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Fair Weather



Synopsis

Thirteen-year-old Rosie Beckett has never strayed further from her family's farm than a horse can pull a cart. Then a letter from her Aunt Euterpe arrives, and everything changes. It's 1893, the year of the World's Columbian Exposition-the "wonder of the age"-a.k.a. the Chicago World's Fair. Aunt Euterpe is inviting the Becketts to come for a visit and go to the fair! Award-winning author Richard Peck's fresh, realistic, and fun-filled writing truly brings the World's Fair-and Rosie and her family-to life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peck is the award-winning writer of more than twenty-five novels for young readers. "Fair Weather" deserves to be on Oprah's adult list as it would have great appeal to her core audience and Peck's writing is delicious. By no means do I want to suggest that this is solely a female's book. It's a terrific story to read aloud with the whole family. It is 1893. Thirteen-year-old Rosie Beckett lives on a small farm in southern Illinois with her parents, grandpa, older sister, and younger brother. It's a rugged life of early morning chores and long days of work. It's a life without electricity or anything frivolous or luxurious. The children only wear shoes for special occasions. The Becketts have no complaints-it is the life they know. But everything changes when their aunt sends them train tickets and invites them to Chicago for a week to visit the World's Columbian Exposition. The trip is a whirlwind adventure of fact and fiction you won't want to miss.

Fantastic book! I love Richard Peck! He is my favorite young adult author. I am an elementary

teacher and I recommend his books to all my students. They are hilarious with wonderful characters always. Grandma Dowdy is the greatest character of all. This book featured several other characters that you just love. There is always a twist, and this story did not disappoint in the least! I highly recommend this book and this author. One thing to note. There are two Richard Peck's. Both do a great job, but this one is really my all time favorite! We have often taken car trips and listened to these books. It's kind of a family affair that we all enjoy!

I have read several of Richard Peck's books and this is one of my favorites. I love the grandfather in this book. What a character. There is a surprise at the end of this book, but you don't want to sneak a look because you won't understand the surprise. After reading the book I got on line to read more about the Chicago World Fair.

If you're ten you will most definitely like the narrator Rosie, her brother's hi-jinks, her granddad and the excitement of the fair and of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Older readers may very well appreciate the tribulations of older sister Lottie, the scenes with Aunt Euterpe, and some of the dryly humorous and sly comments that pepper the whole book. Older and adult readers may enjoy the gently cutting observations on progress, society and family and society dynamics. No matter where you fall, the calm, the good humor, the cleverness and the evocative writing will charm and entertain. Make no mistake, this is a shaggy-dog sort of story. It has a plot, it has some surprises, it has real energy, but it is mostly contemplative and episodic. Nobody does nostalgia like Peck, because he is clear eyed and impatient with flowery excess. He is deeply and finally "non-phony", even as he is shamelessly manipulating you. But you don't ever mind, because he's so generous and the work is so good.

Fair Weather by award winning author Richard Peck is a book that fiction readers and historians alike can enjoy. The reader can travel along with Rosie Beckett and her family to the World's Columbian Exposition through words and the quaint photos from the Chicago Historical Society. I enjoyed this book for two reasons. First, Rosie was able to make me laugh with a humorous insight into her family life during their unexpected travels. It was a constant treat to hear the musings of Granddad and I found Aunt Euterpe to be a character worth remembering due to her reserved hysteria. The other reason I enjoyed this book is the only reason I think some young readers might lose interest in this book. I found the history of the World's Columbian Exposition to be interesting and the photos fascinating, but it is possible that some young readers may yearn for more Beckett

humor than historical information. The inclusion of Buffalo Bill and other characters was charming and added to the authentic feel of the book. I would have enjoyed even more photos! Fair Weather is a definite read to be enjoyed and reflected upon both for a humor and history teaching value.

It was a delightful story of an Aunt who sent tickets to her sister and the children to come to the Chicago Worlds Fair in 1893. I personally have a hankie that was brought from that World's Fair from one of my husbands ancestors. Richard Peck does a marvelous job of writing for young people and makes things come to life. Any one who reads this book will certainly remember it and love it.

After reading "A Year Down Yonder", "A Long Way from Chicago", and now "Fair Weather", it seems to me as though Richard Peck personally experienced late 19th Century and Early 20th Century Illinois and Chicago. The sense of realism is so vivid, one has to wonder if it is really fiction. While many are familiar with the darker side of the White City from Erik Larson's book, Richard Peck explores a lighter side in this book for young adults. In "Fair Weather", Rosie lives a plain existence in southern Illinois. A seemingly bland life is interrupted when a mysterious letter from Aunt Euterpe arrives and invites the family to Chicago for the World's Columbian Exposition, also referred to as the White City. Rosie, older sister Lottie, younger brother Buster, and Grandpa make the journey to the big city. They find Aunt Euterpe still mourning, years after her husband's death. She is not as keen to enjoy all of the fair as the others for fear of perceptions of high society. Soon, the differences in the family melt away. Peck's narrative catches the wonder of the fair as well as the scandalousness. The fiction is well blended with actual events and scenery of the event. Though the characters may not have as much depth as some of Peck's others, it is still a wonderful book.

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