



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Lost Year

## by Katherine Marsh



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

### What's It About?

Thirteen-year-old Matthew is miserable. His journalist dad is stuck overseas indefinitely, and his mom has moved in his one-hundred-year-old great-grandmother to ride out the pandemic, adding to his stress and isolation. But when Matthew finds a tattered black-and-white photo in his great-grandmother's belongings, he discovers a clue to a hidden chapter of her past, one that will lead to a life-shattering family secret. Set in alternating timelines that connect the present-day to the 1930s and the US to the USSR, Katherine Marsh's latest novel sheds fresh light on the Holodomor—the horrific famine that killed millions of Ukrainians, and which the Soviet government covered up for decades.

From the author of *Nowhere Boy*—called 'a resistance novel for our times' by *The New York Times*—comes a brilliant middle-grade survival story that traces a harrowing family secret back to the Holodomor, a terrible famine that devastated Soviet Ukraine in the 1930s.

### Who Wrote It?

Katherine grew up in Yonkers, New York in the home of her Ukrainian grandma who taught her to love stories and borscht, er parents, an artist/videographer and a stay-at-home mom, didn't have much money but we always had books: Mother Goose and the Little Bear stories with Maurice Sendak's wonderful etchings were some of my favorites. A former journalist and managing editor of *The New Republic*, Besides writing, I like to read, cook for friends and family, travel, correspond with friends, family and readers around the world, study languages (in addition to speaking some French and Russian, I'm learning Ukrainian), do puzzles, and visit off-beat museums. Most of all, I like to



spend time with my family. My husband, two children and I live in Washington, DC with two cats, a rabbit, a bunch of fish, a frog and an axolotl. Learn more about Katharine and her books at [www.katherinemarsh.com](http://www.katherinemarsh.com)

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 710L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆

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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.