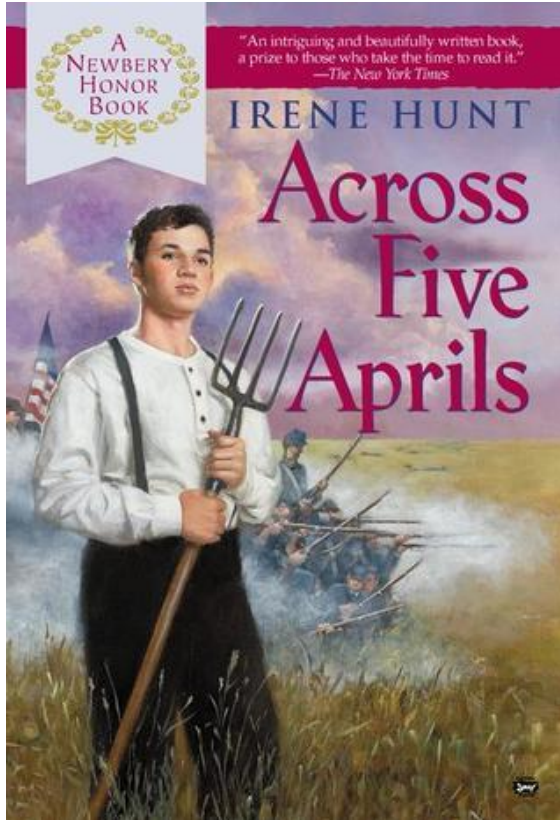


Book Review



Irene Hunt – *Across Five Aprils*



Age Appropriateness



Reading Level



Genre historical fiction

Historical Timeframe/Setting 1861-1865 in Illinois during the Civil War

Language (Col 3:8; Eph 4:29; Matt 5:37; Titus 2:8)

“darned” was used twice

Mature Themes

War and divided families

False Teaching (Titus 1:10-11)

None

Violence (1 Tim 3:3; Prov 16 29)

Civil War and one of the main characters sisters was murdered

Impurity (Eph 5:5; Isa 64:6; 1 Thes 4:7-8)

none

Bad Characters (1 Cor 15:33)

The Burdow who murdered Mary

Foolishness (Prov 15:2; Prov 15:14; Ecc 10:13)

none

Ellen Creighton and her nine-year-old son, Jethro, were planting potatoes in the half-acre just south of their cabin that morning in mid-April 1861; they were out in the field as soon as breakfast was over, and southern Illinois at that hour was pink with sunrise and swelling redbud and clusters of bloom over the apple orchard across the road. Jethro walked on the warm clods of plowed earth and felt them crumble beneath his feet as he helped his mother carry the tub of potato cuttings they had prepared the night before.

“It’s damp fur down and warm on top,” he remarked, poking a brown hand deep into the soil. “Once we git these planted and a soft rain comes, we’ll hev a crop to make people up north call us ‘Egypt’ fer sure.”

He filled a burlap pouch with the potato cuttings and hoisted it expertly to his thin shoulder where a batch of new freckles was just beginning to appear. The world seemed a good place to him that morning, and he felt ready to stride down the length of the field with a firm step and a joke on his lips.

Across Five Aprils is a very good book about a boy’s “coming of age” during the Civil War. It tells about how the war affected him, his family, and everyone around him.

Major Book Themes

Courage, Forgiveness, Love, Family, War