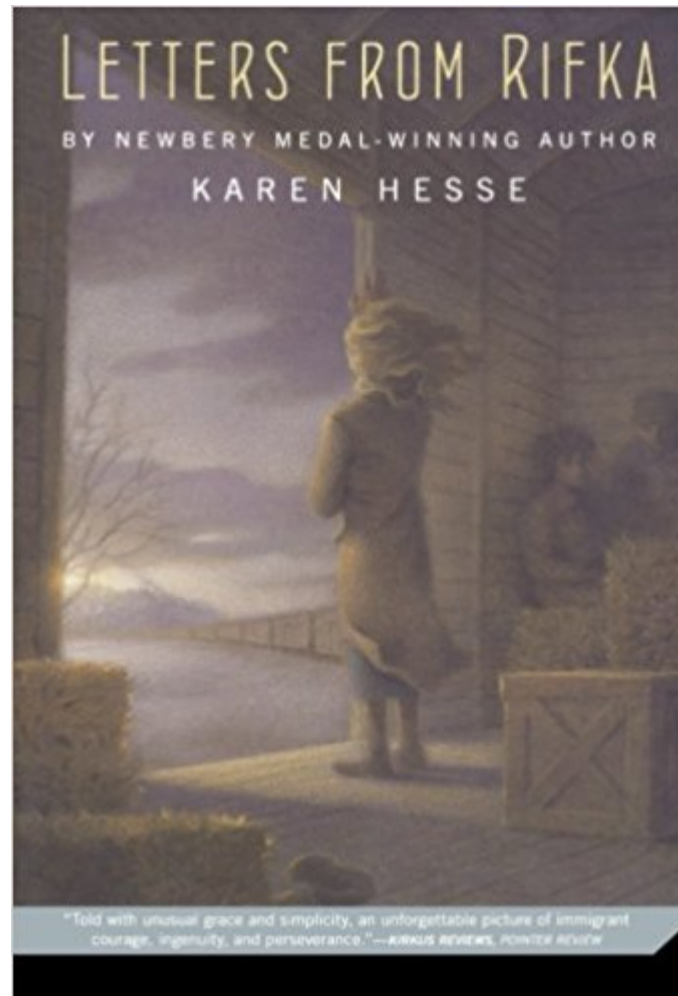




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Letters From Rifka



Synopsis

From Newbery media winner Karen Hesse comes an unforgettable story of an immigrant family's journey to America. "America," the girl repeated. "What will you do there?" "I was silent for a little time." "I will do everything there," I answered. Rifka knows nothing about America when she flees from Russia with her family in 1919. But she dreams that in the new country she will at last be safe from the Russian soldiers and their harsh treatment of the Jews. Throughout her journey, Rifka carries with her a cherished volume of poetry by Alexander Pushkin. In it, she records her observations and experiences in the form of letters to Tovah, the beloved cousin she has left behind. Strong-hearted and determined, Rifka must endure a great deal: humiliating examinations by doctors and soldiers, deadly typhus, separation from all she has ever known and loved, murderous storms at sea, detainment on Ellis Island--and is if this is not enough, the loss of her glorious golden hair. Based on a true story from the author's family, *Letters from Rifka* presents a real-life heroine with an uncommon courage and unsinkable spirit.

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

Twelve-year-old Rifka's journey from a Jewish community in the Ukraine to Ellis Island is anything but smooth sailing. Modeled on the author's great-aunt, Rifka surmounts one obstacle after another in this riveting novel. First she outwits a band of Russian soldiers, enabling her family to escape to

Poland. There the family is struck with typhus. Everyone recovers, but Rifka catches ringworm on the next stage of the journey--and is denied passage to America ("If the child arrives . . . with this disease," explains the steamship's doctor, "the Americans will turn her around and send her right back to Poland"). Rifka's family must leave without her, and she is billeted in Belgium for an agreeable if lengthy recovery. Further trials, including a deadly storm at sea and a quarantine, do not faze this resourceful girl. Told in the form of "letters" written by Rifka in the margins of a volume of Pushkin's verse and addressed to a Russian relative, Hesse's vivacious tale colorfully and convincingly refreshes the immigrant experience. Ages 9-12. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4-7. Refused passage in 1919 because she has ringworm, a young Jewish girl from Russia battles supercilious officials and yards of red tape before she is finally reunited with her family in America. Historical fiction with a memorable heroine, a vivid sense of place, and a happily-ever-after ending. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I was first introduced this book when I was in the 4th grade. Our teacher read it out loud to us. I was hooked and it was one of the first books I picked up and read on my own. I read it many times over my school career and I never got tired of it. Finding it on what's awesome and I ordered it received it within 2 days and read it within a day and a half. Will always love this book and have a special place in my heart for me. It came brand new with no issues and I'm very happy with my purchase.

My daughter has read this 2 times now, since we bought it a few weeks ago. This is an optional book in Ambleside Online for Free Reading and is highly recommended.

This book kept my 4th graders and I on the edge of our seats until the very last page! Absolutely excellent! Although it is at a much higher reading level, it was a perfect read aloud. It is highly recommended! I did have to reword a few events because it was somewhat inappropriate for ten year olds but overall it was worth it. My students filled out a problem solution chart for ever chapter, discussed geography, and migration. THeY made connections to other books we've read and enjoyed it immensely.

my 4th grade daughter's favorite book.

Reasonable price and fast shipping. A+

good book

I was a victim of the "ringworm epidemic" of 1944 here in the USA. Unlike the young woman in this book, I was 3-4 years old. This book helped me deal with the lingering emotional pain of that experience. The book is well-written, and the main character seems so real and is based a bit on fact. The author goes into the details for escaping from Europe and trying to get into the USA.

I started reading this book because of an assignment for school. Originally, I did not want to read because I hate reading. I really enjoyed this book. You can imagine everything so vividly. Definitely two thumbs up!

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