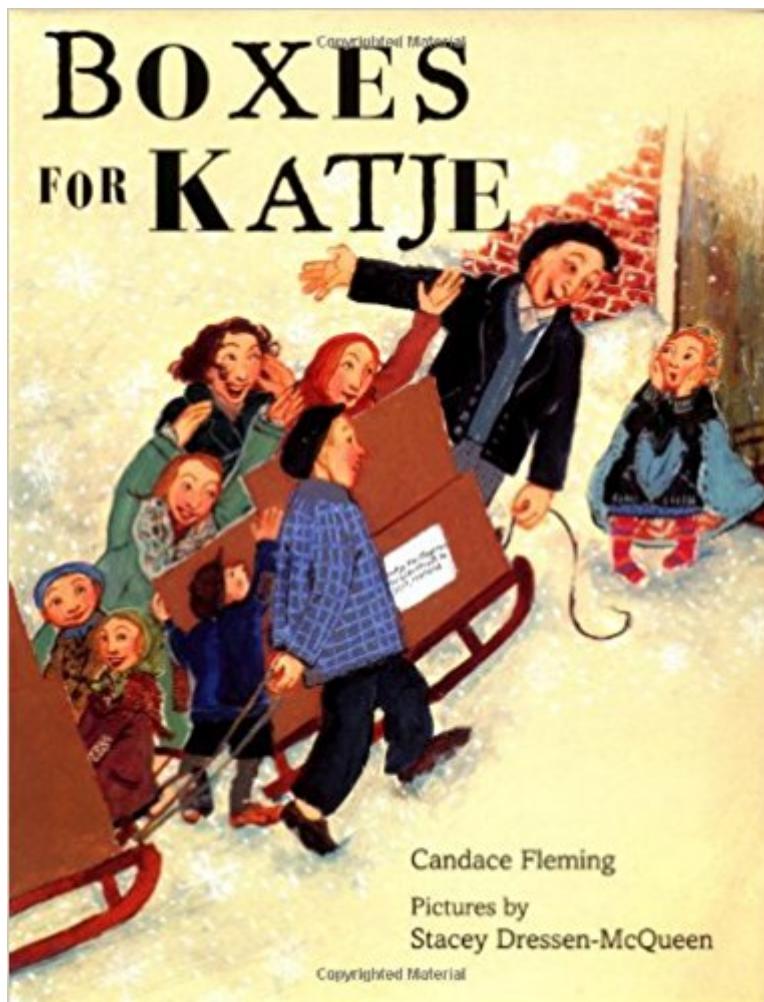


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# Library Book: Boxes For Katje (Rise And Shine)



## **Synopsis**

Life is tough for Katje and everyone in Holland, but generous packages from Rosie in America brighten her life.

## **Book Information**

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

Series: Rise and Shine

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: National Geographic School Pub; 1st edition (July 13, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374309221

ISBN-13: 978-0374309220

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 48 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #50,788 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe #43 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #57 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

K-Gr. 3. In May 1945, a Dutch girl named Katje is thrilled to receive a letter and a package of socks, soap, and chocolate from Rosie, a girl she doesn't know who lives in Mayfield, Indiana. The kids start to exchange letters, and when Rosie's family members learn of Holland's severe post-war deprivations, they enlist Mayfield residents to send food and clothes to Katje, who generously shares the gifts with others in her community. The sense of suffering isn't strong here, in part because the Dutch townspeople are almost always depicted as smiling about the packages. But the story is still moving, and Dressen-McQueen's lively illustrations, in colored pencil, oil pastel, and acrylic, pack lots of color, pattern, and historical details onto every expansive page. Fleming based the book on her mother's experience, which she describes in an author's note; in the real-life story, however, adults, not children, orchestrated the events, a finding that may be a little disappointing to kids who took the book, with its specific dates, town names, and heroic, generous children, as

straight fact. Kathleen Odean Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

“Fleming’s engaging story of post-WWII Holland serves as a potent and merry lesson in generosity. . . .Dressen-McQueen immerses readers in post-war Holland, crafting an entirely credible world of cobblestone streets, Dutch architecture and vintage clothing.”<sup>1</sup> Starred, Publishers Weekly “As heartwarming and uplifting as a bouquet of tulips.”<sup>2</sup>

Kirkus Reviews

I brought a cardboard box to school with the three items that were in Katje’s box. I pulled them out when she opens the box in the story. My students really enjoyed this book. I gave them the outline of a sock and they designed special socks afterwards, but this could also lead to a letter writing activity or research on Holland or World War II.

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)

Anyone interested in teaching children about the power of giving should purchase this book! As an elementary school teacher, I am always looking for quality literature that illustrates kindness and personal sacrifice. This book exemplifies both. I highly recommend this book.

I was told about this book this past fall. We read it and were challenged as a family to think of those in need. It was such an incredible tool to motivate my children to think more of others during the holiday season. My son quoted it last week and we haven't read it since October!

## A treasure

I checked out this book after seeing it on Reading Rainbow. The basic theme is about getting together to help others in time of need and sharing with others, and is set during WWII in America and Holland, when the luxuries we're used to are very short at hand and difficult to find. My son's grandmother is Dutch so it had some special meaning to us, as she was a small girl during this time period. The illustrations are colorful and eye catching and very relevant to the time period (hair and manner of dress) and culture (American versus European). Certain names (Katje, Postman Kleinhoonte) might be hard to pronounce but your child probably won't care if you have to fudge your way through them. It does add some "flavor" to the text and is nice to read about people in other countries or time periods that were particularly different than what we're used to.

My daughter and I both enjoyed reading this book together. She asked a lot of questions which leads to discussions and more learning which I appreciate in any books we read. Highly recommend.

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!

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