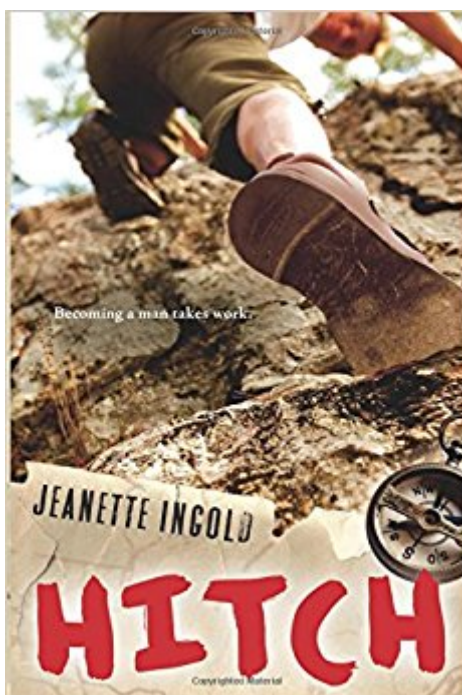


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# Hitch



## Synopsis

Teenager Moss Trawnley is in desperate need of work, and so he decides to head out west as a member of Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps to help protect Montana's wildlife from devastating erosion and wildfires. Despite the grueling work, Moss has time to play baseball, make lifelong friends, and rediscover what he almost lost in the Great Depression: himself. Bringing an important era of U.S. history to life, this riveting coming-of-age story will appeal to any teen who has dreamed of adventure and survival in the great outdoors. Includes a reader's guide.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #427,756 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #43 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #207 in Books >

Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century #466 in Books > Teens > Literature

& Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up Despite the Great Depression, 17-year-old Moss Trawnley, introduced in *Airfield* (Harcourt, 1999), thinks he has it made a decent job, a girlfriend, and admittance into radio school with almost enough money saved to pay for it come fall. He is even able to help his mother support his younger siblings. All this changes when he is fired in order to give the job to a man with a family who is related to the boss. Moss leaves Texas by hitching a ride on a freight train. Trying to locate his father, he finds him in Montana drunk, jobless, and homeless. He himself is picked up for vagrancy. With neither job prospects nor money and to avoid another arrest, he joins the Civilian Conservation Corps. The work is hard, but it provides a place to live, food, and

money to send home. Hitch is essentially a coming-of-age story. Moss, who from the beginning has shown a sense of responsibility, must now make adult decisions about how to react to adversity and discord within the CCC as he assumes a leadership role, albeit reluctantly. His growth from an impulsive teen into a thoughtful young man is told in a compelling manner. Plot and description transport readers into another time and place with accuracy and interest as Moss's true character is revealed. A good read from a masterful storyteller. --Janet Hilbun, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 8-11. Ingold does something quite interesting here. She takes a topic, the Civilian Conservation Corps, that few teens have heard of and even fewer are interested in and works a credible, involving story around it. Moreover, both her writing style and her 1930s setting feels totally true to the time. Often teens in historical novels seem like today's youth, merely plunked down in a different era. That's not true of protagonist Moss Trulawany, who seems utterly of his time. After being laid off from his job at an airstrip, Moss sets out to find his father, who is supposed to be working to help his family. But Mr. Trulawany is really an unemployed drunk, so it's up to Moss to find work. Through a string of fortunate events in which some people care enough to help him, Moss finds a job in Montana with the CCC, where, to his surprise, his leadership qualities surface. Some of the characters and situations are stock (as they might have been in 1930s books or movies), but the good versus bad simplicity of many of the incidents works in context. The story is often moving as Moss, through the CCC, changes lives, especially his own. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Our school district just purchased this novel with a new textbook adoption. Each of us struggled to get through it and many just plan gave up on it. If the teacher can't get through the text, how can expect a student to embrace it? Too many other novels worthy of teaching when time is limited due to testing. This is a strong pass.

Great book. My students love it.

I liked this book more than I thought I would. I didn't really dislike anything about the book. It was a great book.

Seventeen-year-old Moss Trawnley has a big job on his hands. The Great Depression is ravaging America. His Ma is depending on him to help support the family. His Pa has been missing for years. When he's let go from his job in Texas, Moss decides it's time to head out after his Pa, who used to run their farm before the Depression cost their family everything. What Moss finds is a drunk and the truth that his real job is to become a man he can respect, against the odds. A judge points Moss in the direction of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Moss jumps at the chance for a steady paycheck and somewhere to eat, sleep, and work for six months. What he doesn't foresee are the friends he'll make along the way or the man he will become. A proud and honest main character and several side characters with appealing nicknames like Apple, Romeo, and The Senator, are just part of the strength of Ingold's Hitch. Filled with images of the dry promise of Montana, boys struggling to be men in a time when men were being broken by misfortune, and the deeds that make boys brothers, Ingold's Hitch is a digestible historical book for the teenage reader. Ingold's attention to historical details and her use of historical dialect to relay Moss's story, help the book move along while also teaching the reader about a period that defined the American work ethic. Hitch will especially strike a chord for underprivileged teens; but for all teens, the way Moss takes responsibility and builds himself and a part of Monroe, Montana into a new promise will inspire. Perfect for classroom reading material or as an exploration into a chapter in American history, Hitch will lead readers on a journey of discovery, obstacles, triumphs, and new beginnings. Armchair Interview says: Worthy of any young adult reader's time.

It's very easy to work with. This is a very good product, taking into account the price, I will buy a new one when I need it next time. good price and it works it appears like it will meet our needs well. The seller offers a great service. She helped me a lot. The product is very good. Perfect as a gift, but make sure to get one for yourself as well!

I'm always looking for books that my 11 year old son would enjoy. He loved this historical fiction. The story gave us a view of life during the Depression and life at a CCC camp. Moss, the main character, had to make several choices for his life and it led to several great discussions in our home. My 13 year old daughter also really enjoyed the book.

Hitch is the story about a seventeen year-old boy named Moss who is living in the Great Depression. After he is fired from his job, he goes off in search for a new one so he can provide for

his family. He finds work at Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and it changes his life. At the training camp, he quickly makes some new friends, but some enemies too, including a man named Compton, who is one of the camp's junior leaders. Soon after he gets there, he almost gets kicked out for fighting with two boys who were hassling his friends. However, he is allowed to stay with a warning and is chosen to go with a group to try and set up a new CCC camp and restore the land in Montana, which is where Moss' friend Nate lives. The boys manage to get the camp built in time and, in the process, Moss is appointed a junior leader. After the new boys come in, they start on one of their first conservation projects in Montana, building a dam. However, a new captain takes over the camp, who works the boys too hard and doesn't care about the quality of what they're doing, only pleasing the inspectors. When Moss finds out that he is buying cheap supplies, the captain takes away his junior leader position. As a result, the rest of the boys in the CCC go on strike. Soon afterwards they discover that the cement they had used in the dam they built was also cheap, and the water in the dam was going to flood Nate's family's farm. At first the CCC boys refuse to help, but after Moss' convincing, they put up sandbags and dig an alternate route for the water, and manage to save the plants. Moss decides to stay another term at the CCC, even though some of his friends aren't, and everyone is happy in the end. After reading this book, I have decided that the times mostly shape the individual, but cannot be used as an excuse for how people act. The characters in this book had to learn to work extra hard for money because of the Great Depression. Today, most boys Moss' age wouldn't be so pressed for money as they were then. Also, people today have become more lazy as a result of all of the new technology and conveniences. In Moss' eyes, the Depression brought out the worst in people. He says: "The endless blasted, blasted Depression. All it did was make people be less than you expected, until it took them away from you altogether" (Ingold, 236). Moss blames the bad changes in people on the Depression, which probably does have a negative impact on some people, but it is their choice how to act. In conclusion, though times do shape people, they shouldn't let themselves be brought down because of them.

This story is not your typical coming of age story that we think of when we think of YA literature. I think of stories about teens in the present in situations that I had experienced or knew of people experiencing. Hitch is set during the Great Depression about a boy who has to work full time to survive at the young age of 17. He travels by himself, and joins the Civilian Conservation Corps and his coming of age during this journey. This is an interesting topic for Ingold considering I, nor most young adults I know have never heard of this and most have no interest in it. The book was an easy

read with a lot of dialogue to catch the reader's attention but overall I felt it was fairly predictable and the ending was boring.

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