

## **Boxes for Katje by Candace Fleming F.S. Giroux, 2003**

### **SYNOPSIS-**

*After World War II there is little left in Katje's town of Ost in Holland. Her family, like most Dutch families, must go without soap, milk, and must patch and repair their old, worn clothing. Then one spring morning, when the tulips bloom thick and bright, Postman Kleinhoonte pedals his bicycle down Katje's cobbled street to deliver a mysterious box from the "land of plenty"-America! The box has been sent by Rosie, a girl from Mayfield, Indiana, and her package is part of a goodwill effort to help the people in Europe. What's inside Rosie's package so delights Katje that she immediately sends off a letter of thanks, beginning an exchange that swells with so many surprises that the girls- as well as the townspeople of Ost and Mayfield- will never be the same. -F.S. Giroux,*

### **THEMES-**

World War II, social skills-giving, caring, and kindness

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR-**

[www.fetchbook.info/Boxes\\_for\\_Katje.htm](http://www.fetchbook.info/Boxes_for_Katje.htm)

### **ACTIVITIES-**

1. After reading the story, discuss with your students the many acts of kindness that existed throughout the text. Ask your students to brainstorm ways they can be kind and give to the less fortunate. Set up a giving box in your classroom, ask your students to bring in items they wish to give, or donate to a person or group of people in need within your community or from around the world. As an extension have your students create signs to be hung around the school or in your community for further school and community donations. Perhaps you would choose to participate in the Teddy Bear donation to honor this year's Bill Martin Jr. picture book winner, *The Teddy Bear* by David McPhail.
2. Start a pen pal project in your classroom by visiting [www.epals.com](http://www.epals.com), so your students have the opportunity to write to people from around the world just as Katje and Rosa did in the story.