

No Promises in the Wind

by Irene Hunt

(Published in 1976)

Approved for use in 8th grade

Summary of the Work:

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.

Rationale:

No Promises in the Wind is a powerful work of historical fiction that depicts the realities of life during the Great Depression from an adolescent's perspective. Adolescents of all generations can relate to the main character as he faces difficulties in his relationships with others, and the cruel realities of economic hardship.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

"*No Promises In The Wind*." [Booklist](#) (June 15, 1970): 1279. *Educator's Reference Complete*. Gale. Helena School District #1/IMC. 26 June 2008 <<http://find.galegroup.com/ips/start.do?prodId=IPS>>.

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- 1971 Charles Follett Award

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 930L
- Readability Level: 7-12

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Hunt's novel helps young adults look outside of themselves to understand others' feelings and perspectives. In particular, the main character moves from focusing only on his own anger, to understanding his father's struggle to deal with his inability to provide for the family. The story also deals with an adolescent's wild emotions as the main character finds himself in love. Over time, the novel shows the reader a transition to a more mature love, in which the main character begins to focus on the feelings and needs of others, not just himself. The book also helps readers through the grieving process as the main character deals with his best friend's accidental death early in the story.

Connection to the Curriculum:

No Promises in the Wind, by Irene Hunt, helps readers understand the realities of life during one of our nation's most difficult times, the Great Depression. This novel accurately portrays American life during the 1930s from an adolescent's point of view. Students can relate to the struggles of the main character, so they are drawn in and learn about our nation's history in the process.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

This highly reputable author has been included and referenced on the AP exams. *Anthem* relates well to *Animal Farm* and *The Wave*, both novels at the English I level.