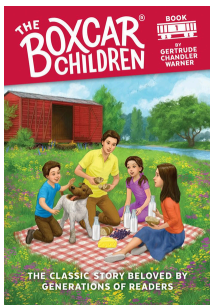


Name _____

Date _____



The Boxcar Children

by Gertrude Chandler Warner

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.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden are brothers and sisters—and they're orphans! The only way they can stay together is to make it on their own. One night, during a storm, the children find an old red boxcar that keeps them warm and safe. They decide to make it their home.

This book was originally written and published in 1942 and is now part of a huge series! Gertrude wrote 19 of the books and other authors continued the series in her style and voice. There are now over 150 books in the series!

There is a Gertrude Chandler Warner Boxcar Children Museum in Gertrude's hometown and is housed in an authentic 1920s New Haven R.R. boxcar. The museum is dedicated to Warner's life and work, and includes original signed books, photos and artifacts from her life and career as a teacher in Putnam. Included is the desk at which a 9-year-old Warner wrote her first story titled *Golliwog at the Zoo*. There is also a re-creation of the living space created by the Aldens - the Boxcar Children themselves.

AR Reading Level: 3.9

Who Wrote It?

Interesting Facts about Gertrude:

1. Gertrude was born in Connecticut in 1890.
2. Gertrude knew she wanted to be an author since the age of 5.
3. Gertrude was often sick as a child and used her imagination to keep herself entertained.
4. Growing up, Gertrude's favorite book was *Alice in Wonderland*.
5. Also as a child, Gertrude learned to play the cello.
6. Even though she didn't officially graduate high school, Gertrude was a teacher for 32 years!



7. Gertrude loved nature!
8. Gertrude died at the age of 89.

You can learn more about Gertrude by doing a simple Google search.

Lexile Level: 590L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆

