



The Blue Horse

Marita Conlon-McKenna

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Katie's whole world is turned upside down when her family's home is destroyed by fire. Everything they had is gone, and instead of pulling together it seems as though her family is falling apart.

The Blue Horse Details

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Chelsea says

Katie's whole world is turned upside down when her family's home is destroyed by fire. Everything they had is gone, and instead of pulling together it seems as though her family is falling apart.

amazing book

Cate Biblio says

When I was eleven years old, I was going away during school. My teacher gave me this book and told me it was my homework. I was so annoyed, I didn't want any homework. One day, while away, I was bored and decided to read this book that I had been given. I loved it. I couldn't be pulled away.

I felt so horrible for the main character and her family. They were called so many names by their new neighbours. They were also treated badly. They had to deal with so many problems such as the name calling but they were strong and tried to not let it affect them.

All of the problems they faced were real life problems. Many people around Ireland are travellers or settled travellers. This was like realising the situation within the real world.

There were many emotions soaring through this book. I think the only reason why I still remember most things about this book is because I liked it so much.

When I came back home, I told my teacher I read the book. She smiles and asked me to tell her about it. I told her about the whole book and how much I enjoyed it. She said to me that that was the whole reason why she gave it to me, because she knew I would be able to appreciate the idea behind it and the real-life problem, that in my world, I had no idea about.

Wayward Child says

I was ten when I read this book. I remember wanting so badly to be a Gipsy and telling that to everyone I knew. My dad told me I wouldn't last a day without TV and that I could never be a Gipsy, because he spoiled me too much. Two days later, the power went out and I started crying, because, by the time it came back, the show I was watching on Cartoon Network was already finished. Point proven.

ephyjeva says

I still remember the day I went to a bookstore with my father and he told me to pick any book I wanted. I took this one, he bought it for me and we brought it home. I think I was about 7 or 8 at that time. And I still have it on my shelf. It remained one of the best childhood reads for me. One day I hope to hand it over to my kids and say 'Your grandfather bought this for me when I was your age. I hope you read it and like it just as much as I did'. It is a beautiful novel about family, friendship, fear and equality, heart-wrenching and emotional.

Edel says

Great kids book, again Marita tackles a difficult topic life as a traveller and the discrimination they face. Katie is forced to live as a settled traveller after their caravan with the title's blue horse burns down. She faces discrimination and bullying in school and in the town and finds it hard to cope. She gains some self-esteem through switching to woodwork class where she makes a wooden horse and paints it blue to replace the one lost in the fire.

Aine O'riordan says

This emotionally challenging book from Irish writer Marita Conlon- McKenna tells the story of Katie, a member of the travelling community. Katie appears a happy, young and carefree girl at the beginning of the story, enjoying all that life on the road has to offer. However, tragedy strikes and their caravan is burned. Katie must then face a future in a house and attend school without the presence of her father. I first read this book while I was at primary school but after rereading it recently, I feel the message of the book remains the same. It gives students the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of how the travelling community live their lives and the many struggles they may face. I would recommend using this book for upper key stage two.

Jason says

I read this book in sixth class and I liked it for the most part. I could imagine the place she lived in, the school she went to and the blue horse trinket. So it was able to interest me.
