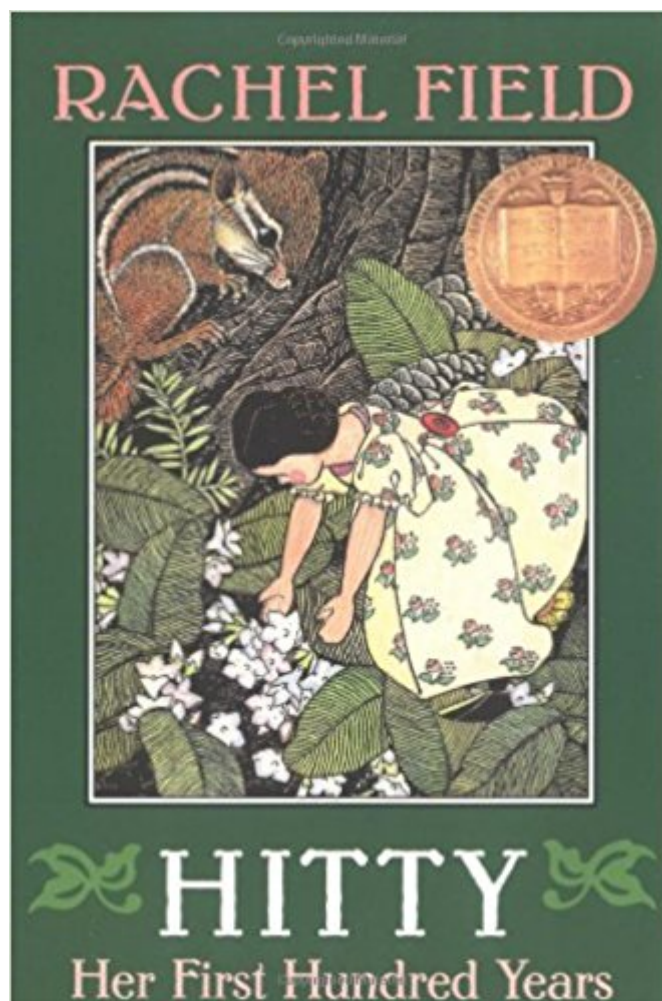


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# Hitty Her First Hundred Years



## Synopsis

Hitty is a doll of great charm and character. It is indeed a privilege to publish her memoirs, which, besides being full of the most thrilling adventures on land and sea, also reveal her delightful personality. One glance at her portrait will show that she is no ordinary doll. Hitty, or Mehitable as she was really named, was made in the early 1800s for Phoebe Preble, a little girl from Maine. Young Phoebe was very proud of her beautiful doll and took her everywhere, even on a long sailing trip in a whaler. This is the story of Hitty's years with Phoebe, and the many that follow in the life of a well-loved doll.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1100 (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; Reissued edition (September 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689822847

ISBN-13: 978-0689822841

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 79 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #259,708 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Citizenship](#) #2005 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#) #5206 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Hitty is a very special doll who belongs to Phoebe. Phoebe is proud of her beautiful doll and brings Hitty everywhere she goes. This is thrilling for Hitty, who finds herself involved in the most wonderful adventures both on land and at sea. She meets many people and makes new friends. This is the story of the first hundred years of Hitty's life. And that's only the beginning for a doll as special as Hitty. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Hitty is a very special doll who belongs to Phoebe. Phoebe is proud of her beautiful doll and brings Hitty everywhere she goes. This is thrilling for Hitty, who finds

herself involved in the most wonderful adventures both on land and at sea. She meets many people and makes new friends. This is the story of the first hundred years of Hitty's life. And that's only the beginning for a doll as special as Hitty.

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I ordered this book to learn what is the reason for all the doll collectors to be in such a frenzy. The book is about Hitty a wooden doll carved in the early 1800s and a recount of her owner/Mistresses over the hundred years. It is a book written by Rachel Fields and Illustrated by Dorothy Lathrop. The actual doll featured in the book is in a Eastern Doll Museum. Written in 1929 and brought back out in 1957. It is a Newberry Award winner and based for readers 8-12 but is still an interesting book to read for all ages. Hitty has become a Doll collector's "must-Have" and many sites are on the web regarding Hitty collectors. E-Bay is full of sellers and buyers. Hitty is created by an old Irish Peddler during a snow storm & blizzard in Maine. He carried a piece of Mountain Ash wood from Ireland to his new home in America for the wood was considered lucky. He made the doll for a girl named Phoebe Preble. Phoebe's father was a sea captain and ended up taking her and her mother on a whaling expedition. They were ship wrecked on a Southsea island where Hitty became an idol for the native islanders. Upon the family's rescue, Hitty was accidentally lost in India and became the possession of a snake charmer, a missionary child, an artist's model, a model for a wedding dress at the Cotton Exposition, a child on a riverboat, a slave child's and finally an unclaimed box in the dead letter file. Life continues thru all the years, until she discovers that she can tell her story while staying in an antique shop.

I have been meaning to read Hitty: Her First Hundred Years by Rachel Field (illustrated wonderfully in what I assume is pen and ink by Dorothy P. Lathrop) for a rather long time. Several years ago my mother bought me a reproduction Hitty doll by Robert Raikes (big deal carver of dolls and bears though he no longer seems to be making Hitty dolls). After buying the doll, and doing a bit of research, we found an edition of Field's novel with the original 1929 text and illustrations. There is another, newer, edition with updated text by Rosemary Wells and illustrations by Susan Jeffers. The newer book came out, I believe, to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of Field's original novel. I never read this version, actually sending it back upon realizing it was an adaptation, but other reviewers' outrage at the changes suggest I was right to do so. If you haven't guessed already, Hitty fans are numerous and loyal. Hitty, amazingly, was real. [...] is but one site dedicated to chronicling the life and history of this amazing doll. The site includes the picture of a Daguerreotype actually

mentioned in the novel as well as a variety of other interesting photos and well-researched facts. As the subtitle suggests, Hitty is already a centenarian at the start of Field's fictionalized account of her adventures. Safely ensconced in a New York antique store equipped with quill and paper, Hitty decides it is high time to begin setting her story down for posterity. What follows is a children's novel that truly deserves the Newberry Medal it received in 1930 for "the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children." Hitty begins her life as a lucky piece of mountain-ash wood carried by an old peddler. In exchange for lodging during a particularly bad Maine winter, the Old Peddler decides to carve his piece of wood into a doll for the family's seven-year-old child, Phoebe Preble. Hitty and Phoebe have their share of adventures during their time together. More, it might be argued, than one doll could manage (including a section that reads very much like part of *Moby Dick* geared to a much younger audience). But, as readers realize soon enough, Hitty is no ordinary doll. As the story progresses, Hitty passes through many hands and a variety of owners. Like most things, some owners prove better than others in the same way that certain events of Hitty's life are more worthy of space in her memoirs than others. When you realize that this book is from 1929, well before any other doll novels were published, it becomes clear that Hitty is something special because Field did it first. At first, I thought the novel might come off as dated since it was written so long ago. But I was happily proven wrong and found that the text stood up to my modern standards as well as Hitty's chemise survives her first century. Many of the insights that Hitty expresses throughout the book remain very accurate to this day. Hitty's calm demeanor and buoyant spirit also help to make this doll downright lovable. Field's prose is wonderful. Even though I knew Hitty was safe in the antique shop, each new peril left me fearing for Hitty and in a state of suspense until I found out if she had survived. The people that Hitty passes during the course of her first century are equally well-realized in the text. In terms of classic children's literature (especially for a younger child), I can't think of many better examples. If, you want still more Hitty, you can check out Gail Wilson's website. This very talented (and expensive) doll maker features her own version of Hitty available both ready-made and as a kit.

I purchased this book for my daughter to read over the summer when she finished 4th grade. It is a long book with a lot of description and was written definitely not in 'modern' style, however, it is a wonderful read. My daughter has always loved dolls and to this day (she's a teen now) we still refer back to this book when we talk about her dolls. This is a classic!

This book was one of my two favorite books when I was a child, and I wanted to introduce the

delights of it to my grandchildren, so I finally purchased it. One of my granddaughters is coming over to sleep soon, so I shall introduce the book to her. It's a wonderful story about the adventures of a handmade doll and the owners she experiences. It's also a terrific history lesson without being boring. It's exciting and charming and filled with imaginative ideas.

Loved this story about this doll! This came on a recommendation of a client friend of mine who is 91 years of age who loves to read! I bought us both one! I surprised her w/ several books! This being at the top of her list! We have a lot to learn from our elders ladies & gentlemen! Take turns reading to each other! It's fun! They enjoy it too! Take time for one another. Don't hide behind your phones or on computers! Open a good old fashion book! This is a good one!!! Through the ages! Just like my gal & me lol!

One of my favorite books. I loved having my mom read this to me as a child. I was previously only able to find this used. I purchased a used copy for my daughter and then found this when I wanted to order a copy for my niece. This copy even looks like my copy from childhood, which was already 50 years old. The dust cover is the same as my old copy. Ordered 2. Very happy with my purchase.

I bought this for my granddaughter because I remembered reading it as a child.

This book is a wonderful children's book. I've heard that it is used in some schools too. It was written long ago and therefore uses terms and slang that is not currently used so that might need some explanations by teachers or parents to help make the most of the book. The "Hitty doll" is the "author" of the story and it is delightful to read. As the doll is a carved creation, that is how I came to know of Hitty. I have carved my own Hitty and known another carver who introduced me to Hitty with her carved doll. The illustrations in the book are very good too and directly relate to and depict the adventures of Hitty. This book is well worth the reading especially for any young reader.

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