



Happy Birthday, Kit: A Springtime Story

Valerie Tripp , *Susan McAliley (Illustrator)* , *Walter Rane (Illustrator)*

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Happy Birthday, Kit: A Springtime Story Valerie Tripp , Susan McAliley (Illustrator) , Walter Rane (Illustrator)

Kit's tenth birthday is approaching, but the chances of having a celebration are pretty slim. There's no time to plan a party and no money either, since Dad still doesn't have a job. When Aunt Millie comes for a visit, Kit finds new reasons to hope. With her thriftiness and good ideas, Aunt Millie seems to be able to do anything — but usually in the most unexpected way!

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From Reader Review **Happy Birthday, Kit: A Springtime Story for online ebook**

Isabella says

This one of my top books

Julie says

The story takes place during the Great Depression and when Kit's Aunt Millie comes to visit she has many ingenious, creative ideas to save money...when the middle part of Kit's sheets become worn, they rip them in half and sew them so the worn part is on the outside. They patch up clothes, take the collars and cuffs off Dad's shirt and sew them back on reversed so that the frayed part was hidden, grow a garden....etc. "Aunt Millie uses hard work instead of a wand," said Kit. "But it does seem like she can do magic."

There's eating dandelion greens (which Kit thinks taste good)while weeding the yard at the same time. Aunt Millie is known for being efficient.

Kit, her friend Ruthie and border-friend Stirling decide to put together a book called "Aunt Millie's Waste-Not, Want-Not Almanac". This way they can write down all of Aunt Millie's great ideas so they don't forget all she's taught them after she leaves.

Colleen says

The American Girl series, especially the original eight girls, is an excellent series for students of all ages and genders, though it is aimed at elementary grades. The eight original American girls come from all places (such as the Swedish immigrant Kirsten) and cultures (such as Josefina, whose family is Mexican, and Kaya, who is part of the Nez Perce Native American tribe) and SES's (such as the very well-off family of Samantha, or Kit's family, who is struggling because of the Great Depression). The girls show their independence and creativity and spirit as they encounter various problems of various degrees of importance (such as Addy escaping from slavery with her mother, versus Molly not getting the part she wants in the school play) and meet each with bravery and help from family and friends. Each of the girls face significant issues as well as smaller ones throughout their series (Addy later deals with a mean girl at school, and Molly does have significant issues in her life, as her father has gone to war and her family is living on wartime rations, and so is also dealing with financial issues).

The girls each have multiple influences in their life, positive and negative, male and female, and experience some amount of character growth despite the fact that they are within a series, which can sometimes stunt character growth in the interest of spinning out a series. They also each have different strengths, such as Kit (a writer) or Felicity (who is good with horses), and the books also have small illustrations within them, which typically are used to illustrate words or objects that might be unfamiliar to the reader or that have changed since the time period in which the book takes place (such as a telephone) as well as occasional full-page illustrations of scenes. Additionally, each book illustrates what America was like during that specific time period, and in that region, as well as highlighting aspects of the different cultures, all of which may be unfamiliar to readers, without being as strictly fact-based as a history book or nonfiction book might be. But

each book also ends with a Looking Back section that is a few pages long and is mostly facts, but connects them to the protagonist's life. And, overall, the series is called American Girl and thus is very inclusive and accepting: No matter where these girls or their families are from, they are all American girls, and important to their families, communities, and nation.

In this particular book, Kit Kittredge (my favorite American Girl, as she, like me, lives in Ohio and likes to read and write) faces the excitement of having Aunt Millie in town, but also the problems and conflict that arise with that. Millie is resourceful and good at pinching pennies, but when she turns Kit's birthday party into a lesson for all the kids present on how to make underwear out of flower sacks, Kit feels embarrassed and like she is being judged by all the other kids, and she lashes out. Kit makes amends by showing Millie how wonderful she and her friends think all of Millie's ideas are, and how they've repurposed the blank parts of an old book in order to write down, organize, and illustrate all of her tips and advice. Throughout, Kit deals with her daily life of school as well as the overarching problems of the series, such as her father not having a job and the conflicts that arise when living with so many people in one somewhat small building, as her mother has turned the Kittredges' house into a boarding house.

Overall, this series gets 5/5 stars from me, though I much prefer the historical books that deal with social and other issues of the time (whether that's the original eight or the newer historical additions, such as the New Orleans resident or "hippie" 70s girl) to the newer contemporary additions to the series.

Amber says

Aunt Millie lets Kit and her mother know that the Great Depression isn't the time to be bougie. This book also makes me feel bad that I don't even know how to sew on a button and that sort of thing. I'm a disgrace to my foremothers, really. And let me just take the time to point out how adorable Grace is. I feel like she should have her own portrait.

Kelly says

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without! I love this story and especially Aunt Millie.

Maria says

Last night I read this book in bed. It gives you an amazing idea of what it was like to grow up during the great depression. Kit's family turned their house into a boarding house because Kit's Dad lost his job. Kit really wants a birthday party, but she knows her family is too poor. Then an unexpected visitor comes, and makes Kit's wishes come true, but not exactly the way she thought.

I recommend this book! it is a great book.

Luna says

I loved it

Evelyn says

My favorite part was when she had the chickens and then went to sell them and then she found the dog.

Joey Susan says

The depression has hit Aunt Millie and temporarily comes to stay, she has unique ways of living which no one in Kit's house are used to. Though soon enough Kit becomes fascinated by her thrifty ways of saving money and re-using products that can be saved and re-functioned. Her mother struggles with the embarrassment of what she was doing and soon Kit feels as her mother does. But without her they feel lost and would miss her help and realise these ways to help were really clever and they shouldn't be embarrassed.

It was a cute book, I liked all the things she was teaching the family to do to scrimp and save; and how Kit admired everything (until she felt embarrassed) and documented all in her book.

Emilee Cernosek says

I just finished reading Happy Birthday Kit!!! My favorite character in the book was Kit, because she still had hopes of things she thought she might not get. I was really surprised when her Aunt Millie came from Kentucky to help her family. Kit had her birthday coming up and she knew that she was not going to have the birthday party she wanted. Then Aunt Millie came over. Their family needed money so they raised chickens in their back yard and went door to door and sell them for a few cents. When Kit and Sterling went to sell the eggs on the way down the street they saw this dog on the side of the street and had a sign around its neck that said "Can't feed her anymore." So Kit took her home and asked if she can keep the dog. Her Aunt was leaving in a few days so Kit and her friends went into Kit's room and started making a book for Aunt Millie. Then one day Kit said something mean to Aunt Millie. When Kit woke up the next morning she saw that Aunt Millie had left so she ran down stairs and asked her parents where Aunt Millie was and they said she wanted to go back home a little earlier. Kit asked her parents to take her to the bus station to see if she could catch Aunt Millie before she left. Kit caught Aunt Millie and gave her the book and she loved it. The part I really pictured in my head was when Aunt Millie came to the door of Kit's house to help her family get some more money. Does Kit get to keep the dog? Does she get the birthday she has always wanted? And does Aunt Millie forgive Kit? Read the book to find out.

Charlotte says

I liked it, although it's not my favorite Kit book. It introduces a lot of ways to save money - but they aren't all things you necessarily want to do!

Ciara says

kit is sad because her birthday is coming up, but she knows her family doesn't have the money to throw her the robin hood theme party that she wants. then her great-aunt mildred comes to visit, from down on her farm in appalachia. she's not actually a relation--she's the woman who raised kit's father after his own parents died. kit loves her because she's brassy & thrifty & knows how to have fun. she has all kinds of money-saving ideas to share with kit's family. for example, she digs a vegetable patch in the kittredges yard so they can grow some of their own food. she comes hom with chickens for kit to raise, so that she can go door to door selling eggs. she teaches kit & stirling to look for dented cans & other discount merchandise at the store, & how to concoct recipes from what is available instead of what they want. she sews a dress for kit out of a chicken feed sack.

this is when she starts to go a little far for kit's tastes. kit is not 100% psyched about having a dress made out of a feed sack. kit's mom has not been happy with any of mildred's suggestions. she worries that the neighbors will think she's poor if they see her vegetable patch, or if they recognize kit trying to sell them eggs. to which i say, lady, you ARE poor. & also, it's the great depression. EVERYONE is poor (except for ruthie's parents, apparently). big whoop.

mildred vists kit at school & gives all of her classmates invitations to kit's party. she specifically says it's going to be a "penny-pincher" party. kit is really embarrassed. now all of her classmates will know she's poor. she starts to lash out against mildred, & mildred decides she's visited the kittredges for long enough & will go back to her farm.

but the penny-pincher party is a big hit. mildred makes a simple but delicious cake, she fixes up kit's new feed sack dress to look like a beautiful new dress, she hangs simple paper lanterns to jazz up the backyard, & she comes up with fun games for the kids, like chasing the chickens around. it's not the elegant robin good party kit wanted, but everyone has fun & kit starts to feel bad about criticizing mildred & being embarrassed of her frugal ways.

she & stirling put their heads together & come up with the "waste not want not almanac," an illustrated compendium of mildred's money-saving ideas. they show mildred & she is touched. she & kit make up. but mildred still has to go home.

also, kit finds an abanadoned basset house. her previous owner apparently couldn't afford to feed her. kit brings her home & her family lets her stay. the dog is very clumsy & inelegant, so kit's mom names her grace. hilarious, right?

Haley says

I learned that It takes courage to be an americangirl.. And that kit is a realy amazing girl she is smart, and intelligent, and a brave girl..

Caitlin Price says

For my Historical fiction review, I read the book Happy Birthday Kit. This book is about a girl who is living in Cincinnati during the time of the great depression. Kit finds an article about a Robin Hood birthday party and really wants to have a party like that for her birthday because Robin Hood is her favorite book. However, Kit knows that she won't be able to because her father lost his job due to the depression. Kit and her family have opened up their home to people. It is kind of like an inn. When Kit's aunt comes to visit, everything is turned around. Her aunt has so many money saving ideas. Kit and her friends, Ruthie and Sterling, decide to make a book and put all of the ideas in it. But when her aunt comes to Kit's school and invites all of the classmates to a money saving birthday party, Kit get upset and embarrassed because she doesn't want her classmates to know about her family's financial problems. Kit gets upset with her aunt and her aunt goes to the train station to go back home to Kentucky. Kit feels really bad about how she acted, so she and her family and friends go to the train station to stop her from leaving. Kit gives her aunt the book that she her friends made. Then they rush back and have the birthday party for Kit. Everyone has a lot of fun and learns some cool ideas about how to save money.

I think that the age range of this book is intermediate. There are a lot of words and some vocabulary words in this book that primary aged students would have trouble understanding.

The artistic elements in this book were complex and detailed. Since this was a chapter book, there were not many pictures. However, there were some pictures. These pictures were very colorful, detailed, and textured. They looked like they were painted with watercolors.

I would recommend this book. Young girls who are in to the American Girl dolls will highly enjoy this book and all of the other books in the series. I think that it is good for them to read these books not only so they can learn about the person that inspired the doll, but to learn more about the specific time period they lived in and what occurred during that specific time period.

Sarah Crawford says

In this book Kit is going to have her birthday soon but, since it's the depression and her father is still out of work, she probably won't have any party. Their Aunt Millie comes to visit and she has lots and lots of ideas on how to save money which, at first, Kit likes, but once the chickens arrive she begins to have second thoughts.

Kit and Ruthie are making a book about her aunt's ideas on how to save money, make things last, stretch food, etc. Kit finds an abandoned dog and takes her in with her Aunt's approval.

Gradually, though, Kit is becomes embarrassed over the things she is doing to save money and make some money (like selling fresh eggs from the chickens), and basically insults her Aunt who decides to return to her home.

Kit realizes her Aunt was really just trying to help in her own way and so it's a race to see if she and her father can get to her Aunt before she leaves on the train so they can talk her into returning.

It's another good story in the series.

