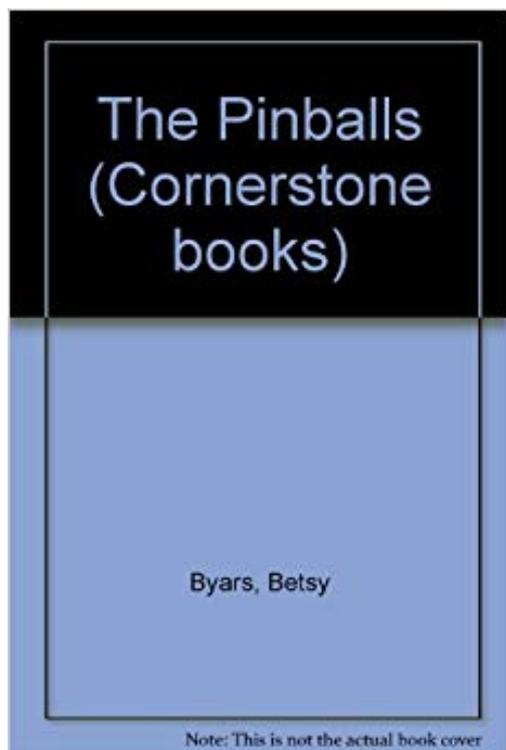


## Pinballs (Isis Large Print for Children Cornerstone) by Betsy Cromer Byars



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**Author:** Betsy Cromer Byars

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Three lonely foster children learn to care about themselves and about each other



## Reviews of the Pinballs (Isis Large Print for Children Cornerstone) by Betsy Cromer Byars

**Zyangup**

I read this book when I was in 6th grade. The whole class actually read it - I remember it being a huge sensation. I suggested this for my son now that he is in 6th grade. He read it over the summer and also loved it.

It is realistic fiction, ideal for kids like my son who don't find much to like in the current trend of fantasy/dystopian young adult. It is probably more of a younger reading level so it was good for

slower readers too mature for books at their reading level, too.

I would not be put off by the subject matter. It is a reality many kids live through and it is good for kids to understand what happens in other lives. When I grew up we had a large foster home down the street. The reality of what I heard from those kids (who became my friends) was far more brutal than anything described in this book.

### **Oppebro**

Pinballs is about three children (~pre/early teen) who find themselves placed in the same foster home, each coming from their own less-than-perfect situations. The book is an easy read; regardless of the Lexile level I would recommend it for 4th-5th graders. The only proviso is that many of the references (e.g., to television shows) are very dated and can lose a modern student reader quite quickly--the time frame includes references to the Sonny and Cher Show, etc.. I tried this as a read-aloud to my 5th grade class and was disappointed; it remains a nice small group book if you are facilitating it in the guise of a literature circle, book club, etc.

### **Xanna**

The story of Carley, Harvey, and Thomas J still resonates with children. I read the book aloud to my eight-year-old boy and nine-year-old girl. At one point when I tried to stop reading they shouted at me to continue, so wrapped up in the story that they could not bear to stop. I loved The Pinballs when I was a kid and I am happy to be able to share it with my own children.

### **Owomed**

One of my favorite books from 5th grade.

### **Dreladred**

I bought it for my daughter but I read it first to see if it's suitable for a 6-year old (it's too early). I couldn't put it down until I finished it; although I was crying the whole time, I think it's a wonderful book! I think kids 8+ should be able to understand it and enjoy it.

### **Endieyab**

Slow start. Great characters. Good ending.

### **Kinashand**

Young people should read that other young people have problems too. They work together to solve them rather than feeling sorry for themselves! Empathy - feeling someone else's pain is the lesson of this book.

This is a nice story... a bit depressing, yes, with all that bad fathers, and a bit bad mothers, but it is amazing the way the writer puts such a deep deep message into words, into this wonderful and amazing story. I hope there is a sequel to the book. Read on.

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