



Maida's Little School

Inez Haynes Irwin

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Maida's Little School Details

Date : Published 1926 by Grosset and Dunlap

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Author : Inez Haynes Irwin

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From Reader Review Maida's Little School for online ebook

Jeanne says

When I was a child, this was my favorite book. The children, on vacation in an English country house, are told that there will be a guest arriving who speaks only French. The guest also happens to be musical, so in addition to teaching the children French, he teaches piano skills to those who are interested.

Another guest arrives. I think this one, a woman, was a writing and drama teacher. Of course, the children didn't think of her as a teacher, but as a fun guest who helped them to write well.

At some point, the children realized that they had been 'going to school without knowing it'! Fun!

From this book, I learned that there might be other ways to be schooled besides the way I knew it -- which was being confined all day to a desk that was bolted to the floor (and above all, do not speak to one's classmates except at recess time.) In other words, a typical 1940's school.

When I read 'Maida's Little School', school attendance was compulsory and home schooling was illegal, so the story seemed like a fantasy, but a 'might-be-possible fantasy'.

'Maida's Little School' also included some French phrases which young readers could understand from context. This pleased me very much, as a child, because I could learn what the story-book characters were learning.

I adored this story. I hesitated to give the book 5 stars because the writing is not quite what it could have been. The children are each introduced with descriptions of the 'sparkling eyes and bouncing curls' variety. If Inez Haynes Irwin were writing today, I'm certain that she would revise these descriptions. I mention this because it might put off some of today's young readers, but it is a minor flaw in a book that gave me so much pleasure.

Luisa Knight says

This is such a sweet, old fashioned series! Sure to be a favorite with tween girls as the main girl is always setting up the dearest and cutest little shops or houses, or schools etc.

In this particular book, the Big Eight (eight wonderful friends) are living in Maida's delightful little house in Massachusetts for the year and have such intriguing visitors come to stay that they find out learning is so incredibly enjoyable!

Cleanliness: mentions Santa Claus and has one chapter about Halloween where the children make costumes (there are two women that dress up like witches) and carve jack o'lanterns and play old fashioned, superstitious Halloween games (throwing apple peels on the ground and the shape they make is the first letter in your future spouse's name etc.). Mentions of fairies, elves, etc. are scattered throughout the book in the children's playtime or imaginations. Mentions the Ice Age. Uses of "good gracious" "goodness" "gee" and the like.

Mychael-Ann says

I noticed this book on my shelf recently and was surprised to read the inscription. It was given to my Great Grandma Iris in 1937. My grandma gave it to me when I was in middle school and I never read it. It was a sweet story. I'm going to keep my eye out for the other books in the series at used book sales, I think it would be fun to have the whole collection.

Anne says

My favorite...radical and relevant views of education and how it should work for teachers and learners. Of course, nice to have a millionaire father footing the bill!

Heidi says

Of it's time in style but before it's time in the "homeschool" descriptons.
