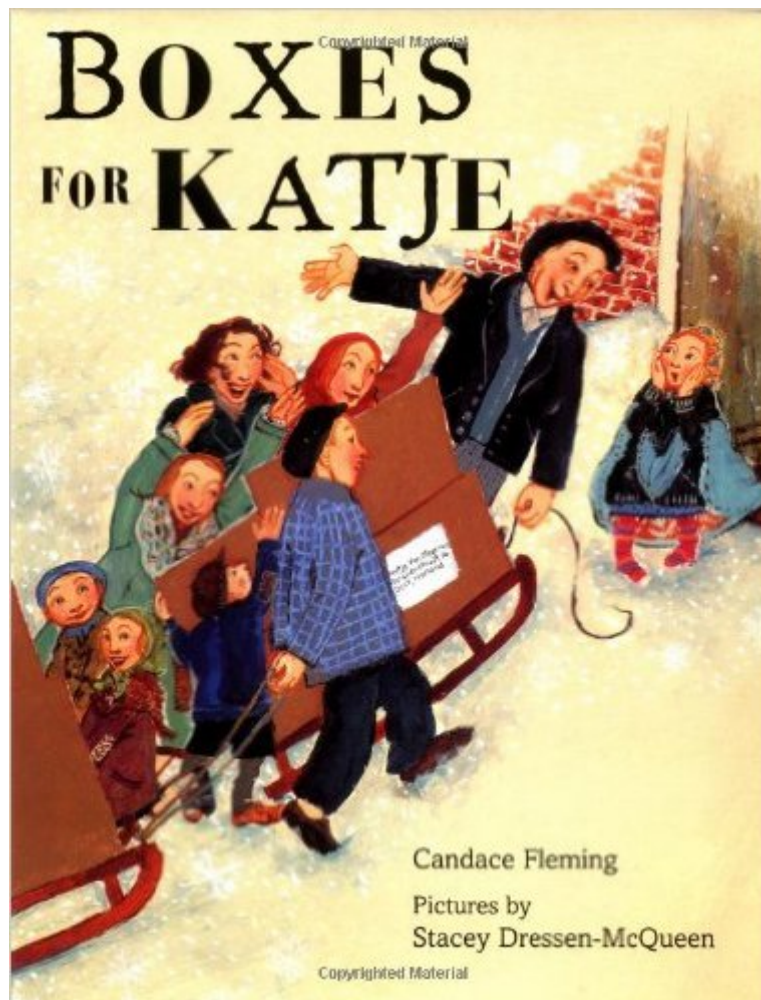


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# Boxes For Katje



## Synopsis

Simple seeds of friendship grow into something extraordinary After World War II there is little left in Katje's town of Olst in Holland. Her family, like most Dutch families, must patch their old worn clothing and go without everyday things like soap and milk. Then one spring morning when the tulips bloom "thick and bright," Postman Kleinhoonte pedals his bicycle down Katje's street to deliver a mysterious box â " a box from America! Full of soap, socks, and chocolate, the box has been sent by Rosie, an American girl from Mayfield, Indiana. Her package is part of a goodwill effort to help the people of Europe. What's inside so delights Katje that she sends off a letter of thanks â " beginning an exchange that swells with so many surprises that the girls, as well as their townspeople, will never be the same. This inspiring story, with strikingly original art, is based on the author's mother's childhood and will show young readers that they, too, can make a difference. Boxes for Katje is a 2004 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 460L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); 1st edition (September 12, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374309221

ISBN-13: 978-0374309220

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #95,886 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #92 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #97 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

I read this book to my four-year-old last spring, and while she listened carefully and we talked about the book as we read it, she did not appear to be that enamoured of the book. She asked for repeat readings of Angelina Ballerina, and the Kevin Henkes books we had gotten from the library at the

same time, but did not request a repeat of this book. HOWEVER, 4 months later, when I was telling my mother about how moved I was by "Boxes for Katje," I asked my daughter if she remembered the book. She did, and she proceeded to tell her grandmother the entire story, including what was in the each box, and how Katje shared with her neighbors. She remembered the entire story in incredible detail. She ended the re-telling of the story and asked, "Mommy, can we read that book again?" I believe that this story affected her more than I had initially given it credit for, and while she chose the more "fun" books for her evening entertainment, this book had a strong influence. I am now buying this book for our family library, where it will join other inspiring books of giving: The Quiltmaker's Gift, An Orange for Frankie, and many other stories of love and responsibility for one's community.

This will be called a pretty-much true story--or historical fiction--and it's totally absorbing. Katje (maybe pronounced Katie) is the main Dutch-Hollander character, but the story wouldn't have happened had it not been for little Rosie from America who sends necessities to Katje's family in war-torn Olst, Holland, who lives in near-starving devastation after World War II. The generosity and back-and-forth notes between poverty-stricken Katje and Rosie are simple, but filled with emotion, care, and expectation on both sides, and Rosie's notes often accompany effusive donations from a particular USA town which takes upon itself to support Katje's family, even, eventually, the townspeople through one of the worst winters which happens when the war ends in 1945. We sense the post-war poverty and desperation and are moved by the friendship that develops across the ocean. The illustrations are joyful--in spite of the situation--and colorful. Historical Fiction/Picture Book: Post WWII (Grades 2-4/5) The Creative Teacher: Activities for Language Arts (Grades 4 through 8 and Up)

Although many other books were nominated, I suggest this one more than Patrol and Papa's mark. Patrol is just war, and Papa's mark is boring for some reason. Anyways, Boxes for Katje is a story about a girl in Holland that recived boxes from America from a generous girl. This girl from America raises money and donation. Katje recieves Chocolate, socks, and food. In return, Katje returns Tulips that grow in the spring. This book got the most votes in our school. I suggest this book to young little kids who are just learning to read. This was written by Amanda Villanueva

This is a children's book based on a true story. Katje, a dutch girl) becomes a penpal with an american girl. It is a story about long distance friendship and freely giving to one another. Two

communities giving to each other a priceless treasure. This book is filled with unique illustrations and color. Reading this story is simply pleasing.

Boxes for Katje is an excellent story that illustrates the idea that sometimes all it takes is one person to bring about changes - something we should strive to remember.

Written by award-winning picture book author Candace Fleming, and based on the real experiences of her mother, Boxes For Katje is an uplifting picture book whose story is set in Holland after World War II. The war has left behind immense devastation, yet Katje's pen-pal from America has sent a package that is part of a goodwill effort to help the people of Europe. An inspirational story grounded in history, Boxes For Katje is wonderfully enhanced for young readers with the artwork of Stacey Dressen-McQueen.

The importance of giving and thinking of others during war is graciously presented in this book. A highly requested read at our home and school as it doesn't get old with children or adults. I wish there were more books like this available!

This book has made me choke back tears more than once because it's an endearing story of empathy and sharing. The story is about life during World War II and how people struggled and how they helped each other. A child's interpretation is often different than an adults and this book has prompted many interesting questions. It doesn't get into any details about war that are too much for children but it's been a catalyst for us to talk with the kids about World War II and what life was like for people in the US and Europe then and about our own family history and where our ancestors were during that time. The kids are sometimes inspired and talk about what they can do to make a difference in someone's life. They also learned about tulips and bulb plants. Highly recommend this book. It's a favorite for older sibling gifts when there is a new baby in town too because it's a great read for some quite time with an older child.

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