struggled until finally they created a new framework for governing: the Constitution of the United States. Now, in *We the People: The Story of Our Constitution*, best selling author Lynne Cheney (wife of the Vice President Cheney) and master illustrator Greg Harlin team up to recreate this momentous time in American history -- a time when, in Mrs. Cheney's words, "a document was written that created our nation and offered a vision of ordered liberty to all the world."

The story of our founding document is an important one for our children to know," writes Mrs. Cheney. "It is a tale of persistence, as delegates kept on despite obstacles that at times made their task seem impossible. It is a tale of creativity, with the delegates providing a framework for a government entirely new. It is also a story that makes clear there was nothing inevitable about the Constitution that emerged from the Philadelphia convention. History might have gone otherwise but for the framers' genius." In *We the People*, that story comes alive with all the drama and pageantry our nation's founding document deserves.

**Greg Harlin** is an acclaimed artist and illustrator. His books for children include *Dangerous Crossing*, *Paul Revere's Midnight Ride*, *Mississippi*, and *Hanukkah at Valley Forge*, winner of the 2007 Sydney Taylor Book Award. He has spent much of his twenty-eight working years recreating history through his paintings. His work has appeared in many national periodicals, including *National Geographic*, *National Park Service* publications, and *Kids Discover* magazine, and has received award recognition from the Society of Illustrators and *American Illustration*, among other entities. Mr. Harlin lives in Annapolis, Maryland.

**See Lynne Chaney's Biography on our Women in Politics Page**