

Name _____

Date _____



A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus



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?

It is 1940 and William, 12, Edmund, 11, and Anna, 9, aren't terribly upset by the death of the not-so-grandmotherly grandmother who has taken care of them since their parents died. But the children do need a guardian, and in the dark days of World War II London, those are in short supply, especially if they hope to stay together. Could the mass wartime evacuation of children from London to the countryside be the answer? It's a preposterous plan, but off they go-- keeping their predicament a secret, and hoping to be placed in a temporary home that ends up lasting forever. Moving from one billet to another, the children suffer the cruel trickery of foster brothers, the cold realities of outdoor toilets and the hollowness of empty stomachs. But at least they find comfort in the village lending library-- a cozy shelter from the harshness of everyday life, filled with favorite stories and the quiet company of Nora Müller, the kind librarian. The children wonder if Nora could be the family they've been searching for. . . . But the shadow of the war, and the unknown whereabouts of Nora's German husband complicate matters.

AR Reading Level: 5.0

Who Wrote It?

I started writing after stepping away from my career as a research psychologist to be with my kids. I had written plenty of scientific stuff, and always assumed I had to be either scientific or creative – but not both. Silly. Then I attended a dear friend's creative writing group and fell in love with it. I had a story in my head – about the World War II evacuation of London – and squirreled myself away in my studio while my kids were in school. For at least a hundred pages, I didn't even tell my family I was doing it, but when we'd had pizza for a suspicious number of dinners, I finally fessed up.

I love writing for the pure, simple, solitary pleasure of it. I love spending a year or more with characters who come to feel like family.



Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK





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