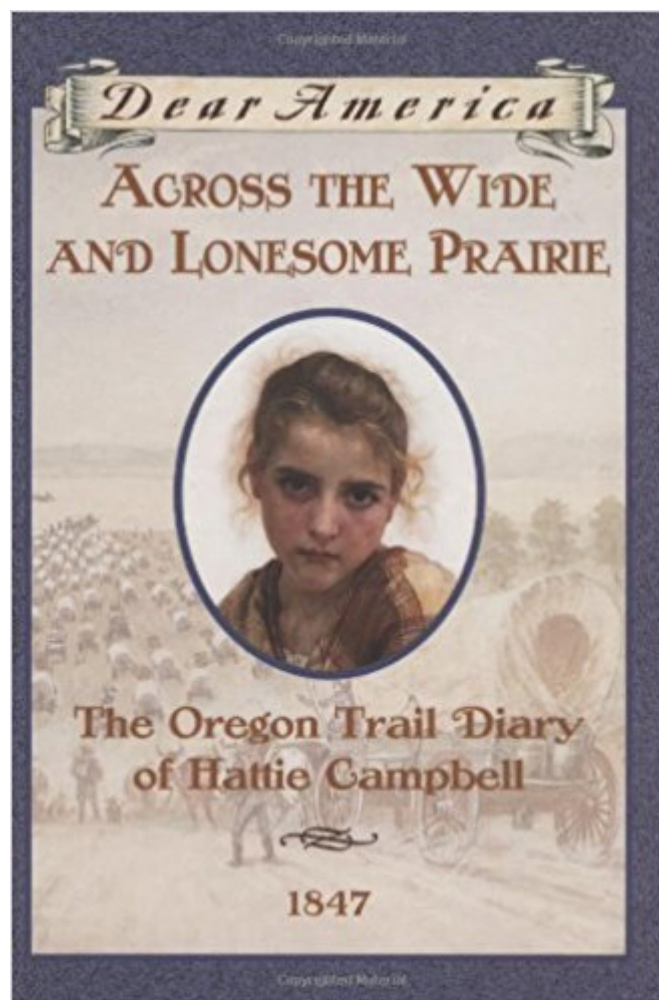




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# Across The Wide And Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary Of Hattie Campbell, 1847 (Dear America Series)



## Synopsis

Thirteen-year-old Hattie Campbell records the details of her family's harrowing migration to Oregon in a covered wagon and describes the many challenges, both joyful and tragic, that mark the journey.

## Book Information

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 940L (What's this?)

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Best Sellers Rank: #13,369 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries](#) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#)

## Customer Reviews

Grade 3-7  
Hattie Campbell is 13 years old in 1847 when her parents decide to sell their farm in Missouri and make their way across the Oregon Trail to Oregon City for a fresh start after the death of Hattie's sisters in this title by Kristiana Gregory (Scholastic, 1997). She is given a journal for her birthday and told to record both the bad and the good, Hattie. And so she does. Teaming up with dozens of other families, the wagon train begins its six-month journey across the prairies and mountains of the West. Their wagons are full and their hearts are hopeful. Hattie reflects upon the slowly changing scenery, the curiously friendly Indians they meet, and the devastating toll the long journey takes. Many in the wagon train arrive in Oregon City on foot with only a few precious possessions. Black-and-white photos, a recipe for Johnny Cake, and maps of the route can be found at the end of the book. The narration is well done, and Hattie's youthful voice shines through. While the plot is not riveting, young girls will enjoy Hattie's journey and elementary grade social studies classes studying the Oregon Trail will learn about life on the Trail.  
Tricia Melgaard, Centennial Middle School, Broken Arrow, OK Copyright ©

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In a work subtitled ``The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell,” Gregory (Earthquake at Dawn, 1992, etc.) reconvenes the Dear America series in 1847, as Hattie, her parents, and her two younger brothers begin the long trek from Missouri to Oregon by wagon train. At first the adventure is exciting, but as the days, weeks, and months pass, Hattie realizes what a dangerous and tedious trip it will be. They cross the prairies, hastening the journey as news of the fate of the Donner party reaches them, but death, disease, weather, and the terrain take a terrible toll. The Campbells lose neighbors and friends until they almost believe they cannot bear to continue. Continue they do: Eight months after they set out, the remaining wagons arrive in Oregon City, just in time for Christmas. Through Hattie’s diary, Gregory brings the rigors of the trip to life, but she also includes the details that kept the settlers going--the friendships and camaraderie that developed and the joyful events (a wedding and some births) that occurred. Gregory brings a sobering dose of reality to an era that’s often romanticized; this is a fine glimpse of history on a human scale. (b&w photos, map) (Fiction. 8-14) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

I’ve read this book several times over the years, and it’s one book from my childhood I still enjoy. Hattie’s father wants to leave their home and go to Oregon. Hattie’s mother isn’t too happy with it because she doesn’t want to leave her daughter’s graves behind. Along the trail, friendships are made (as well as enemies) and the families face a lot of hardships. I think Hattie is very brave, even if she wouldn’t agree with the comment. Her biggest fear is losing her brothers. Hattie has lost so much, and has been forced to leave the only home she has known, yet she is open to making new friends, and these friends are all different. To a husband and wife driving a wagon to a girl not much older than her. Her parents really care about their children, and Hattie’s love for her brothers is something you don’t see a lot. It’s one of Dear America’s best books.

The book is written in the form of a thirteen-year-old girl’s diary. She writes of leaving friends and relatives in a Missouri town in 1847 and traveling 2,000 miles on the Oregon Trail with her parents and two younger brothers. It took the family and the wagon train that they were part of about 8 months to make the journey. They traveled across vast plains, deserts and through mountains on their journey from Missouri to Oregon in the hope of a better life. Hattie, the young girl who kept the diary, made new friends, saw Indians, almost all of whom were friendly, large herds of buffalo and

such wonders of nature as hot springs. It was a dangerous trip and not all of those who started the journey lived through it. Hattie did a wonderful job of recording sights and events along the way. This is an excellent book for children reading at a fifth or sixth grade level.

It wasn't true it was fiction. Very disappointed.

This book was a very easy read and it was quick and to the point. Sometimes I think writers spend too much time on descriptions instead of letting you use your own imagination.

Perfect for teaching content pieces of Oregon Trail, but also supports student understanding of personal struggle and sacrifice in other eras. This works as a mentor text for Writing CCSS: historical fiction, personal narrative, chronological structure. Plus, it is a great read!

Wonderful book, I ordered this to replace the one I had when I was a kid.

I read this book when I was a child and for whatever reason it came to mind and the price was perfect. It's really a great book. It's a lot better than what most little girls and boys are reading now. It has its own page divider and it was great quality; barely looks used.

Somehow I made the assumption this was an actual account of a trip or at least was based on one. It is not. It is a well written novel of what a trip could have been like with probably many incidents in it taken from real life experiences and stories from that era. So, I was disappointed and maybe a little naïve in making my assumption. It is worth reading if you have an interest in this part of our history. It is a quick and easy read with a considerable amount of history in the form of a realistic fictional account of what a journey could have been like for a family.

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