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# No Promises In The Wind



## Synopsis

In 1932, America was in the depths of a deep depression. A job, food to fill you, a place to sleep, and shoes without holes--for millions of people, these simple needs were nothing more than dreams. At 15 years of age, Josh had to make his own way through a country of angry, frightened people. This is the story of a young man's struggle to find a life for himself in the turbulent 1930s.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 930L (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Berkley; Reissue edition (September 15, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0425099695

ISBN-13: 978-0425099698

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.6 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (115 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #60,578 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century](#) #105 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s](#) #132 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

The book *No Promises in the Wind* by Irene Hunt was about a young boy's struggle to survive during the depression in the U.S. It takes place during the winter of 1932. Josh is the main character in the book. He and his father Stefan always get into arguments because his father has no job and can't provide for his family, so his father takes his frustration out on his oldest son. This causes Josh to leave home and embark on his adventure. His mother Mary is the one that gives Josh the OK to leave home. She feels bad for doing this, but she only sees the situation getting worse. So, Howie and Josh decide to run away together and make a life for themselves. Howie is Josh's best friend. Just before they leave, Josh's little brother wants to come along. His name is Joey. Joey is ten years old and looks like an angel. There are many problems that the main characters encounter during the book, the first one happens when the brothers lose their friend. Howie is run

over by a train in the beginning of the book. After this, the main problem is to get money and food. Different people help Josh and Joey get food. One day while walking, they meet a truck driver named Lonnie. Lonnie is very helpful; he gives the boys meals and a long ride down south to warmer weather. He also helps Josh find a job at a carnival. At the carnival Josh and Joey meet Emily. She is an older lady. She is very kind to the boys. Josh falls in love with her, but it does not work out because of the age differences. The carnival burns down so the boys head back north to find their friend Lonnie. Along the way they have to beg to survive. The one character that I could relate to was Josh. Because I have had similar conflicts with my father.

I picked up this novel without much in the way of expectations since I am not that big of fan of Irene Hunt's most famous novel for the younger set, 'Across Five Aprils'. However, I am pleased to say that this is a much better book. 'No Promises In The Wind' is about two brothers who leave home during the Great Depression simply because there is not enough money at home to buy enough food to feed everyone. They head off from Chicago with no plan except to try to survive as best as they can. As a teacher, what I like best about this book is its portrayal of the complete and utter economic collapse that the Great Depression entailed. Most students have no conception as to the breadth and depth of the Great Depression. By looking at this small family, readers gain an inkling as to what went on. Modern readers might question why this family didn't apply for welfare or food stamps, so it could lead to a great discussion about the beginnings of such programs. The book addresses, in passing, the inability of private charities to keep up with the massive need. When I asked my grandmother about the Depression, her experience as a young woman in the country mirrored what these boys do in this book. My grandmother spoke about young and old men alike coming up to their house and begging for food. Usually, they offered to do a bit of yard work in exchange for the food and the promise to keep moving on. This book echoed that experience wonderfully. 'No Promises In The Wind' would make a great introduction to the Great Depression as a topic in class. While, in the end, it is not nearly as powerful as more famous books, such as 'The Grapes of Wrath', it is much more accessible to young people and thus more useful.

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