



## The Orphan Band of Springdale

*Anne Nesbet*

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**With the United States on the verge of World War II, eleven-year-old Gusta is sent from New York City to Maine, where she discovers small-town prejudices — and a huge family secret.**

It's 1941, and tensions are rising in the United States as the Second World War rages in Europe. Eleven-year-old Gusta's life, like the world around her, is about to change. Her father, a foreign-born labor organizer, has had to flee the country, and Gusta has been sent to live in an orphanage run by her grandmother. Nearsighted, snaggletoothed Gusta arrives in Springdale, Maine, lugging her one precious possession: a beloved old French horn, her sole memento of her father. But in a family that's long on troubles and short on money, how can a girl hang on to something so valuable and yet so useless when Gusta's mill-worker uncle needs surgery to fix his mangled hand, with no union to help him pay? Inspired by her mother's fanciful stories, Gusta secretly hopes to find the coin-like "Wish" that her sea-captain grandfather supposedly left hidden somewhere. Meanwhile, even as Gusta gets to know the rambunctious orphans at the home, she feels like an outsider at her new school — and finds herself facing patriotism turned to prejudice, alien registration drives, and a family secret likely to turn the small town upside down.

## **The Orphan Band of Springdale Details**

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Author : Anne Nesbet

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## From Reader Review The Orphan Band of Springdale for online ebook

### Becky says

First sentence: Gusta Neubronner hadn't expected to be on a bus in Maine when she lost her father. She hadn't expected to be sitting alone scrunched up next to the dark blue coat of a woman she didn't know, or to have her French horn case balanced between her ankles, or for the weight of a night's worth of not sleeping to be pulling at her eyelids and making her mind slow and stupid just at the moment when she needed to be even more alert than her usual quick-brained self.

Premise/plot: The Orphan Band of Springdale is set during World War II in the months leading up to Pearl Harbor, to America officially joining the War. It's set in a small town in Maine. Nesbit does a MARVELOUS job with the setting.

Gusta--or Augusta--is our heroine. She has gone to live with her grandmother. Her father has fled the country--he's being hunted down by officials who dislike his union leanings. (Remember this is when standing for 'the union' and workers' rights means being a communist). Her mother has sent her to her grandmother for safekeeping. She soon finds friends her own age--a cousin who lives near by and a houseful of foster children that her grandma is caring for. (Some are not truly orphans, just children whose parents can no longer care for them. Remember this is during the Depression.)

School is school. She loves some aspects of it; not all aspects of it. There are a few SNOBS in her class that assume the worst about her, that accuse her of being an alien, of being a foreign spy, of being THE ENEMY.

Gusta needs glasses. Since money is hard to come by and the need is pressing, Mr. Bertmann, the oculist offers her a deal. She'll work for him in the afternoons in exchange for her glasses. Part of her work will include taking care of pigeons.

The other story has to do with 'the band.'

My thoughts: The Orphan Band of Springdale is a character-driven historical novel with HEART. Some books are ALL about the journey and not the destination. Such is The Orphan Band of Springdale. (I loved spending time with Gusta and her friends Delphine, Bess, and Josie.) I loved her at home and at school. I loved her when she was trying to be brave and do the right thing. I loved her when she got into messes. I loved all the banter between the competing milk company kids. It's just a great coming-of-age story.

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## **Vikki VanSickle says**

French horns, carrier pigeons and Dairy Wars! Colour me charmed! A sweet story about a girl who is sent to live with a grandmother she has yet to meet in Maine in the early 40s. Gusta's father may or may not be on the run for being a labor organizer, a secret Gusta keeps hidden as her classmates (and town in general) seems preoccupied with what it means to be a 'real' American and rooting out alien citizens in the shadow of the war in Europe. Sadly, this thread is resonant today. But Gusta makes friends with her cousin and fellow 'orphan' Josie and the girls form a band with hopes of winning a ribbon at the local fair. Lots here about family, community, and wonderful prose about hope and music. Nesbet has a lovely turn of phrase and there are memorable bits here, such as Josie's desire to prove that music is 'real as jam,' meaning music can win ribbons just like jam, which is considered more worthwhile. A great read for fans of The Penderwicks, The War That Saved My Life, and the All of a Kind Family.

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## **Alyssa Nelson says**

\*I received a free copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\*

This is a heartwarming story about a young girl named Gusta who moves in with her grandmother and aunt because her father is in trouble and her mother doesn't make enough to feed her. She finds herself not quite fitting in, having a very German name on the verge of World War II, needing glasses, and coming from a rather poor family. But, that doesn't stop her from dreaming. Her great-grandfather was a captain and once found a treasure chest of wishes; the story goes that he had just one left before he died, and it was hidden in the house. She plans to find it to make the perfect wish that will save her father, her mother, her maimed uncle, and herself.

There are a lot of topics explored here, but the one that especially resonated with me was the idea of being "other." Otherness is explored a lot within this story; Gusta arrives at a city she's never been to, lives with family she's never met, and has to try to fit into this new life, even though it's quite different from the one she left. There's also animosity towards immigrants and those who seem different. Sadly, this idea of not fitting in is something that I think will resonate with anyone at any time, who is any age. The animosity towards immigrants also rang all too true for today's time. However, it was nice to see it handled in a way that showed the shortsightedness of those making snap judgments.

However, at the center is Gusta. This main character is so brave and strong and kind, I couldn't help but love her and her story. I would have read about her for pages and pages doing just about anything because I so much enjoyed reading about her thought process and seeing her struggle with wanting to make everyone happy. She has to deal with some incredibly grown-up situations and make decisions that are hard for adults to make, and she does so with aplomb.

I could talk about this book forever. I love the idea of a great-grandfather leaving a magical wish, and Gusta's wholehearted belief that if she finds it, she could fix everything; I love the friendships Gusta makes, and their love for music; I love the idea of justice and fairness that pervades the children's thinking in this story. Everything about this book is lovely. It's incredibly detailed, and I felt as if I were teleported right back into 1941 and living there right along with Gusta. I am excitedly looking forward to Nesbet's future books, because she's going to be a household name if she keeps writing. Put this book in your classrooms, add it to your curriculum, put it in your libraries, and buy it for the children in your life. It's magical and

charming and everything to love about middle grade.

Also posted on Purple People Readers.

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### **Rajiv says**

A BIG Thank You to NetGalley and Candlewick Press for providing me a copy of “The Orphan Band of Springdale” by Anne Nesbet in exchange for my review. I loved reading this story from the get-go! Omg, is there anything this book didn’t have? Magic coins? Check. Carrier pigeons taking photographs? Check. Family secrets, scandal and intrigue? Check, check and check!

Okay, don’t get fooled from my previous remark thinking that this is some kooky story of pigeons taking photographs of magic coins. The story is actually very heart-warming and fast paced with wonderful characters. Firstly, my heart went out to Gusta as her father leaves her in the bus to Springdale. Since her arrival in Maine, Gusta adapts many changes like getting used to a new town and a new family. She also overcomes obstacles of being teased in school and getting into a feud with a prominent figure.

In addition to the main character, the supporting characters are extremely charming and each one of them have a trait that you can root for (except the villain). In fact, I pictured the cast of Little House on the Prairie to the characters in this story. This is how I pictured the cast in my mind:

- Gusta is Mary Ingalls
- Josie is Laura Ingalls (an older version with the same personality)
- Georges is Albert
- Molly is Nellie (well, a brainier version of her)
- Miss Hatch is Miss Beadle
- and Mr. Kendall is the male evil version of Mrs. Olsen.

Furthermore, the author sets the story line during the time of World War II, but doesn’t get too preachy on the history facts. There are some references to the Nazis, and even a shout out to Amelia Earhart.

Significantly, the pacing was good, and the story lines remained fresh without a dull moment. Moreover, the story not only has a consistent theme, but a lot of quirky subplots to it. My favorite part was when Gusta tries on her new glasses and sees the world as brand new. I also loved her scenes with Josie and how they support each other during the tough times.

So why did I give it only 4 out of 5 stars? Honestly, it is all because of that dastardly Mr. Kendall! In general, this man is so despicable, he makes Nelly Olsen look like sweet Snow White. After the way he horribly treats Gusta and her family, I was so furious that nothing unfortunate happened to him. Undoubtedly, it made me angry and feel like bad people do get away with everything sometimes. I would have given it 5/5 stars if there had been repercussions on Mr. Kendall to make him a better person.

Overall, this is a charming book that I encourage you to read (if you haven’t done so already).

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### **QNPoohBear says**

Eleven-Year-Old Gusta Hoopes Neubronner has moved around a lot. From the mill towns of New England

to New York City as her father, a union activist, rallies people to the cause. She's always had her parents by her side no matter where they went; quietly observing and absorbing their beliefs. Now her father has put her on a bus to Springdale, Maine to live with the grandmother she doesn't remember far from her mother still in New York trying to make ends meet. Gusta is comforted by the fact her Papa will come with her to explain everything but when he disappears, she is left alone clutching her prized possession- Papa's French Horn he brought from Germany long ago. Now Gusta is alone to face down a house full of orphans, a new school where children rarely see newcomers and compete for bragging rights about their family-owned dairies, the school's five-point health certificate competition, the Real Americans Club and family drama. Through it all Gusta tries to remain true to her family and herself but she harbors some big secrets and with America on the brink of war with Germany, those secrets could cost her family everything.

I loved this book! I had a hard time putting it down. I read long past the time I should have been asleep on a work night and finally put it down when I couldn't keep my eyes open anymore. I read it while waiting for the bus in the morning, while waiting for the bus home and finally finished it late at night. I really enjoyed the author's writing style. Some of her descriptive phrases are really unique and beautiful. She refrains from inserting too much insight and hitting home a message. Gusta's voice seems authentic for a precocious child who takes on the weight of the world. I did not like how Mr. Bertmann gets dropped halfway through the story only to reappear at the end. His story was wrapped up a lot more neatly than I expected. I also did not like the title of the novel. The girls call themselves "The Honorary Orphan Band" but I would title the book "Real as Jam" because the girls form the band to prove to Mrs. Hoopes/Grandma that music is as real as jam (meaning it can win a ribbon at the county fair). That phrase echoed throughout the novel and was important to the story though it was a bit unclear as to WHY Grandma dislikes music or whether it's just the music teacher she doesn't care for. The only other small issue I had with the novel is Gusta's obsession with unions and how too much of the story is taken up with Uncle Charlie's cause and not enough with the band. The plot could just use a little smoothing to make it all gel better.

Gusta is gutsy, sincere and loyal. I really liked her but I didn't understand why she felt it was her duty to pay for Uncle Charlie's operation if the mill owner wouldn't pay for it. What 11-year-old child thinks like that even during the Depression? She doesn't really seem aware that there is a global Depression just that times are tough for her family and the mill workers. I also loved Josie and how cheerfully she accepted her situation though not in a goody-goody way. I loved her fearlessness and can-do attitude. Extra special love to Josie for playing the ukulele! Younger niece has recently taken up the ukulele and I hope she'll read this book. She is a lot like Josie. Bess at first seemed a little too sweet and good to me but she's just shy and used to a tough life with an injured father and a harried stepmother. She knows she has to be quiet and good to not make the situation worse. Bess is a good complement to Gusta and Josie because she's so quiet and thoughtful while the other two just rush in without thinking.

Gusta's classmates are mostly non-entities except for two children, both of whom live on dairy farms and are constantly warring over whose is better. Molly Gowan annoyed the HECK out of me. Her REAL Americans Club really really got on my last nerve. I hope older kids can see the parallel to what the Nazis thought or Deatheaters if they don't know history yet! That kind of thinking is just so so dangerous. Anyway, none of the people in that town seem to be real immigrants even if their ancestors came over with the Mayflower or Winthrop Fleet. There were people here on the continent before then. How about a club that promotes unity and harmony in this time of uncertainty and difficulty? Young readers will hopefully see the connection between the immigrants of today and the immigrant characters in the novel like Gusta's Papa. Gusta's other classmate, Georges Thibodeau is adorably quirky. Today he would be labeled on the autism spectrum and have a classroom aide to keep him from his frequent outbursts. I like how kind and fiercely loyal he is. His outbursts add humor to the story.

The adults are a little less endearing than the children but none is really a cardboard stock character. Grandma Hoopes is tough but loving. She has her reasons for things and being the way she is. Her seafaring father was quite a character and his stories add to the charm of the novel but also make it a tad too unrealistic and cutesy in spots. I feel sorry for Aunt Marion. Gusta's Mama Gladys got the brains and the fiery temperament in the family while Aunt Marion is stuck taking care of a bunch of wild orphans. She is a sad, broken down woman who can't stand up to her own mother. She does have some backstory which is a bit of a surprise, especially in a novel for readers ages 9-12 and it makes me wonder what she was like as a young woman. Gusta's teacher surprised me. I think her personality changed a bit from knowing Gusta and learning from the girl. Miss Kendall is another kind and sympathetic teacher who inspires the girls to learn music but I found her weak and silly in spots. I understand Grandma's feelings.

The adult male characters are not as strong as the female. Uncle Charlie is a sad, literally broken man. I felt really horrible for him especially since I work at a textile mill museum and I know what the machines look like and how the line works. Our machines are individually operated in case Uncle Charlie needed to fix a loom without shutting down the line. I'm not sure what kind of textile mill wouldn't have that same system. I also know unions were active in New England mills in the 1930s but they don't seem to have reached that corner of Maine yet. I really wanted to be sympathetic to Uncle Charlie but Gusta's gung-ho reaction to the situation annoyed me. Uncle Charlie is not her concern. Mr. Bertmann is very quirky. He's either a villain or really naive. I knew his scheme with the pigeons was not going to go over well in the community. His backstory comes out all at once after he disappeared from the plot for awhile. It was sad but told in an age appropriate way. It's also only 1941 and the future has yet to be determined. The mill owner villain really bothered me. He's the only character that's stereotypical. Of course mill owner=villain. Why can't the mill owner be benevolent? There were some good mill owners at that time.

The author provides a brief note but not a lot of information on sources so I found Labor Unions During the Great Depression and New Deal and

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### **Juli says**

I would like to thank NetGalley, the publisher and the author for my advanced copy of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Wow, what a complex book. This book is so much more than a middle-grade book. The story takes us to Maine (and to be honest pretty much the reason why I wanted to review this book in the first place, I am only slightly obsessed with everything Maine). Springdale is a small, non-coastal, working-class town. We find ourselves on the eve of US's involvement in WWII - the townspeople worry about unregistered aliens, being drafted, and the first signs of communist ideas such as union uprisings. Gusta's papa is a fugitive with union ideas and a German background. Gusta's mama is holding down the fort in New York City. Gusta was sent to live in Springdale with her grandma who runs an orphanage. There she searches for a special coin that her sea captain great-grandfather hid.

During the story, we follow Gusta as she gets used to living away from her mom and dad, tries to fit in with her new peers in her new school, and constantly searches for that wish-granting coin all the while she is growing up and learning that adults aren't always rational, that they aren't always fair, and that they aren't always good!

I loved this book. While reading, I tried to remember if I ever had read such a deep middle-grade novel when

I was the target age and I couldn't come up with an example. And even if I had, I probably would've had to admit that it went over my head a bit. I am glad that authors now challenge kids of all ages to think and muddle their way through complex storylines and plots. I also think that this book will reach older audiences that other middle-grade books probably wouldn't. All in all, this is a great novel and well worth your time.

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See my blog (spoilers possible!) here: <https://ichleseblog.wordpress.com/201....>

### **Katherine says**

Gusta and her dad, a labor organizer, are on a bus traveling from New York to Springdale, Maine together. Her father unexpectedly disappears and Gusta must finish the journey alone. With her cherished French horn and a letter to her grandmother from her mother, when the bus arrives in Springdale, Gusta trudges through the cold weather to her Grandmother's orphanage.

This is a fine, well-written historical fiction for middle grade kids. Gusta has so many fine qualities. She bravely relocates to a new home in a new state. She attends a school where the students and teachers are strangers to her. She faces the absence of her parents, and so wants to help her uncle get the surgery for his damaged hand. She faces injustices and verbal attacks on her person and integrity. There are secrets, wish coins and diaries of a sea-faring grandfather. This is a wonderful story that left me with a good feeling when it ended.

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I received a complimentary copy of this book from Candlewick Press through Netgalley. Opinions expressed in this review are completely my own.

### **Beth says**

I like this a lot. Let's start there. It's smart. It's warm. It's interesting. It's even unique, in a way - it tackles situations unusual, I think, to middle grade fiction. Gusta is sent to her grandmother in Maine, and her grandmother runs an orphanage; her father is a labor organizer (a *Communist*, y'all) on the run from the law; both of them have German last names, and it's 1941. This is an unusual mix, one I've never seen before.

And yet I read this wondering if I wasn't having the experience other people had when *they* read *The Wrinkled Crown*. There's just a LOT going on here - all the above, plus a French horn, a magic Wish, and quite the uncomfortable family situation. And folded in and around all this is a fabulous school story. But there's so much going on that the novel feels uneven, almost unfocused. It tries to do too much.

If you follow the school story, it ties into the competing-dairies, school-band, and French-horn elements; if you follow the family drama, the mill-organizing, fleeing-father, Uncle Charlie, Josie, Wish, and orphan-band elements fold in; if you focus on the setting, the patriotism, last-name, and pigeon aspects have a clear place.

And of course, because this is a professionally plotted story, these elements intersect and inform each other and bleed together, and it becomes hard to say which individual elements are excessive. (Well, not for one of them. The Wish stuff is almost irrelevant.)

And while it says things, in the course of its many, many stories, with which I agree, I have a hard time accepting the speechifying on top of all the other things.

It's just a LOT. I like all the characters! I like ambition! I don't want less ambition - but I do want coherence and deliberation and direction. And I don't feel that I got them here.

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### **Shelby M. (Read and Find Out) says**

I received a finished copy of this book for review from Candlewick Press. [My Video Review](#)

Oh my goodness... This book. I did not expect to love this as much as I did. This is some of the highest quality middle grade I have ever read. Gusta, the protagonist, was shy, sweet, and brave. I adored her. The themes that were explored were so well done, in a way that can connect with adults as well as middle grade readers. Themes include patriotism as a cover for prejudice, music, and the question of "Who is a *real* American?" I highly recommend this!

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### **Dianna says**

I adore this book! The writing is lyrical and clear; the characters are believable and lovable; the historical events covered are highly relevant today; and there is a French horn, an attic full of old books, and an interrupting boy.

Eleven-year-old Gusta is easy to relate to. Her life hasn't been easy, but she's figured out ways to make life work. So when she's dumped off a bus to go live with her formidable grandmother, she makes it work. When people at school aren't kind, she copes. When her uncle needs an expensive operation, she works to make it happen. Not all her choices are perfect—there are plenty of learning experiences here—but it's hard not to love someone who tries so hard.

This book is set in pre-WWII Maine. Historical aspects touched upon include the upcoming war; union organizing; people fleeing Germany because of the events leading up to the war; and suspicion of immigrants under the guise of nationalism and security. I found it to be exceedingly relevant to events going on today, and that is one reason I am going to be strongly encouraging my eleven-year-old son to read this ASAP.

Another reason I'll be encouraging him to read it is the bits about the French horn. My son plays it too, and I think he loves it as much as Gusta does. The passages that talk about how she feels when she plays it, I can see in my own son when he picks up his horn or talks about it. And the case banging against the shins: spot on! My son's biggest challenge when he started playing it last year was just carrying it around.

I can't finish my review without mentioning the amazing writing surrounding Gusta getting glasses. I have never needed glasses, but reading about how she felt after getting them, I finally think I know what it would be like.

I would love to see this book in the running for the Newbery. It's that good!

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Content: An orphan discovers her true parentage (talk of a "mistake" made years earlier); a single pregnant woman delivers a baby and leaves it behind; a man scares a girl and rips her sweater. Ages 10+, but really, nothing in here offensive, just material for discussion.

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### **Morris says**

Try as I might, I can't think of another middle grade novel set in the 1940s that deals with labor organization in America. That is just the beginning of issues tackled in this book and all are handled well. This will make an especially good choice for budding history buffs.

This review is based upon a complimentary copy provided by the publisher in exchange for honest feedback.

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### **[Shai] Bibliophage says**

*The Orphan Band of Springdale* is a middle-grade fiction novel that was narrated through the lead protagonist, Augusta "Gusta" Neubronner, an eleven-year-old from New York who was sent by her parents to her grandmother in Elm Street, Springdale, Maine. Her father was supposed to accompany her on the journey, but he suddenly vanished when they were on a bus in Portland. Gusta's father is a labor organizer, thus the authorities were trying to capture him. Aside from this, his father is from a German descent and the story was set in the year 1941 when the Second World War was happening at that time.

While Gusta's father was trying to avoid being arrested, her mother was left in New York because of work. Hence, there was no choice for her parents but to send Gusta to her grandmother who has an orphanage in Maine. While in town, she got acquainted with her mother's siblings Aunt Marion and Uncle Charlie Goodman, and his daughter Bess. She also became friends with Josie, the first orphan who arrived in the orphanage. Her friendship with Josie and Bess has led for the coming up with the idea of forming a band because they want to join the county fair contest for Blue-Ribbon Band that summer.

Aside from Gusta's fun experiences while she's in her grandmother's hometown, she also got herself into distressing situations. She and Bess also accidentally discovered their family's secret while trying to resolve their problem with Bess' father, Uncle Charlie. Her nationality was also being questioned due to her surname, and because of who is the father is.

The novel is intended for middle graders; however, I reckon that it will be more appealing to young adults and even older readers. The Orphan Band of Springdale is a really captivating fiction that will be appreciated by anyone; so if you have time to check out this book, don't miss the chance to read it and you will not be disappointed.

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### **Jessica Lawson says**

If Anne Nesbet doesn't win a Newbery Medal or Honor in the next 3-4 years, I'll eat my hat.

The seamless characterization, the flawless voice, the fully-realized setting, the details (! oh, the details!), the history, the humor, the heart, the MAGIC (yes, I firmly believe in the magical wish in this book), the ...oh lord, I could go on and on.

Warning: The Author's Note might make you cry.

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### **Laura says**

For the most part, I really enjoyed this middle grade novel. It had many wonderful components to it that I feel many readers will consider it a unique read. The characters are strong, sweet, and full of integrity that I really admired. There were moments of humor, touches of grace, and details that felt fresh. I was also impressed with the ease of weaving in historical details, that a middle grade child might have experienced in America during the early 1940's.

Although this was a charming novel, I did struggle with the pacing and length of the book. It felt drawn out and very slow at times. I think I wanted less subplots, and a stronger focus on the details regarding the central plot of the story. There just seemed to be a little too much going on.

Content:

Language: None

Sensitive subject:

Character discovers that she wasn't an orphan. She learns who her mother and father are and that she was the result of a premarital affair.

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### **Amie's Book Reviews says**

THE ORPHAN BAND OF SPRINGDALE by Anne Nesbet is a work of Historical fiction, written with middle-grade as the intended readership. It is "... nightingale sweet and honey-smooth."

Anne Nesbet has beautifully mixed music with history, family and a morality tale of doing what is right, no matter how difficult that may be.

Eleven year old Augusta Neubronner Hoopes is sent from her home in New York City to stay at her grandmother's house deep in central Maine.

From the very first chapter we learn that Augusta (who prefers to be called "Gusta") has a very heavy load on her shoulders.

Halfway through the trip from New York to Maine, her father disappears. It turns out that he escaped just before authorities searched the bus looking for him. Gusta's father was born in Germany and has been involved with the labor movement ever since arriving in the United States. Now, he is a fugitive from the law.

When Gusta arrives at her grandmother's house, all she has to her name is a small bag of clothes and her most prized possession - a French horn. That horn is not just decorative. Gusta can play it, and play it well.

Hearing a family legend that somewhere there is a magic wish "...in a box on a shelf..." Gusta would dearly love to find that wish and sets out to ferret out its location.

The longer she lives in the small town, the more problems she sees that need to be set right. Her father always told her that people needed to help each other whenever they could, and Gusta intends to honor his teaching - no matter how much it will hurt her to do so.

I love this. It is so refreshing to read a story in which solidarity is celebrated and where selfishness is discouraged. In today's world, it is all about "ME". Too many people worry only about themselves and ignore the consequences to others of their actions. In this regard, going back in time would be wonderful.

Sometimes it is necessary to look at the world through the eyes of a child who has not yet been beaten down by life. It is through Gusta's wonderfully flawed eyes that adult readers of this novel discover that everything can be boiled down to one of two choices ... Right or Wrong. This lesson may be a simple one, but it is one that is often forgotten. I am happy to say that "The Orphan Band of Springdale" has reminded me of that oh-so-true reality.

Anne Nesbet has touched on so many issues worthy of discussion in this book that it is easy to see this book in a middle grade classroom and a lively discussion taking place. I highly recommend this book to teachers of those grades (as well as to everyone else.)

Here is a partial list of some of the discussion worthy topics include:

- \* Work ethic in the past vs. work ethic in present day
- \* Hardscrabble lives
- \* Unions
- \* Injured Workers
- \* Patriotism
- \* Prejudice
- \* Government & health
- \* Music
- \* Money and lack of it
- \* Airplanes
- \* Bullying
- \* Glasses
- \* German in the USA
- \* Dairy Wars
- \* Purity - of milk and of birth
- \* Orphans
- \* Family loyalty
- \* The value of historic writings - such as the sketchbook and journal from the sea captain found in the attic by Gusta
- \* Selflessness
- \* Changes in technology from 1941 to present day
- \* And much more...

I sped through the reading of this book because I did not want to put it down. In fact, I spent two very sleepless nights devouring the pages and fully immersing myself in Gusta's world. Author Anne Nesbet has crafted Gusta's world with beautifully detailed descriptions and characters with such depth that they seem

100% real. It is patently obvious that the author has a distinct love of small-town Maine, and that love has seeped through onto every page of this delectable book.

I rate this book as 5 out of 5 Stars ???? and am planning to check out previous novels written by Anne Nesbet.

I predict that THE ORPHAN BAND OF SPRINGDALE will find its way onto the Bestseller list shortly after its official release date.

\* I would like to thank GOODREADS as well as CANDLEWICK PRESS for providing me with an ARC (Advance Reading Copy) of this book.

To read more of my reviews, visit my blog at <http://Amiesbookreviews.wordpress.com>

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