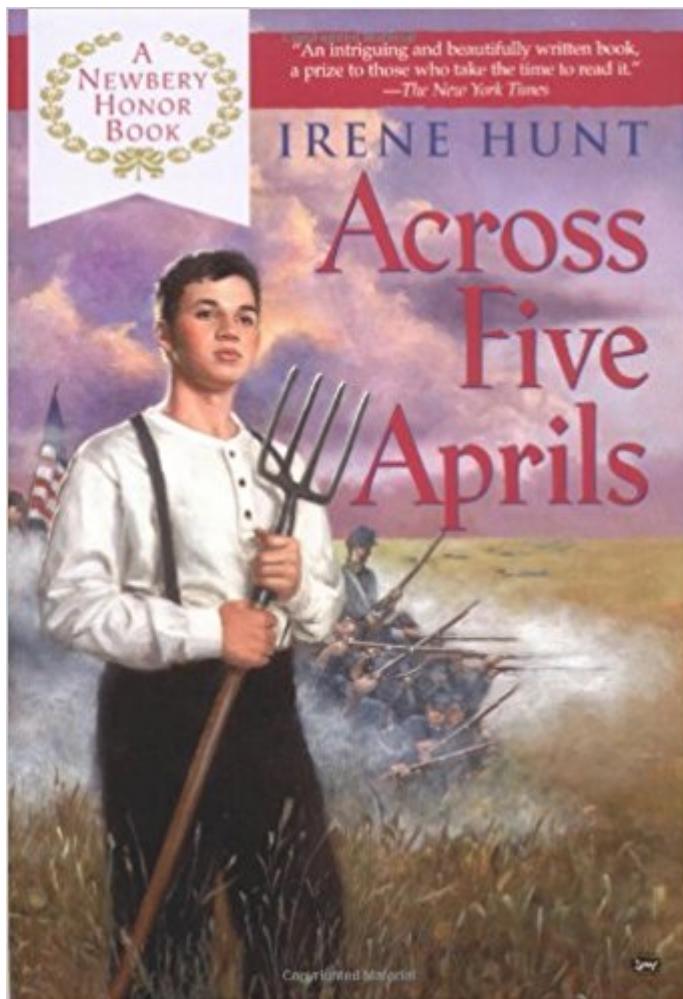


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# Across Five Aprils



## **Synopsis**

The Newbery Award winning author of Up a Road Slowly presents the unforgettable story of Jethro Creighton— a brave boy who comes of age during the turbulent years of the Civil War.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Berkley; Reprint edition (January 8, 2002)

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Best Sellers Rank: #6,098 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period #13 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Boys & Men #23 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Coming of Age

## **Customer Reviews**

Narrator Terry Bregy adopts an appropriately boyish tone for his reading of Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt, a Newbery Honor Book in 1965. Bregy compels readers to hear young Jethro Creighton's account of how the horrifying events of the Civil War changed life on his family's Illinois farm, even so many miles from the front lines. (Feb.) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4-8-Irene Hunt's Civil War novel (Berkley Pub., 1986) takes listeners from the first shots fired at Fort Sumter to Lincoln's assassination as seen through the eyes of a Southern Illinois farm boy. Jethro Creighton is nine when his close knit family learns that hostilities have broken out. As numerous male relatives go off to fight for the North and the South, and after his father falls ill, young Jethro takes responsibility for the family farm. With help from an older sister and neighboring farmers, he copes with attacks from local vigilantes, and he makes mature choices about a cousin who has deserted the army. Hunt artfully transforms her grandfather's childhood experiences into a powerful story of family love and the challenges of war. He also weaves a great deal of historical information into this Newbery Honor Book, and adds a generous measure of old-fashioned country wisdom as well. Terry Bregy provides a reliable, low key narration of the descriptive text. Cassettes

and case are sturdy and well marked, with simple, but effective cover art. Recorded Books' audiobook of *Across Five Aprils* (March 2002, p. 85) is narrated by Tom Stechschulte whose voice has a stronger regional sound and provides more distinctive voices. Audio Bookshelf's version, also available in CD format, is strengthened by placing a valuable author's note at the beginning of the story. Either recording of *Across Five Aprils* will be a valuable addition to libraries where nonprint material on the Civil War is needed. Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT  
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*Across Five Aprils* is one of the best Civil War books written for readers of any age. I have read it and listened to it many times. This recorded version is very good, but it is not great. As a listener, I have never been moved by the story as I was as a reader. Even so, I have gone back to the recorded version several times. This book introduces you to both people and history that you cannot bear to let go of.

As a Reading Specialist who taught 7th grade, I was constantly on the lookout for books which would entice my young students to read. This was one book which I recommended to them. I often read it aloud to classes, and the response was always positive. This is a touching story of the Civil War and the heartache and tragedy that befell families who had offered up their sons, brothers, fathers, etc. to join in the battle. Irene Hunt hit just the right chord with the narration of this beautiful story.

8th grade reading assignment. This book was loved by my 8th grade boy, who not much of a reader. He liked the characters, and the historical aspect of it. I read the book too. *Across Five Aprils* is a good book for 6th - 8th grade students.

This story of the United States' greatest conflict, as seen through the eyes of a young boy in rural Illinois is rich in detail, feeling and grit. A must read for those interested in historical fiction of the Civil War era.

great book my son enjoyed it and he especially loved the fact that the text is large enough to see which apparently has been a problem with some other books we've purchased lately

This historical novel was a wonderful book for both youth and adults. It had great character development, accurate historical information, complicated family dynamics, and an interesting storyline.

I used this in beginning my Civil War classes when I was teaching. I think it is a great way to introduce students, and others, to the Civil war period. I still buy them for young people in my family.

I teach this book to my 8th grade English class students in conjunction with teaching the content of the Civil War in our American history class. Given the right context, the students love it as well and it sheds human light onto the reality of war and reconstruction.

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