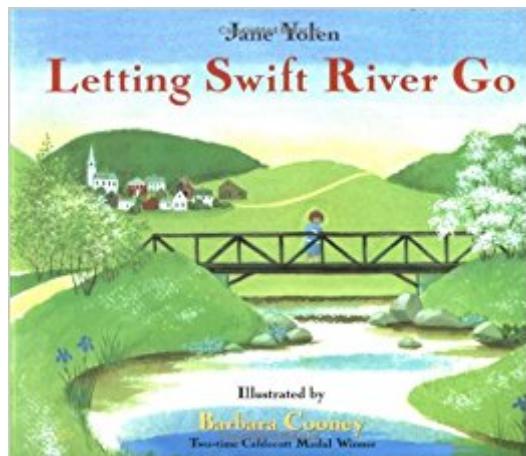


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# Letting Swift River Go



## **Synopsis**

Relates Sally Jane's experience of changing times in rural America, as she lives through the drowning of the Swift River towns in western Massachusetts to form the Quabbin Reservoir.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 860 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (September 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316968609

ISBN-13: 978-0316968607

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #111,432 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #171 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #245 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Like Virginia Lee Burton's *The Little House* and the Provensens' *Shaker Lane*, this felicitous marriage of text and art portrays the impact of modernization on one community. Yolen's gently poetic text tells how the young Sally Jane witnesses the forming of the Quabbin Reservoir in western Massachusetts and, thereby, the unavoidable drowning of her Swift River valley town. Gradually the streets she traveled and the homes she played in are covered by water for the hungry city's (Boston's) needs. Since young readers caring about Sally Jane will see this plight through her eyes, they are sure to grasp the plot's historical relevance. But the author is telling more than a personal or even a regional story here. Sally Jane's mother's words at the book's end, recalled when the girl and her father are in a boat on the now-filled reservoir--"You have to let them go, Sally Jane"--speak wisely to all of us about our pasts. (These words touchingly echo the mother's earlier admonition regarding trapped fireflies.) Despite the somewhat uninspired jacket painting, Cooney's charmingly detailed, childlike and colorful art is the perfect choice for this New England tale.

Children will be captivated by her perspective of earlier days, when kids played mumblety-pegsic and walked to school on scenic country roads. A stirring and resonant book. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The bittersweet story of Quabbin Reservoir, made by flooding a valley--and several towns--in central Massachusetts between 1927 and 1946. Yolen's poetic narration, in the voice of a woman who was six years old when her family learned they would have to give up their home, recalls the tranquillity of a rural community where children fished in the river and picnicked in the graveyard. Then, ``it was voted in Boston to drown our towns that the people in the city might drink.'' Graves are moved, trees cut, homes bulldozed, and the river dammed to cover the little towns and create a new, quite beautiful landscape. Cooney's luminous, exquisitely designed watercolors, in tenderly glowing colors, focus on carefully selected details, like loving memories that retain only the most significant particulars. In the last scenes, the narrator and her father revisit the scene in a rowboat, pointing out underwater landmarks and finally, looking ``down into the darkening deep,'' letting them go. A lovely book about reconciling necessary change with the enduring value of what is lost. (Picture book. 4+) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I borrowed this book from the library when my children were young, and found it again doing an internet search. Happy/sad story with a little history thrown in.

A touching story about a very serious subject.

It was on our summer reading list. Very realistic, almost depressing. Our school put it on the KINDERGARTEN reading list, not appropriate for that age, but good for 2nd grade & up.

This book arrived quickly and in nearly perfect condition. It was a moving story about the effects of progress on towns.

love the well presented story of the Quabbin reservoir

Good condition

Use this book with my middle school students. I teach resource and it's great using smaller books to help the students understand concepts.

Really enjoyed this book. Not only very informative but easy to read both for a child and enjoyable for adults as well.

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