

All Alone in the World

Orphan Stories for Middle Readers

for

Middle Readers
9-12 years old

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

An eleven-year-old orphan named Anne arrives at Green Gables by mistake, but soon steals the hearts of middle-aged brother and sister, Matthew and Marilla, while she excels in school and finds a new best friend named Diana.

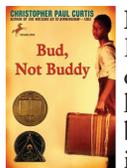


The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket

Three orphaned children, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny are sent to live with a distant relative and find that he is evil and intent on stealing their inheritance. (Book one in the Series of Unfortunate Events.)

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

When four siblings -- Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny -- are orphaned, they live in an abandoned railroad car and take care of each other while waiting for something to change.



Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

During the 1929 Depression, a ten-year-old orphan living in Flint, Michigan, runs away from his latest foster care to search for the man he believes to be his father -- a jazz musician playing in musical clubs in Grand Rapids.

A Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama by Laura Amy Schlitz

When Maud is adopted by three spinsters and is finally able to leave the Barbary Asylum for Female Orphans, she thinks her life will finally be wonderful until she realizes that she will have a secret role in the dubious family business of duping wealthy clients out of their money.



Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff

While in the attic one day, Sam discovers a newspaper clipping telling of a young boy that went missing and realizes that he is the missing boy. This leads him to search for his true identity and more information about the man he lives with now.

A Family Apart by Joan Lowery Nixon

In the 1860's, when their mother can no longer take care of them, six siblings are taken to the Children's Aid Society in New York and put on an orphan train headed west to find new families without knowing that they will likely be separated.



Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson

Sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie moves from Iowa to Montana in the early 20th-century and struggles to keep the homesteading claim she has inherited from her uncle.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures by Brian Selznick

An orphan living alone in a train station in Paris after his uncle disappears, befriends a young girl and finds that her godfather is a famous filmmaker who may help him to understand an automaton he is trying to repair.



Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan

When Rachel's parents both die of influenza in early 20th century Africa, she is taken to England by her dishonest neighbors and forced to impersonate their dead daughter.

Mandy by Julie Andrews

A ten-year-old girl discovers a cottage in the woods near her orphanage and works to create a secret and special space for herself both inside the cottage and in the gardens outside.

Milkweed: A Novel by Jerry Spinelli

A young Jewish orphan tells about his struggles to survive on the streets in Warsaw during the Holocaust.



The Misadventures of Maude March, or, Trouble Rides a Fast Horse by Audrey Coulombis

When two sisters become orphaned for the second time, they leave their Iowa town and head west on an adventurous journey in search of their uncle and a new life.

Peppermints in the Parlor by Barbara Brooks Wallace

When her parents die, Emily goes to live with her aunt in her mansion in San Francisco and begins to notice mysterious happenings revolving around the housekeeper as well as her uncle's disappearance.

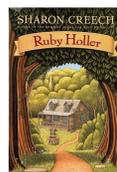


Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

Twelve-year-old Hollis has spent all of her life bouncing from one foster home to another as she tries to find the perfect family that may have already existed for her in one of her previous homes.

Rodzina by Karen Cushman

A young Polish-American orphan travels from Chicago to California on an orphan train in the late nineteenth-century and hopes for a new family.



Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech

Twin siblings, Dallas and Florida, have spent their lives in various foster homes and the Boxton Creek orphanage before going to spend a brief visit with an older couple and finally finding their true home.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

A young orphan named Mary goes to live with her eccentric uncle in a mansion on the Yorkshire moors. She discovers she has a sickly cousin hidden away there and revives her aunt's beautiful garden.



The Star of Kazan by Eva Ibbotson

Annika was abandoned at a church when she was a baby and raised by a cook and a housemaid until a glamorous stranger appears one day and claims to be her mother. She takes her away to her dilapidated manse where many mysterious things start to happen.

The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John

When her parents are killed in a fire, Martine leaves England to live with the grandmother she has never met on a wildlife preserve in Africa.