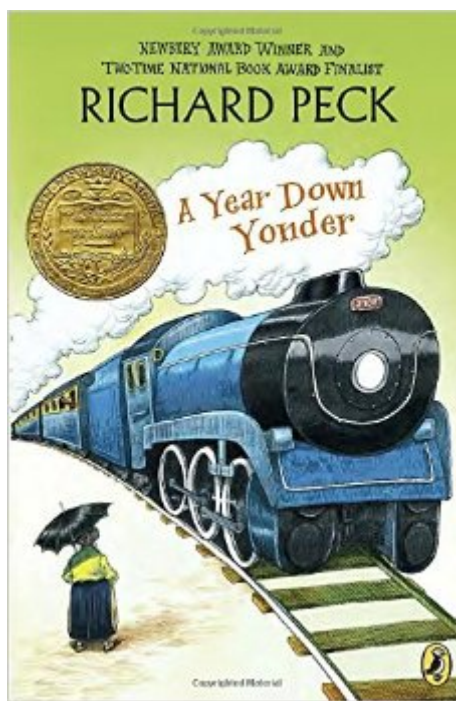


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# A Year Down Yonder



## Synopsis

A Newbery Medal Winner Richard Peck's Newbery Medal-winning sequel to *A Long Way from Chicago* Mary Alice's childhood summers in Grandma Dowdel's sleepy Illinois town were packed with enough drama to fill the double bill of any picture show. But now she is fifteen, and faces a whole long year with Grandma, a woman well known for shaking up her neighbors-and everyone else! All Mary Alice can know for certain is this: when trying to predict how life with Grandma might turn out . . . better not. This wry, delightful sequel to the Newbery Honor Book *A Long Way from Chicago* has already taken its place among the classics of children's literature. "Hilarious and poignant." — Publishers Weekly, starred review A Newbery Medal Winner A New York Times Bestseller An ALA Notable Book An ALA Best Book for Young Adults A Booklist Best Book of the Year A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0610 (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (November 21, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142300705

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (282 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #28,580 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #485 in Books > Children's Books > Classics #2294 in Books > Romance > Historical

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I don't always necessarily enjoy the books that win the Newbery Award, but this one is deserving. I can honestly say I would recommend it for anyone in 5th grade right on up to senior citizens. ("A Year Down Yonder" also stands alone very well - you don't need to have read "A Long Way From Chicago" in order to understand or enjoy this one.) The narrator is a 15 year old girl who is sent from Chicago to live with her grandmother in a rural town during the depression. We quickly come to appreciate the comic aspects of small-town life, but most especially we enjoy the wily ways of the

grandmother, who is nobody's fool and mischievous to boot. At the same time, we admire her toughness and the warm heart behind the hard exterior. Each chapter is an amusing anecdote all its own, as we follow the town through a year from fall to summer. Small town incidents like halloween pranks, Christmas plays, ladies' luncheons and big storms become masterfully funny stories. Moments of this coming-of-age story are genuinely touching, while mirth prevails throughout. You will have a great time reading this one.

Richard Peck's *A Year Down Yonder* chronicles the zany adventures of Grandma Dowdel and her granddaughter Mary Alice. Raised in Chicago, Mary Alice is in for quite a shock when she finds herself sent to live with her grandmother in a country town in 1937. Although Mary Alice has a hard time adjusting (she has to learn to keep her beloved cat Bootsie outside and play her Philco portable radio at night in bed), she grows accustomed to the wacky way of living in which her grandmother has grown to love. Whether Mary Alice is helping her grandmother steal pecans to make a pie or making tarts for the Auxiliary Ladies, she never forgets her family and how much they mean to her. As the story draws to a close, Mary Alice finds herself closer to her grandmother than she ever thought would happen when she moved from Chicago. This book does everything it can to keep the reader interested. From Grandma Dowdel's outrageous acts to Mary Alice's adventures in school, this book is never boring. In fact, it's hard to put down! The characters are extremely well developed and the detailed descriptions of the crazy stunts Grandma Dowdel and Mary Alice take part in are wonderful. In some way, every reader would be able to relate to the characters-whether it being the new kid on the block like Mary Alice or having a silly relative like Grandma Dowdel. If you are ever looking for a book that has wonderful humor, a lot of adventure or a sense of realism, *A Year Down Yonder* is a top pick!

This book, the sequel to "*A Long Way from Chicago*", is worthy of attention too (I hope the Newbery committee considers it). It is just as funny as the original, which won a Newbery Honor. Poor Mary Alice! She is sent to Grandma's house for a year, while her parents get back on their feet after the depression. In this book, Mary Alice is fifteen and can't think of anything worse than spending time in a tiny place, so unlike her hometown of Chicago. This book finds all new adventures for Mary Alice and her eccentric grandmother, from the glue that will hold "till kingdom come" to the cherry tarts for the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) tea, the fun just keeps coming. This book will make you laugh out loud and is a quick, enjoyable read. Definitely a MUST READ for fans of "*A Long Way from Chicago*".

Richard Peck does it again and does it better with *A Year Down Yonder*. It's hard to believe that anything could top the award winning *A Long Way from Chicago*, but this does. This time Mary Alice goes to live with Grandma Dowdel alone, and the results are hilarious. Mary, who was always more wise to the ways of her grandmother, learns a few new things about the town and her grandmother while managing to cause a stir herself. Once again, Grandma Dowdel's antics are both humorous and heart-warming, but it's her commentaries about the people of the town that make it a side-splitting riot. *A Year Down Yonder* is a must read.

I am a 6th grader and in my class we had to pick an award winning book, I picked *A Year Down Yonder*. I will tell you a little about the book and maybe you will read this book too. Mary-Alice is a 15 year old rich girl from Chicago who moved to a small farm town because of the recession in 1937. She is outspoken and well educated. But the real struggle is dealing with her out of the ordinary Grandmother. The book, *A Year Down Yonder* by Richard Peck tells the story of the pair of mismatched family members learning to understand each other. This realistic fiction book is about Mary-Alice and her Grandma. Mary Alice has many unexpected adventures with her grandmother throughout the book. Mary Alice is not accepted by the kids at the small school. She is befriended by a shy local girl, Ina Rae. Although they are very different they become good friends. Mary Alice shares many interesting situations with her Grandmother and slowly learns to appreciate the quality of life that she can have outside of the city. She eventually marries a local boy named Royce. Do you think she will stay in this hick town or move back to the city? I think the theme of this book is not to judge a place or person before getting to know it. Mary-Alice started out not liking her Grandmother's small town but in the end enjoyed her life there and met her future husband there too. I would recommend this book if you like humor.

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