

# Boxes for Katje

Recommended for Grades K-3

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## **Book Summary: Boxes for Katje**

1945. Katje lives in the Dutch town of Olst where the people live with little food and no new clothes. One day she receives a box from America and begins a friendship with the sender, Rosie, who sends her food and clothing. As Katje shares the presents with those around her and writes Rosie to thank her, Rosie tells her family and then her community who send her enough for the whole town.

Through the winter the boxes keep coming for Katje. Katje wants to return the favor so she and the community of Olst send Rosie a box of tulip bulbs.

## **Author Biography: Candace Fleming**

Candace Fleming was born May 24, 1962 in Michigan City, Indiana. From an early age, she loved words and telling stories. In college, she discovered her love of history. She has worked as a teacher, writer and speaker. She turned to writing children's books when she enjoyed reading them so much to her children. Her first book, *Professor Fergus Fahrenheit and his Wonderful Weather Machine*, was written in 1994. Since then, she has published more than twenty books and won several awards including the Boston-Horn Book Award and the Golden Kite Award.

She lives with her husband, Scott Fleming, and children in Mount Prospect, Illinois.



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## Discussion Questions: Boxes for Katje

1. Katje receives the box of gifts from America and shares the chocolate bar in it. Would you have shared your gift if you were Rosie? Do you think things are better when shared with others? Why or why not?
2. What do you think life would be like in a place like Olst with very little food and clothes? Why would a small gift of soap and chocolate be so significant? What do you think you would want most if you were Katje?
3. How is living in Holland like living in America? How is it different?
4. How did Katje's kindness affect her neighbors? Do you think Rosie would still have sent the boxes if Katje hadn't written the thank you letters? Why or why not?
5. Which gift do you think Katje was most excited to receive? Why? Which gift would you have been most excited to receive?
6. Why do you think so many people were eager to help Katje's community? Have you ever sent supplies to other people in need?
7. Near the end of the book is a split picture where one page shows Rosie's friends gathering supplies and the other page shows Katje's community receiving the supplies. Why was this picture effective? How did it help to illustrate the story?
8. In return for her kindness, Katje sends Rosie a box of tulip bulbs. Why do you think she chose to send tulips? What would you have sent if you were Katje?
9. What do you think will happen after the story with Katje and Rosie's friendship? Do you think it will last? Why or why not?
10. On the last page, a note is included on the true story the book was based upon. How does knowing this story change how you feel about the book? How was the real account of events different than how it was portrayed in the story? Were these good differences? Why or why not?
11. The story of Katje and Rosie takes place in 1945. Do you think something like this would happen today? How might it be different?



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