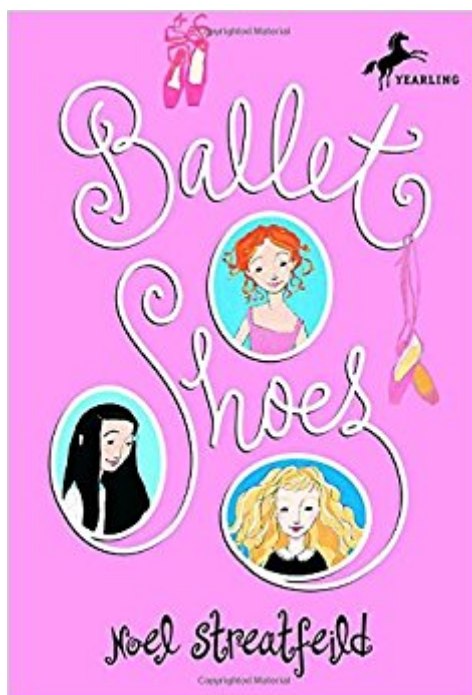


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# Ballet Shoes



## Synopsis

In the tradition of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Little Princess* come Noel Streatfeild's tales of triumph. In this story, three orphan girls vow to make a name for themselves and find their own special talents. With hard work, fame just may be in the stars! Originally published in 1937.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 930L (What's this?)

Series: The Shoe Books

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Yearling; 1st Bullseye Books ed edition (November 23, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679847596

ISBN-13: 978-0679847595

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 141 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,540 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance](#) #373 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#) #1468 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

A masterpiece Telegraph 'Ballet Shoes is one of my all-time favourite children's books - and you don't have to be a ballet fan to enjoy it.' - Dame Jacqueline Wilson --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

In the tradition of Frances Hodgson Burnett's "The Little Princess" come Noel Streatfeild's tales of triumph. In this story, three orphan girls vow to make a name for themselves and find their own special talents. With hard work, fame just may be in the stars! Originally published in 1937.

Love, love, love this book. I loved it as a child and passed it on to my daughter who also loved it. I was able to buy a very high quality hardback for her some years ago and I had expected the same

quality when I ordered this version for my great niece. It is not that book. The Turtleback School edition uses paper that is of the same grade that would be used in a cheap paperback. Very disappointing.

A classic story about a family of mis-matched orphans growing up, facing up to circumstances and learning that everyone is different. Entirely heartwarming.

This was a nostalgic read along with an L.M. Montgomery-focused group on Goodreads; I think I wound up receiving it and finishing it too late to be useful in the discussion, but I was tickled to read it anyway. I have fond memories of Noel Streatfeild, although I don't recall reading this one. It was always fascinating to read about children participating in adult worlds; stupid as we all are when we're kids, being grown-up sounds so cool. Little do we know. In *Ballet Shoes* the focus is on three little girls who have each been orphaned and separately adopted by a peripatetic anthropologist (say that five times fast) - who has dropped each of them off into the care of his sister and his housemaid in their massive museum-like home and taken off on a new voyage. The voyage he is on as the book begins has lasted quite a bit longer than his dependents expected, and straits are growing dire. Boarders are taken in, which helps matters, and as the girls approach the age at which they can legally earn money on the stage, they enter a school where they will learn to dance and to act. In many ways books like this and the Arthur Ransome children-messing-about-in-boats books were and are as alien to me and my childhood as the most outré SciFi. Self-reliant children setting out and having adventures - unheard of. Here, though, the children have an awareness of the family's financial situation that is, I think, rare; the aunts hide the worst of it from them, but they do know that if their almost criminally negligent Gum doesn't manage to find his way back, and soonest, there will be some extremely uncomfortable consequences. Things have changed even since this book was written, to the point that in most of the first world today having to send three small children out to work - even at something as theoretically fun as theatre and dance - is extreme. But I think as a child it was captivating to read about it. Here are kids not too unlike me who if they had to could fend for themselves. They're doing something so very much cooler than going to bright boring elementary school every day, and earning money to help their family. Reading a book like this as an adult is, as mentioned, an exercise in nostalgia - not a reminiscence about or wistfulness for an unjaded time when I had adventures like the children in the book, but when I saw only the excitement of the adventures and none of the dangers or tedium.

I can't believe I never read this book until now! Very sweet. Very detailed. As a matter of fact, it's so rare nowadays for such fine, detailed, and consistent deep characterization to show up in a novel written for young people.

A wonderful story! Once you've read the book, check out both movies.

I'm posting the same review for all three of these books that I ordered. Everyone had such high reviews of these books so I purchased three of them for my eight year-old granddaughter for Christmas. She was not happy with them. I tried reading one to her, but I found it difficult getting through the first chapter which was more about the adults than the children. I think she might have enjoyed them once we got into the story about the children, but I would not recommend these books for younger readers.

All the shoe books are amazingly well written and inspiring. My 13 year old granddaughter is not a reader but she really could not put these books down. She found time to read.

Book as described, excellent condition.

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