



# Island Boy

*Barbara Cooney*

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**Island Boy** Barbara Cooney

**The acclaimed author of *Miss Rumphius* recounts the lives of four generations living on a New England coastal island and the importance of family ties.**

The youngest and quietest of 12 children, Matthias grew closest to Tibbets Island, learning its secrets through the years. And though in later years he sailed to faraway places, he always returned to the island he loved.

**"*Island Boy* is certain to be a favorite for family sharing, as well as a must for school and public libraries. Teachers will love it; buy extra copies."--*School Library Journal***

**"As encompassing as the portrait of a life depicted in the award-winning *Miss Rumphius*, Cooney's latest work is an ode to simple acts of daily living."--*Publishers Weekly***

## Island Boy Details

Date : Published June 1st 1991 by Puffin Books (first published October 1st 1988)

ISBN : 9780140507560

Author : Barbara Cooney

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## **From Reader Review Island Boy for online ebook**

### **Laura says**

Island Boy was one of my favorite children's books growing up. The illustrations are breathtaking and the story is exquisite. It shows an idyllic life, but not one without hardships and trials. Family, hard work, a "country" lifestyle- it is honest and uplifting, inspiring and true. I was so excited to find a nice, hardcover edition at a library used book sale. Can't have enough copies of this book!

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### **Itzia says**

This is a cute book! It is about a family that comes to an island and build a house there and it becomes a family home. The youngest boy grows up and brings his family there and raises his family there too and then his children raise their family there. I just think it is a good book because it shows you how important family is.

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### **Luisa Knight says**

A delightfully quaint story that spans several generations of family life on an island. Be prepared for a possible snuffle at the end.

It is a beautiful and full narrative so the reading of this book will take longer than most picture books.

Ages: 5 - 9

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### **Dolly says**

This is a realistic story that reads like a family history from many years ago. The Maine setting gives us a glimpse of a bygone era and the illustrations are gorgeous. While the story is not destined to be as cherished as other books by Barbara Cooney (like Miss Rumphius), it was certainly a worthwhile read. We enjoyed reading this book together.

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### **Heather says**

45 months -Wonderfully illustrated in Cooney's American folk art style. We enjoyed the story and wondered

if she was influenced or was giving a nod to the Little House books. It seems curious that the family had a pair of oxen named Star and Bright, the same names a young Almanzo gave his oxen in Farmer Boy. They were the only animals named. Also the home schooling by the Mother and use of slates by the children... Maybe we are just too into the series at the moment. One odd thing about that illustration, they lived on the island as a family with six children, with no mention of other inhabitants and yet there were 12 children being schooled. Odd. The biggest problem I had was the abrupt ending... I felt bad for the mom and young Mathias left to fend for themselves.

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### **The Brothers says**

A touching story of the life of a young boy born and raised on an island by a farming family with lots of kids (he was the youngest). When he is grown he goes out into the world and travels, but always the island holds a special place in his heart.

Nice illustrations.

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### **Pamela says**

Matthais, the youngest of 12 children, loves Tibbetts Island where he grows up. Although he dreams of adventures in traveling and even works on a schooner when he gets older, he eventually returns to the island. He brings back a schoolteacher, whom he marries and they have children. This story is mainly about generations that live on Tibbetts Island and the ties between them. It also describes the daily chores of living in this seacoast town, which is most likely in Maine.

Barbara Cooney is one of my favorite book illustrators, and this story has her charming pictures.

Here is a link to a lesson plan involving using the map in the back of the book:

<https://www.worldmapsonline.com/LESSO...>

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### **Shiloah says**

Excellent story with good morals. Loved the large family theme. The illustrations were absolutely beautiful!

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### **Judy says**

The story is fairly predictable. Nothing struck me as very distinctive ... but kids would probably take note of 12 siblings sharing one bedroom, raising a seagull, ... maybe the homeschooling, but probably not since that's become fairly common.

There aren't any author notes. I'd like to know if this is based on the lives of the author's family or someone she knew, or maybe a combination of several local families.

There's a carefully drawn map with lots of detail that shows numerous islands but it would have helped to

include a map of Maine and then box the area that is shown in detail.

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### **Marmot says**

I liked the story, and the illustrations were great as always. However I thought it ended a bit abruptly, and it wasn't as good as I had expected coming from the same author as Miss Rumphius.

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### **Kellyn Roth says**

Always one of my favorite picture books as a child, it still holds a special place in my heart. Beautiful pictures, a sweet story, whimsical and heartbreaking and perfect. I especially love the descriptions of the farm and the big family and the pillow fights. :)

~Kellyn Roth, Reveries Reviews

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### **Summer says**

I loved this book. It was such a nice book to read about the life of a family that settled on an island on the east coast and it takes him through his whole life. It shows how his family lived, how life changed around the island as he grew and the life and times of the area. It shows the cycle of life in a very clear, simple and honest way that is easy to talk about with the boys. Of course Barbara Cooney's illustrations are really wonderful too.

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### **Elizabeth says**

AR 4.7

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### **Eva Best says**

This is a sweet book about a man's life growing up on an island. This is a great book for more advanced elementary readers and book to teach about historical fiction. This would also be a interesting read aloud book for students as well! The illustrations and story are wonderful. This is great addition to any classroom!

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### **T Crockett says**

This book feels like a novel shortened down to a picture book. The characters are intriguing, the illustrations remind me of Grandma Moses' work and the world it's set in is one I'd like to visit. But the book is like broth, it's pleasant but it leaves you wanting more. There are several instances that feel like they could have been

developed into books of their own.

I can't imagine children enjoying it, but I've been wrong before.

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