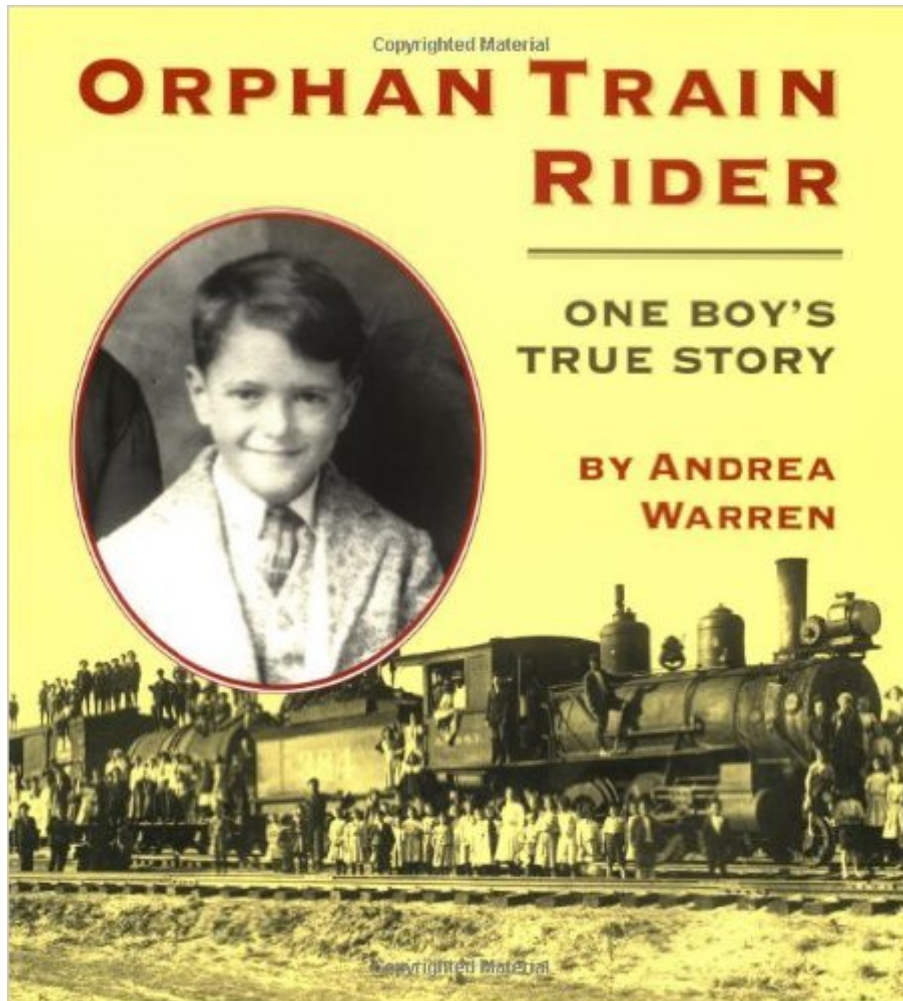


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# Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story



## Synopsis

Between 1854 and 1930, more than 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children were sent west on orphan trains to find new homes. Some were adopted by loving families; others were not as fortunate. In recent years, some of the riders have begun to share their stories. Andrea Warren alternates chapters about the history of the orphan trains with the story of Lee Nailling, who in 1926 rode an orphan train to Texas when he was nine years old.

## Book Information

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 8/29/98 edition (September 28, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395913624

ISBN-13: 978-0395913628

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (157 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #63,566 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s](#) #45 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Adoption](#) #59 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I try to find books for reading with my children. In this case, to read with my daughter who will enter the fourth grade. This book was on her summer reading list, and I'm glad we read it. This is a true story of a boy orphaned by the death of his mother and his father's ceding him and his siblings to the Children's Aid Society in New York State. This was a time in America that preceded government child welfare agencies for abused/neglected children. Instead, children were institutionalized in large orphanages (often called asylums) and eventually many were placed on trains to find homes with town people who would meet the trains at various stops. The book uses the story of a young boy with two of his younger brothers sent on an orphan train and eventually being picked by families in Texas. Lee was the oldest and took the longest to find a good family. The book gives information about the orphan train children in general and the reasons for their coming about. The author gives

credit to the Children's Aid Society that was prominent in organizing these trains and notes that many of these children grew to become accomplished members in society. The book, however, also shows that not all these children were so lucky and they faced continued abuse at the hands of their adopted parents, and ridicule by school mates. As a person who has worked extensively in the child welfare system, I found the book to be very relevant and a better way of explaining to my daughter the reason for my work. [...] This book would be excellent for children in foster care even though they are not exactly in the same position as orphan train riders. They still could easily empathize with the children in this story.

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