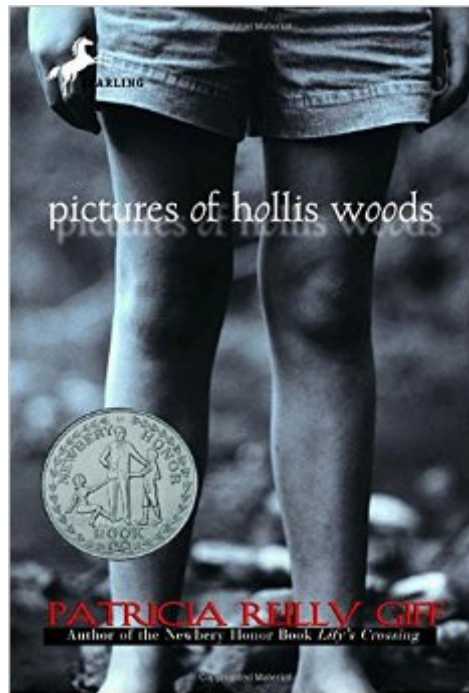


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# Pictures Of Hollis Woods



## Synopsis

This Newbery Honor book about a girl who has never known family fighting for her first true home will leave readers . . . satisfied (Kirkus Reviews). Hollis Woods is the place where a baby was abandoned is the baby's name is an artist is now a twelve-year-old girl who's been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she's taking Josie with her. Still, even as she plans her future with Josie, Hollis dreams of the past summer with the Regans, fixing each special moment of her days with them in pictures she'll never forget. Patricia Reilly Giff captures the yearning for a place to belong in this warmhearted story, which stresses the importance of artistic vision, creativity, and above all, family.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 650L (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Yearling; DGS REP edition (May 11, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440415780

ISBN-13: 978-0439692397

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 251 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,597 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes #331 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship #810 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Giff (Lily's Crossing; All the Way Home) again introduces a carefully delineated and sympathetic heroine in this quiet contemporary novel. Artistically talented Hollis Woods, age 12, has made a

habit of running away from foster homes, but she's found a place on Long Island where she wants to stay for a while. She immediately bonds with Josie, her new guardian, who is a slightly eccentric, retired art teacher. Yet Hollis is far from content. She worries about Josie's increasing forgetfulness, and she sorely misses her last foster family, the Regans, whom she left under tense circumstances that are only gradually made clear. Giff intersperses tender scenes demonstrating Hollis's growing affection for Josie with memories of the Regans, whose images Hollis preserves in her sketchbook. Pictures of motherly Izzy Regan, her architect husband and their mischievous yet compassionate son, Steven, sensitively express the young artist's conception of a perfect family. As readers become intimately acquainted with Hollis, they will come to understand her fears, regrets and longings, and will root for her as she pursues her dream of finding a home where she belongs. Ages 8-13. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 4-7-Abandoned at birth, Hollis Woods has lived in about a half dozen homes and has always wished for a family. A foster caretaker describes her as "a mountain of trouble." When Josie Cahill, a retired art teacher, takes the 12-year-old into her home on Long Island, NY, the two bond almost immediately. Hollis draws pictures with colored pencils and Josie carves branches into people. However, it soon becomes clear that Josie has trouble remembering things, and Hollis becomes the caregiver. When she stops attending school, a social worker comes by to investigate. Flashbacks slowly illuminate Hollis's life with one family who had hoped to adopt her and why this didn't happen. Giff masterfully weaves these two strands together in a surprising and satisfying ending. Strong characterization and a solid sense of place are the strengths of this heartfelt story that will appeal to fans of Sharon Creech's *Ruby Holler* (2002), Katherine Paterson's *The Great Gilly Hopkins* (1978, both HarperCollins), and Zilpha Keatley Snyder's *Gib Rides Home* (Delacorte, 1998). Jean Gaffney, Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library, Miamisburg, OH Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Some children's books are only for children, but a good story has layers of interest for everyone. This is that kind of story.

The best book on children at risk in the foster system. Have given it to youth, parents and clinicians for years in my practice and to my students. Amazing book.

I said something to friends about maybe not reaching my 100 books-per-year goal this year for the



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