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# Orphan Train Rider

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 The Fulton and Fowler Family

*Orphan Train Rider*

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Orphan Trains Cherry Lake

Can you imagine being placed in an orphanage while your parents are still alive? That's what happens to Nettie and Nellie Crook, who are only five years old in 1910 when they are removed from their home in New York. No one tells Nettie and Nellie why their parents can no longer care for them, and later, no one explains why the orphans are put on a train headed west. The girls soon find themselves put on display in various small towns, where prospective parents examine and select children for adoption. Nettie and Nellie are taken by Mr. and Mrs. Chapin—will this be a happy ending for the twins? Based on a True Story books are exciting historical fiction about real children who lived through extraordinary times in American History. This title has Common Core connections.

*A Family Apart* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

"From 1850 to 1930 America witnessed a unique emigration and resettlement of at least 200,000 children and several thousand

adults, primarily from the East Coast to the West. This 'placing out,' an attempt to find homes for the urban poor, was best known by the 'orphan trains' that carried the children. Holt carefully analyzes the system, initially instituted by the New York Children's Aid Society in 1853, tracking its imitators as well as the reasons for its creation and demise. She captures the children's perspective with the judicious use of oral histories, institutional records, and newspaper accounts. This well-written volume sheds new light on the multifaceted experience of children's immigration, changing concepts of welfare, and Western expansion. It is good, scholarly social history."—Library Journal

**Orphan Trains** Createspace Independent Publishing Platform  
 Discover the true story of seven orphans who were settled with families in the Midwest by the Children's Aid Society.

*Orphan Train Riders* Createspace Independent Publishing Platform  
 They were "throwaway" kids, living on the streets or in orphanages and foster homes. Then Charles Loring Brace, a young minister in New York City, started the Children's Aid Society and devised a plan to give these homeless waifs a chance at finding families they could call their own. Thus began an

extraordinary migration of American children. Between 1854 and 1929, an estimated 200,000 children ventured forth on a journey of hope. Here, in the sequel to *Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story*, Andrea Warren introduces nine men and women who rode the trains and helped make history so many years ago.

*Orphan Train Rider* Harper Collins

This book relays the factual details of the orphan trains that sent East Coast orphans to be with families in the Midwest and West. The narrative provides multiple accounts of the event, and readers learn details from the point of view of an orphan child heading to the Midwest, a Midwestern family awaiting a child, and a New York City child welfare worker. This book offers opportunities to compare and contrast various perspectives in the text while gathering and analyzing information about an historical event.

[To Dakota and Back: The Story of an Orphan Train Rider](#) Kidder Productions, LLC

A Dickensian novella based on true life facts and characters regarding the largest mass migration of children known as the orphan trains. History, culture, and geography celebrate the survival of these children, by weaving the individual stories of two children into triumph over tribulation building strength of mind and character into an incredible reserve.

*We Rode the Orphan Trains* Turtleback Books

By the middle of the 19th century, New York City's population surpassed the unfathomable number of 1 million people, despite its obvious lack of space. This was mostly due to the fact that so many immigrants heading to America naturally landed in New York Harbor, well before the federal government set up an official immigration system on Ellis Island. As a result, if a child was abandoned or orphaned, they were at the mercy of an ad hoc system of barely tolerable orphanages with little to no centralization. By coordinating with train companies, Brace was able to transport dozens of children at a time to places in the heartland of America or further out west, where they would end up in new homes, decades before the existence of foster care.

[The Author's Guide to Orphan Train Rider](#) Feiwel & Friends

It seems incomprehensible that there was a time in America's not-so-distant past that nearly 200,000 children could be loaded on trains in large cities on our East Coast, sent to the rural Midwest, and presented for the picking to anyone who expressed an interest in them. That's exactly what happened between the years 1854 and 1930. The primitive social experiment became known as placing out, and had its origins in a New York City organization founded by Charles Loring Brace called the Children's Aid Society. The Society gathered up orphans, half-orphans, and abandoned children from streets and orphanages, and placed them on what are now referred to as Orphan Trains. It was Brace's belief that there was always room for one more at a farmer's table. The stories of the individual children involved in this great migration of little emigrants have nearly all been lost in the attic of American history. In this book, the author tells the true story of his paternal grandmother, the late Emily (Reese) Kidder, who, at the tender age of fourteen, became one of the aforementioned children who rode an Orphan Train. In 1906, Emily was plucked from the Elizabeth Home for Girls, operated by the Children's Aid Society, and placed on a train, along with eight other children, bound for Hopkinton, Iowa. Emily's journey, as it turned out, was only just beginning. Life had many lessons in store for her lessons that would involve overcoming adversity, of perseverance, love, and great loss. Emily's story is told through the use of primary material, oral history, interviews, and historical photographs. It is a tribute to the human spirit of an extraordinary young girl who became a woman a woman to whom the heartfelt phrase there's no place like home, had a very

profound meaning.

[Maggie Brown, Orphan Train Rider](#) Out West Press

Raised on a farm, Tabitha Salt, the daughter of Irish immigrants, leads a bucolic and sheltered existence. When tragedy strikes the family, Tabitha and her mother are forced to move to the notorious Five Points District in New York City, known for its brothels, gangs, gambling halls, corrupt politicians and thieves. As they struggle to survive in their new living conditions, tragedy strikes again. Young Tabitha resorts to life alone on the streets of New York, dreaming of a happier future. The Sisters of Charity are taking orphans off the streets with promises of a new life. Children are to forget their pasts, their religious beliefs, families and names. They offer Tabitha a choice: stay in Five Points or board the orphan train and go West in search of a new life. The harrowing journey and the decision to leave everything behind launches Tabitha on a path from which she can never return.

**Emily's Story** Capstone

A young girl hopes to find her mother as she rides an Orphan Train to find a new life out west in "this finely crafted, heart-wrenching story" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Marianne, heading west with fourteen other children on an Orphan Train, is sure her mother will show up at one of the stations along the way. When her mother left Marianne at the orphanage, hadn't she promised she'd come for her after making a new life in the West? Stop after stop goes by, and there's no sign of her mother in the crowds that come to look over the children. No one shows any interest in adopting shy, plain Marianne, either. But that's all right: She has to be free for her mother to claim her. Then the train pulls into its final stop, a town called Somewhere . . . An American Library Association, Notable Children's Book ALA Booklist Editor's Choice Jefferson Cup Award Honor Book *Mail-order Kid* Createspace Independent Publishing Platform Andrea Warren views her two non-fiction books about the orphan trains through the lens of the Common Core Standards, offering her insight as to how the books fulfill standards related to critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing. She includes background history not in the books, and shares how she conducted research, interviewed the featured orphan train riders, found photos to illustrate her text, and then wrote the books. The guide includes many suggested exercises and reflective questions.

[Orphan Trains](#) Delacorte Press

New York City in the nineteenth century could be a brutal place for a child. A magnet to immigrants and the poor in search of jobs, the city was also a haven for gamblers, thieves and murderers. When adults fell victim to alcoholism, prostitution or drug addiction, their children were the ones who suffered the most. Temperance organizations such as the American Female Guardian Society stepped in, establishing orphanages and homes for unwed mothers and battered women: "homes for the friendless." Some of the children in the homes were orphans, but some were "surrendered" by parents who were unable to take care of them. Nearly 250,000 of these children were fostered out to families across the United States via the "orphan trains." Recently several Orphan Train Rider organizations have been formed, providing opportunities for the riders to reunite with family and loved ones, and to seek sources that provide clues to their roots. This book contains valuable entrance records from several of the surrender books of the AFGS Home for the Friendless in New York. Volunteers from the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America painstakingly indexed the surrender books, which had been left to the Rockland County Historical Society. Perhaps these records hold the key to your past! The Orleans County Genealogical Society held an Orphan Train Reenactment in Medina, New York, in 2004. Photos of that event

illustrate the emotional journey of the Orphan Train Riders. [Orphan Train Rider by Andrea Warren](#) Simon and Schuster Discusses the placement of over 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children in homes throughout the Midwest from 1854 to 1929 by recounting the story of one boy and his brothers. [Orphan Train Rider](#) Createspace Independent Publishing Platform "This man is confused. Home is on the other side of the world, back in Boston. How could this be home? He was just going to Dakota and back. Tom said it on the train. The Sister promised he wasn't going to stay here forever--just help with the farm work. But they lied. Tom and he had the same tags on their jackets, and Tom was gone. In 1877 John was born to Irish immigrants in South Boston. He has an older brother and younger sister. But after his mother's death, when John was age four, he spent several years in the Home for Catholic Destitute Children. Now he is to work as indentured servant until adulthood." --P. [4] of cover.

**Last Train Home** Kidder Productions, LLC

Andrea Warren views her two award-winning nonfiction books about the orphan trains through the lens of the Common Core Standards, offering her insight into how the books fulfill standards related to critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing. She includes background history not in the books, and shares how she conducted research, interviewed the featured orphan train riders, found photos to illustrate her text, and then wrote the books. The guide includes many suggested exercises and reflective questions.

*Emily's Story* iUniverse

From 1854 to 1929 about 150,000 orphans from New York City and the surrounding area were placed in homes in the Midwest and West. The children were sent out on "Orphan Trains." This is the first volume in a series of stories written by orphan train riders and their descendants.

**Orphan-Train Rider One Boy's True Story** Capstone Classroom

By the mid-1800s, the streets of New York City were home to an estimated 30,000 homeless, truant or orphaned children. These poor unfortunates were destined to commit petty crimes, be truant from school or home, or enter into prostitution, creating a tremendous drain on city resources and society in general. Magistrates committed the youthful offenders to asylums by the hundreds, one of which was the New York Juvenile Asylum, established in 1851. Overcrowding became a problem almost

immediately. For the New York Juvenile Asylum, relief came with the implementation of a western indenturing plan in which companies of children were sent west, at first in partnership with the New York Children's Aid Society, later with Reverend Mr. Enoch Kingsbury of Danville, Illinois, and finally, independently by the Asylum itself. At the time, the American West was in critical need of laborers in both agriculture and industry, and many families were eager to take in a child who was willing to work in exchange for food and lodging, or to learn a trade. Indenture papers were signed stipulating boys would stay until age twenty-one and girls until age eighteen. At the completion of their indenture each child received a cash payment, new clothing, and a bible. The Asylum chose the state of Illinois to indenture the vast majority of its children in, later establishing a permanent western agent and agency house in the state. In 1861, the Illinois State Legislature passed a bill recognizing the indentures of the Asylum as legally binding documents. The orphan trains of the New York Juvenile Asylum were sent west from 1854 until circa 1921. By the time the practice ended the Asylum had indentured over 6,600 children in Illinois and a few surrounding states - chiefly Iowa. Volume one of this set chronicles the history of the New York Juvenile Asylum (later named The Children's Village) from its earliest history until circa 1923. Volumes Two through Volume Six are comprised of lists of all known names of children sent west from the Asylum, including dates, where sent, and with whom they were indentured.

[Journey's End](#) Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

The author of "Bird in Hand" and "The Way Life Should Be" delivers a captivating story of two very different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman with a hidden past as an orphan-train rider and the teenage girl whose own troubled adolescence leads her to seek answers.

*Nettie and Nellie Crook: Orphan Train Sisters* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Describes the orphan train movement through the eyes of one small child who yearns to know her "real" mother, survives a tortured childhood, when she encountered whippings and sexual abuse, and ultimately, as an adult, comes to terms with her past, her faith, and herself.

**Orphan Train** CreateSpace

The adventures of Oliver and Edward Nordmark are continued. Oliver earns enough wages to search for his brother. The book also contains genealogical information about the Nordmark and Rarick families.