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# Wish



## Synopsis

A touching story about a girl and her dog, perfect for young animal lovers. Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is, until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all. From award-winning author Barbara O'Connor comes a middle-grade novel about a girl who, with the help of a true-blue friend, a big-hearted aunt and uncle, and the dog of her dreams, unexpectedly learns the true meaning of family in the least likely of places. This title has Common Core connections.

Praise for *Wish*:  
“At school, at home, and in the community, the characters and settings are well drawn, but it’s the narrator’s convincing, compelling voice that will draw readers into the novel and keep them there until her wish finally comes true.”  
“The many ways [Charlie] wishes form something of a catalog of folk and family traditions and are delightful all by themselves....Speaking in an honest voice revealing her hurt, resentment, and vulnerability, Charlie explains how her wish comes true. A warm, real, and heartfelt tale.”  
“O’Connor again finds the sweet spot for young readers who are beyond early chapter books but not quite ready for the cynicism and/or complexity of much tween-into-teen lit. Bertha, Gus, and the Odoms are certainly awash in goodness, but their big-heartedness never devolves into sentimentality.”  
“Like a generous portions of grits, *Wish* makes the world a little better.”  
“This heartwarming story is not to be missed.”  
Kidsreads

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (August 29, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250144051

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 17.8 x 194.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 75 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,935 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets](#) #16 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4—6 •Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese is heartsick that she's been sent to live with an aunt and uncle she doesn't know in the boondocks of North Carolina, because her dad, Scrappy, is in jail getting "corrected" and her mama can't get up off the couch to care for her. O'Connor (How To Steal a Dog) pens a touching tale of resilience sure to resonate with children who have ever felt like they didn't belong. Charlie feels she doesn't fit in and has built up a tough exterior, which, coupled with a short-tempered fuse, gets her nowhere in her "temporary" home with kind Aunt Bertha and Uncle Gus. Charlie resists becoming friends with Howard, an odd but kindhearted boy with an "up down walk" who comes from a boisterous and loving family, which is far from what Charlie is used to. Every day, Charlie has to find something lucky in order to make a wish, a ritual she's done every day since fourth grade, whether it is a bird singing in the rain, or blowing on an eyelash. Feeling kinship with a stray dog, Charlie is overcome with desire to give "Wishbone" the loving home she, too, is desperately searching for. When Wishbone disappears and she is compelled to search for him, Charlie learns there are people worth holding on to and what you wish for may not be what you really want. VERDICT Poignant and genuine, this is a tale that will resonate with readers long after they finish it and have them cheering for the underdogs—both of the two-legged and four-legged varieties. •Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“The many ways [Charlie] wishes form something of a catalog of folk and family traditions and are delightful all by themselves. . . . Speaking in an honest voice revealing her hurt, resentment, and vulnerability, Charlie explains how her wish comes true. A warm, real, and heartfelt tale.” —Kirkus Reviews “At school, at home, and in the community, the characters and settings are well drawn, but it’s the narrator’s convincing, compelling voice that will draw readers into the novel and keep them there until her wish finally

comes true. [Booklist](#) "O'Connor (How To Steal a Dog) pens a touching tale of resilience sure to resonate with children who have ever felt like they didn't belong. . . . Poignant and genuine, this is a tale that will resonate with readers long after they finish it and have them cheering for the underdogs of both of the two-legged and four-legged varieties. [School Library Journal](#) "O'Connor again finds the sweet spot for young readers who are beyond early chapter books but not quite ready for the cynicism and/or complexity of much tween-into-teen lit. Bertha, Gus, and the Odoms are certainly awash in goodness, but their big-heartedness never devolves into sentimentality. [The Bulletin of the Center of Children's Books](#) "Like a generous portions of grits, Wish makes the world a little better. [Bookpage](#) "This heartwarming story is not to be missed. [Kidsreads](#) "O'Connor has the setting and colloquial mountain speech down pat, but most important, she gets at the heart of Charlie's unhappiness, showing that wishes may come true, but perhaps not in the ways we expect. [The Horn Book](#)

great book

I love this book. If you are one to cry about a sad or happy story. Be prepared this book will do that.

12 yr old Granddaughter's favorite of the year

A lovely, heart-warming book. I selected it as a gift for my grandchildren and I wanted to read it first. I highly recommend it.

A must read for middle graders. Quintessential 'girl and her dog' story with themes that will connect with all readers.

My granddaughter just started reading the book and so far she seems to be really enjoying it

What a nice story. I loved the wishing parts. If you love stories with kids and dogs, give this one a try.

Very nice read and very nice meaning to the story...i thoroughly enjoyed

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