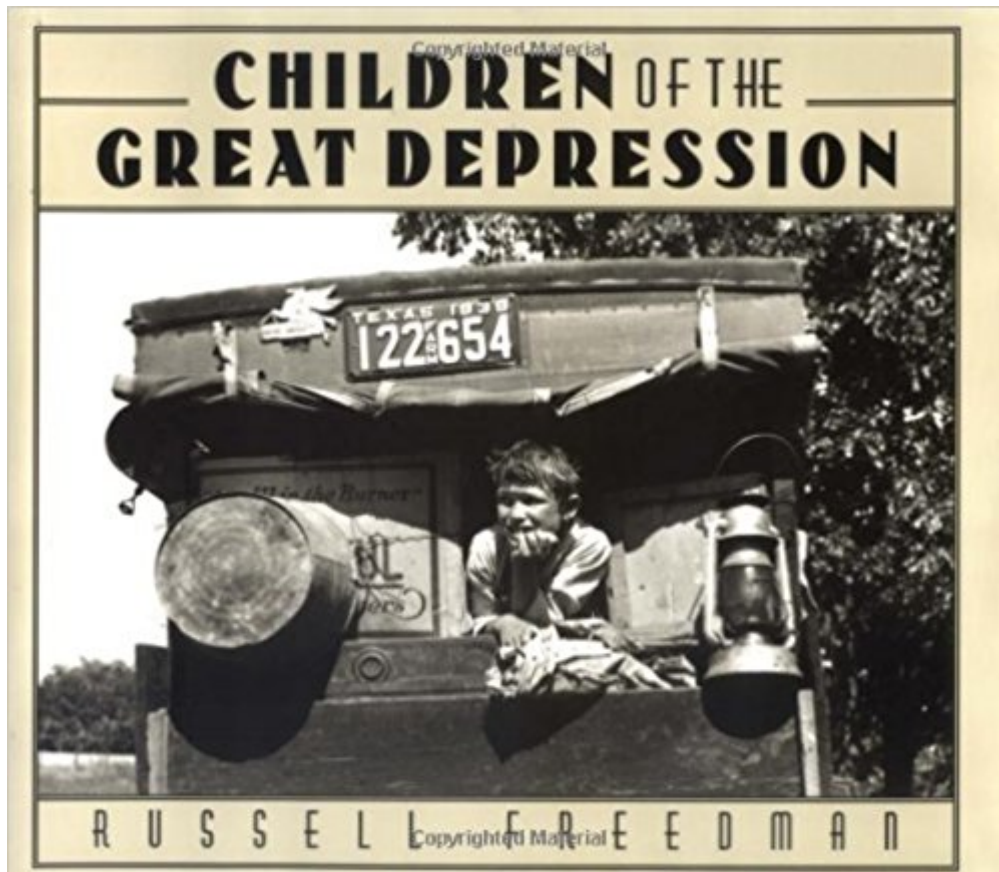




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Children Of The Great Depression (Golden Kite Awards)



Synopsis

As he did for frontier children in his enormously popular *Children of the Wild West*, Russell Freedman illuminates the lives of the American children affected by the economic and social changes of the Great Depression. Middle-class urban youth, migrant farm laborers, boxcar kids, children whose families found themselves struggling for survival . . . all Depression-era young people faced challenges like unemployed and demoralized parents, inadequate food and shelter, schools they couldn't attend because they had to go to work, schools that simply closed their doors. Even so, life had its bright spots "like favorite games and radio shows" and many young people remained upbeat and optimistic about the future. Drawing on memoirs, diaries, letters, and other firsthand accounts, and richly illustrated with classic archival photographs, this book by one of the most celebrated authors of nonfiction for children places the Great Depression in context and shows young readers its human face. Endnotes, selected bibliography, index.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1170L (What's this?)

Series: Golden Kite Awards

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 4-8 "Few authors are as well suited as Freedman to present a clear and understandable outline of this period. His prose is straightforward and easily comprehensible, making sense of even the complexities of the stock-market crash. The use of primary sources is

outstanding. This is a book told by chorus, featuring the voices of those who endured the Depression, and is embellished with black-and-white photos by such luminaries as Dorothea Lange, Ben Shahn, Walker Evans, and Russell Lee. Eight chapters cover the causes of the Great Depression, schooling, work life, migrant work, the lives of children who rode the rails, entertainment, and the economic resurgence of the early '40s. Chapter notes and an excellent bibliography round out another superb photo-essay by a veteran author. A wonderful, informed, and sympathetic overview that perfectly complements Jerry Stanley's *Children of the Dust Bowl* (Random, 1992).
Ann Welton, Grant Elementary School, Tacoma, WA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Starred Review Gr. 5-8. "It's my sister's turn to eat," a hungry child tells her teacher. Quotes like that one bring home what it was like to be young and poor in Depression America. This stirring photo-essay combines such unforgettable personal details with a clear historical overview of the period and black-and-white photos by Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, and many others. As Freedman says, these images "convey in human terms the true meaning of economic statistics." His signature plainspoken prose does that, too, on every spacious, double-page spread, whether he is focusing on differences of race and class or on child sharecroppers, factory workers, migrant farm laborers, or boxcar kids. There are many books about particular people and regions during this period--among them, Jerry Stanley's *Children of the Dust Bowl* (1992); Milton Meltzer's *Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?* (1991); and Freedman's own award-winning biographies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt--and Freedman quotes from a number of them, as well as from adult sources, documenting everything in a final bibliographic essay and notes that are a rich part of the story, not the usual cramped, dutiful acknowledgments. An excellent starting place for investigating the Depression in middle school and junior high, this eloquent book will also appeal to older readers, including adults who know family stories about how it was or, possibly, lived the history themselves.
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My twin sons were told by their teachers that they need to read some more non-fiction books. They were about to learn about the Great Depression from the perspective of children like them.

It was a great book, it brought back memories for me. I ordered one for my brother and sister. I felt it was a better explanation of what we went through for the kids and grandkids than a verbal discussion would have been.

The illustrations throughout this book captures the faces of children who lived through the depression with dignity and realism. I would recommend this book for teachers who want to provide images for students about how their lives compare to the children of long ago.

required reading for son's summer schedule, and he ended up enjoying the book very much

Wonderful pictorial account of the depression survivors. The narrative was enlightening

Enjoyed the book.

Bought it for my granny, she lived through the depression. She said it was a great book.

Quick shipping and as described.

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