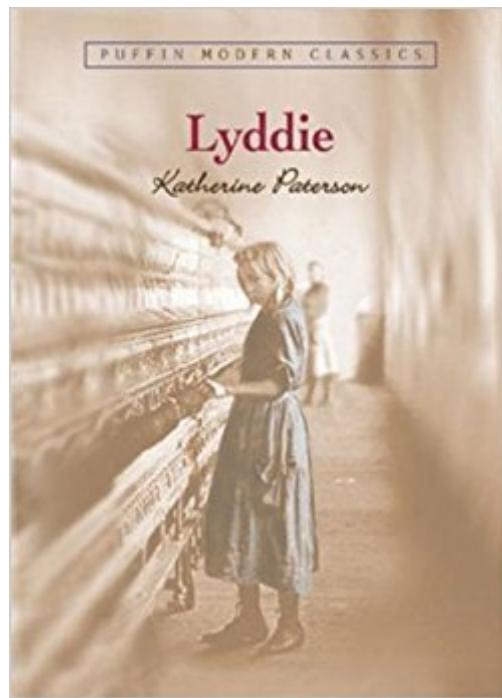


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# Lyddie (Puffin Modern Classics)



## Synopsis

"Rich in historical detail...a superb story of grit, determination, and personal growth." *The Horn Book*, starred review When ten-year-old Lyddie and her younger brother are hired out as servants to help pay off their family farm's debts, Lyddie is determined to find a way to reunite her family. Hearing about all the money a girl can make working in the textile mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, she makes her way there, only to find that her dreams of returning home may never come true. A story of determination and personal growth, *Lyddie* has already established itself as a classic. "Paterson has brought a troubling time and place vividly to life, but she has also given readers great hope in the spirited person of Lyddie Worthen." *School Library Journal*, starred review "A memorable portrait of an untutored but intelligent young woman making her way against fierce odds." *Kirkus Reviews*, starred review "Lyddie is full of life, full of lives, full of reality." *The New York Times Book Review* "Impeccably researched and expertly crafted, this book is sure to satisfy." *Publishers Weekly* An ALA Notable Book An ALA Best Book for Young Adults A Booklist Editor's Choice American Bookseller "Pick of the Lists" *School Library Journal* Best Book of 1991 *Parents Magazine* Best Book

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In 1843, three years after her father abandons his failing Vermont farm, 10-year-old Lyddie and her younger brother Charles are hired out as servants, while Mama and the two youngest children go off to live with relatives. After spending a grueling year working in a tavern, Lyddie flees to Lowell, Mass., in hopes of finding a better job that will provide enough income to pay off farm debts and allow the family to be reunited. Life continues to be a struggle after she is employed in a cloth factory, but Lyddie finds refuge from wretched working conditions by burying herself in books.

Learning that she cannot return home--the family farm has been sold to Quaker neighbors--the girl is seized by a burning desire to gain independence by attending college. Readers will sympathize with Lyddie's hardships and admire her determination to create a better life for herself. Paterson ( *The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks* ) clearly depicts the effects of poverty during the 19th century, focusing on the plight of factory workers enslaved by their dismal jobs. Impeccably researched and expertly crafted, this book is sure to satisfy those interested in America's industrialization period.

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Rich in historical detail . . . a superb story of grit, determination, and personal growth. (The Horn Book, starred review)

This is a wonderful book to introduce young people today to "how it was" in an earlier time. Katherine Paterson brings a young girl to life who is determined, smart, and who has a steadfast work ethic. You want to cry when she is separated from her family to work, and at the same time admire her and laugh with joy at her ability to defend herself and continue to hope for her family to be together again. My Grandma was a weaver back in the early 1900's, and I read a chapter of this to her each week. She loved it, too. It's a book I've given to all of my nieces, as well.

Loved it!

I am teaching Lyddie for the first time this year. It is part of the NYS common core curriculum, and I

am reading it to 7th grade boys - the best review I can give it is they were enthralled as I read the first chapter to them! I read the whole book and I loved it! It's a captivating story that keeps you wondering throughout if she will ever get her family back together.

I read this book to prepare for a class I was teaching about 1800s farming techniques. This is a very interesting book, filled with lots of history.

Great book, Great deal. Extremely happy.

Book arrived on time and as described. Thank you!

Anything Katherine Paterson writes is wonderful. Along with Bread and Roses, Too, Lyddie tells the story of why young girls went to the fabric mills of Lowell and Lawrence during the industrial rise of Massachusetts.

I bought this book for my 10-yr. old daughter because I wanted her to read some historical fiction where she could see how real people lived in America in the 1800's. I thought that she would like the book, but she loved it, and I found myself reading it, too, just to see what it was about. I fell in love with it, too. The characters are real full of problems and small joys. Lyddie leads a hard life that only someone from last century could have experienced, yet the author brings it to life so that kids today can understand and relate to what she went through. I really loved the small historical details, like the discrimination against Quakers in 1840 New England, like the damage to a worker's lungs from the lint in the air of a textile mill, and like the sleeping conditions within a girls' boarding house. We will be reading more of this author's works, and I recommend all to join us.

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