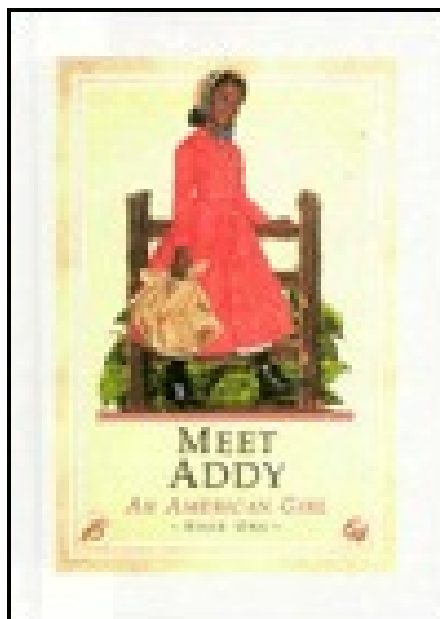




Meet Addy

Connie Rose Porter

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In 1864, after her father and brother are sold to another owner, nine-year-old Addy Walker and her mother escape from their cruel life of slavery in North Carolina to freedom in Philadelphia.

Meet Addy Details

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Author : Connie Rose Porter

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From Reader Review Meet Addy for online ebook

Traci says

This was really more brutal than I remember it being.

Darkowaa says

Ahhh! I remember these books! I loved allll the books in this series when I was like 9 years old!

Relyn says

I was told that this was a perfect read aloud for second graders. That this book was exciting and compelling and loved by both boys and girls. So, I gave it a try and started my school year with *Meet Addy*. On Monday we begin the 5th Addy book with every student in my class - boys and girls - always voting to read the next one. It takes about a week to read one of these books and they are always fast-paced and compelling. Connie Rose Porter also makes history accessible by choosing to focus on events that still resonate with children today. Seriously. Think about it... a class of 10 boys voting to read book after book. Book after AMERICAN GIRL book.

YES!

Halle-Grace Crider says

i have always loved the american girl books and i still read them despite my age. addy is always one of my favorite stories to read!

Amanda Caldwell says

I probably don't have to describe Addy's story, as she is a classic American Girl, but I will go ahead and talk about her amazing story for any newcomers to AG. So, Addy is a slave living on a plantation in North Carolina. Her master sells her father and brother to another plantation, right before the whole family is supposed to escape to freedom. Addy and her Momma bravely decide to continue their escape into freedom without the men in the family and also sadly, heart-breakingly must decide to leave behind Addy's baby sister Esther. Sigh. That part is so sad, but Esther is left in the good hands of family relations on the plantation.

This book... it just makes you feel so lucky. I couldn't imagine living during these times. How? How do these people even make it through the day? This is one of those special books that will definitely make the little girl in your life realize how lucky she is. People had it so hard. What we think of as hard is not even what Addy and her family would have considered hard. A bad day for Addy isn't her iPad being taken away from her for the day, a bad day for Addy is the slave master making her eat the tobacco worms she missed picking

and/or her family being torn apart in all different directions. Addy and her family have no control of their lives. They literally have to steal that control away from the master.

I highly recommend Meet Addy to anyone with a little girl in their life. My sister is seven and really enjoyed this one. She loved reading this one even more than the AG books about more pampered girls like Samantha. This book, like a lot of the AG books, really has heart. It's amazing. I truly enjoyed reading this one to my little sister.

Chloe (my little sister)Says:

"I think it's very fun. But the book... it was sad because they had to leave the baby. But, it was kind of happy because they made it to freedom. Please read the book! I think it was sad again, because she had to leave her father and brother, they had to go to this different place. But, at the end of slavery they'll see their own family again."

Lstirl says

An engaging and realistic look at a

Ages 8-12

I had very low expectations for this series based book. Generally branded or series characters are shallow and the plots unimaginative. However, this is not the case with Addy. I found Addy to be a very rich character and the plot, while not awe-inducing, was suspenseful, adventurous and creative. I felt really close to the courageous and bright Addy Walker as she and her mother leave the plantation in search of her father and brother, who had been sold. This book introduces the horrors of slavery in an age-appropriate manner, allowing readers a glimpse, without it being too scary. It also managed to find the balance of being sad and then heartwarming, without moving into the sappy realm.

I highly recommend this book to those wishing to learn about history as well as to those that just love a good adventure. There are enough historical details for education to take place, but the authors manage to not make that the focus of the tale.

Marisa says

Review by my 8 year old:

I liked the book Meet Addy. I liked that the character Addy had lots of hope even through hard times.

Rachael says

Historical Fiction

Meet Addy is about a nine-year old girl surviving with her family through America's Civil War in 1864. Seeking freedom and planning to escape the plantation, and slavery, Addy grows up faster than the typical

little girl, yet somehow keeps her childlike faith through the adversities that battle with her family.

My tutoring buddy and I read this book together and seeing how it was a good fit for her, I would suggest it for a fourth grade class. Of course, I think about how wonderful it would be to use this book to provide background information about the Civil War during a history lesson...but I also think it's great as a read-aloud for any time just to teach students about our country's past and history for the sake of knowing the life of America so that they can continue to be informed. Meet Addy would also serve well as a choice in literacy circles where the students collaborate together in a student-centered atmosphere about the lives of different people during the Civil War.

This was a WOW book for me because I got to experience it with my tutoring buddy! Watching her face explode with surprise or cringe with disgust was amazing because it allowed me to be on a journey with her as she discovered the hardships about the Civil War and made her own opinions about race and morality. It was beautiful to walk that path with her.

Mitzi Moore says

I read this to my daughter when she was little, and today I read it to my niece, who "hates to read." By the end of the series, I hope to change her mind. I started with this one because I knew it would elicit lots of emotion.

Xyra says

This is a series I will not continue reading during my work lunches. I'm not good at hiding my feelings and this was ripping my heart to pieces. Slavery is a terrible thing (I say is because there are many forms of and many countries that still practice slavery) and this story is important because everyone should be aware of the horrors so they can stand against them.

Ms. Porter has a wonderful style and created Addy's story well. Addy's life is terrible and we see that from the start and I know it is softened for the audience, so that should tell you something. Pages one through 60 drew me along and elicited powerful emotional responses.

Pages 61-69 provided more details into the life and times of 1864 and what lead up to that year with regards to African Americans. The details contained I learned when I was young and really hope children today learn these things too. I was pleased to see Phillis Wheatley mentioned. She is my favorite female poetess (I read her biography in fifth grade).

In reading articles about the Addy controversy I found many of the concerns about the story line being entertaining. This story is NOT about being entertained. It is historical fiction that informs the reader of the horrors of slavery, the courage to seek freedom, and the importance of family. In some ways reminds me of a type of *Roots: The Saga of An American Family in miniature (I confess I have only seen the mini series and it, too, left an impression on my heart and soul)*.

Addy's story informed me it did not entertain me. It ripped at my heart and soul for a past I can not change. Addy's voice is one of courage and inspiration and strength to reach for change.

Melissa says

I loved this series when I was a kid but Addy came out after I was into them. Still loved it as an adult. Very honest about the harsh unfairness, but great explanation and message.

Ciara says

holy shit. this book was so much more intense than i expected it to be. i thought i had read it like ten years ago, when i decided to read a bunch of the american girl books i missed when i was a kid, but i guess i hadn't because i am pretty sure i would have remembered this!

addy was the fifth addition to the american girl historical characters, & the first girl of color. growing up during the civil war, she & her family are slaves on a north carolina plantation. the book opens with addy waking up in the middle of the night & overhearing her parents making plans for the family to run away to freedom. they have learned about a safe house about ten miles away, occupied by a white woman who helps slaves escape to the north. addy's parents are concerned that their master might separate the family by selling some of them. they want to get to freedom before that happens.

unfortunately, the master decides to sell addy's father & her older brother, sam, the very next day. addy is serving her master & another slaveowner some lunch & overhears their plans. there is an unbelievably creepy scene in which the new slaveowner pats addy on the head & asks her master if he might be willing to sell her too. if this was the author's attempt to include the reality that female slaves were often raped & sexually exploited by their masters, it was very well done. subtle enough to give kids the creeps without letting on anything explicit, just direct enough for an educated adult to pick up on it.

addy runs to the fields to try to warn sam & her father, but it's too late. they're already shackled & being taken away. addy gets whipped when she tries to say goodbye to her father. the next day, she is understandably out of it while she's working in the fields & misses some worms on the tobacco crops. the overseer forces her to eat them as punishment.

not long after, addy's mother presents her with a disguise of boy's clothes. she has decided that she & addy are going to make a run for the safe house. unfortunately, because it's just the two of them, they have to leave one-year-old esther behind.

the book ends with addy & her mother successfully reaching the safe house without being detected by anyone who would have returned them to slavery.

i guess i knew that addy's character was that of an escaped slave, but i wasn't really prepared to read actual depictions of slavery in a children's book. not that i think it's bad or wrong to tell kids the truth about that kind of thing. it was just a little more detailed than i expected. i always forget how good the american girl books are at addressing difficult issues in a way that kids can understand, but without sugarcoating anything. the "looking back" portion of the book, which addresses the history of the time the story is set in, doesn't even try to claim that the civil war was all about slavery, which is an over-simplification that was always spoonfed to me & my classmates in school.

the only weird thing about all this is that, of course, an addy doll is available for sale, along with her collection of dresses, furniture, & various accessories. all of the american girl historical characters have corollary dolls, & i don't really have an issue with them (save for the price, & the sometimes unrealistic proposition of an escaped slave character, say, having like twenty dresses to choose from). but didn't

american girl stop to consider that the idea of selling a doll based on a former slave was perhaps a bit tone-deaf? hello?

L-Crystal Wlodek says

This series chapter book is intended for girls who are 9-12 years old. This book is the first book in the Addy American Girl series and introduces the subjects of slavery, the underground railroad, and the Civil War. Addy, a nine-year-old girl and slave on a North Carolina plantation hears her parents who are also slaves talking about possibly running away in order to gain freedom. That possibility becomes reality after Addy's father and older brother are sold to another master. It is then that Addy and her mother begin their journey to a "safe house" and from there are transported to a ship that takes them to Philadelphia and to freedom.

This book is a realistic, engaging, and emotional book about slavery, the underground railroad, and the Civil War. Many young girls will be able to relate and empathizes with the strong characters and personalities throughout this book. This book is heart-wrenching as many of the characters are treated like animals and some are even forced to leave behind family in search of freedom. The illustrations, which are done in watercolor and the accompanying captions add to the book, as does the family tree and looking into the past sections of the book. As a classroom teacher, I may use this as a read aloud book and one of many resources when teaching about slavery and the Civil War.

Chloe (aka Crystal) says

I thought this was an interesting book. I mean, most American Girl books I have read were never realistic, to be honest. But this one. It made me want to cry. I hate how people were treated in that time in history, and it was so painful to read scenes. Just know that it's something worth reading (it's better than Meet Molly anyhow, and that says quite a bit since Molly was always my favorite)<3

Goldilocks Reads (Jenna Vahue) says

Addy Walker is the sweetest little girl and officially my new favorite American Girl doll in the collection. I don't think Valerie Tripp's writing is a good influence to young girls but I did like Janet Shaw's characterization of the Swedish immigrant Kirsten. Connie Porter's new story of Addy and her family was so special. Each doll is set in a different time period during historic events, like the Great Depression or WWI. Addy and her family are living in the midst of the Civil War and live as slaves on a plantation. They are living such heartbreaking lives but they still retain love and hope in their lives. Meet Addy helps show that you can show resilience but still be kind to others. Addy is such a strong and brave young girl that is good for younger girls to idolize. Plus, her new dress and necklace are adorable.

C.G. says

I first read these books in the 90s when American Girl (then known as Pleasant Company) released the Addy doll. It's been years since I reread them, so didn't remember much when I picked them up this time around to read out loud to my girls. I totally forgot that Addy's father and brother were sold until I was in the middle of the story with my girls. The thing I have loved about reading this series out loud to my Costa Rican born children is that it's not only helping grow their English vocabulary, but it's also opening up conversations about hard topics (slavery), and helping them learn American history. Win-win.

Kate says

I think this was an important series for American Girl, but also the least original. You learn about the Civil War and Black History Month and the Underground Railroad in school--there's not much of a new perspective here. It might be more important to have a black American Girl in 1964 rather than 1864--oftentimes history classes don't get to the Civil Rights Movement until high school. It also might be important to show blacks at other times in history that aren't so pivotal to their status in American history. I mean, were ten-year-old white girls important or pivotal at any other period of history? Why not make any of those other characters another race?

Renata says

I read these all as a kid but reading it as an adult I was so struck by how well this walks the tightrope of depicting the horrors of slavery without being too graphic for children.

Also I cried like 3 times at it.

Anyway here's a podcast about it

<http://www.frowl.org/worstbestsellers...>

RLL 22016 Shaquetta says

An American Girl is a series of books about a young girl named Addy. In this book, Addy lives with her family on a plantation where they are slaves. The mother and father are planning to run away but before they can the father and older brother are sold to a different family. The mother and Addy still decide to run away but they have to leave the baby sister there. Addy and her mom travel through the town trying to make it to freedom. They run across a raging river and the mom almost drowns but Addy saves her. They make it to Miss Carolines house which is the lady that is supposed to help them. Miss Caroline drives Addy and her mother to safety in Philadelphia. I love this book because it tells about some of the hardships of slaves. It touched me to read what the young girl and her family went through. I'm interested in getting this collection for my daughter.

Savannah says

This book was one of the most beautiful books I have ever read. I loved the American Girl series, but none of

the books grabbed me as much as Addy. Her story was so heartbreaking and beautiful. I can't remember every bit of the story, but what really stood out to me was one line. One line that I can quote word for word, even years later, because it was so meaningful. One that I think gives this book the right to five stars. The line came from somewhere in the first couple of chapters, right after the slave master sold Addy's brother and father without allowing her to say goodbye. Later, Addy rushed to her mother sobbing and shouting how much she hated all the people who were overseeing her, the slave master, and pretty much every white person in the world. After a moment of silence, her mother said:

"If you fill your heart with hate, there'll be no room for love."

I found this beautiful. So much wisdom, so much to think about!

That's why I really loved Addy: she wasn't a quitter. Considering she had what was probably the hardest life of all the American Girls, she was also the bravest and the least whiny. The biggest worry on her mind is the whereabouts and well being of her family.

This is modern literature. This 8-12 year old book has a better story than most books I've read. Please: even if you are a teenager or an adult, read the story again.
