

Gertrude Chandler Warner's

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

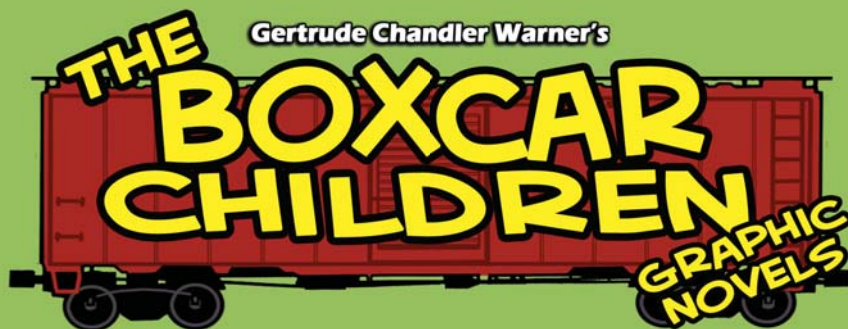
GRAPHIC NOVELS

THE HAUNTED CABIN MYSTERY



Jeff Limke

Mark Bloodworth



BOOK NINE

THE HAUNTED CABIN MYSTERY

Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny take a trip down the Mississippi River in a paddle-wheel boat and stay in a haunted cabin! At least it seems haunted—there are spooky phone calls, flickering lights, and strange shadows. Are there really ghosts, or is someone trying to scare the Boxcar Children away?

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

GRAPHIC NOVELS

1. THE BOXCAR CHILDREN
2. SURPRISE ISLAND
3. THE YELLOW HOUSE MYSTERY
4. MYSTERY RANCH
5. MIKE'S MYSTERY
6. BLUE BAY MYSTERY
7. SNOWBOUND MYSTERY
8. TREE HOUSE MYSTERY
9. THE HAUNTED CABIN MYSTERY
10. THE AMUSEMENT PARK MYSTERY
11. THE PIZZA MYSTERY
12. THE CASTLE MYSTERY

Gertrude Chandler Warner's

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

THE HAUNTED CABIN MYSTERY

Adapted by Jeff Limke
Illustrated by Mark Bloodworth



Henry Alden



Jessie Alden



Watch



Violet Alden



Benny Alden



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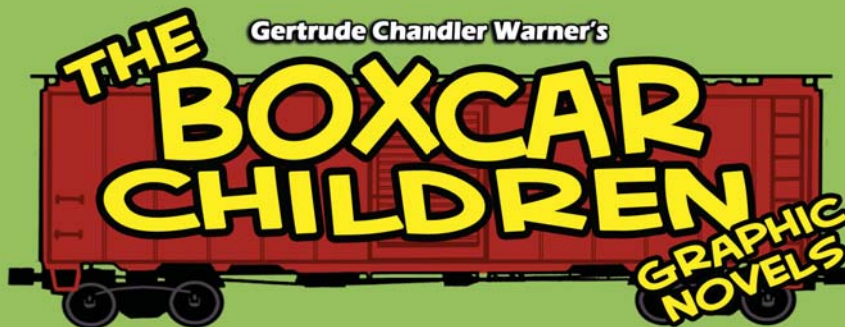
“Gertrude Chandler Warner’s The Boxcar Children.”

Summary: The Alden children travel on a Mississippi paddle-wheel steamer to visit an old family friend in his cabin near Hannibal, Missouri, and try to discover who is responsible for the mysterious activities near the house.

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BOOK NINE

THE HAUNTED CABIN MYSTERY

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It'll be nice to come back to a clean boxcar after we visit grandfather's friend. Cap Lambert, right?

Cap is a retired riverboat captain. He lives in a cabin with his rooster, Doodle.

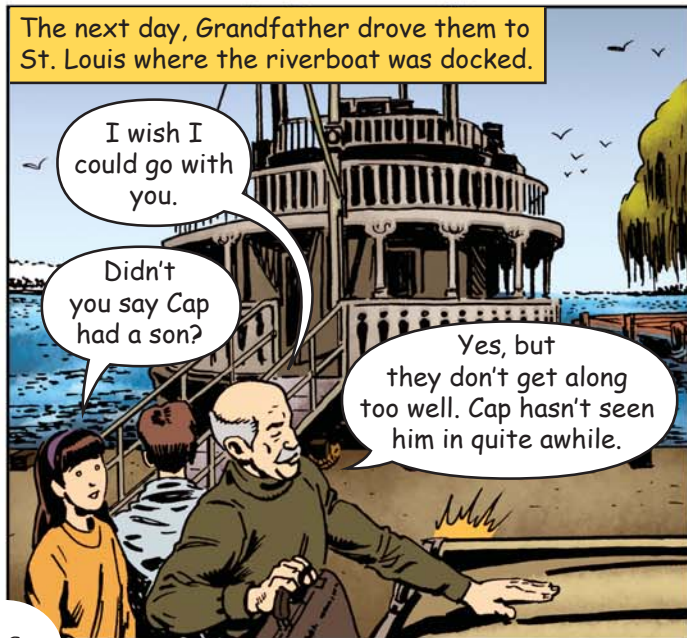


I hope it's not haunted.

Oh, Violet, you know ghosts aren't real.

Let's go pack!

The next day, Grandfather drove them to St. Louis where the riverboat was docked.



I wish I could go with you.

Didn't you say Cap had a son?

Yes, but they don't get along too well. Cap hasn't seen him in quite awhile.



That's a sad thing. If our parents were still alive we'd be talking to them all of the time.

I know you would, Jessie.



Look at all the flags!

What better way to spend the Fourth of July than on America's longest river?

For you, sir.



Oh no, this telegram from Cap isn't good.

He's hurt his ankle and says you shouldn't visit.



But Grandfather, if he's hurt, we can take care of him.

And help with his work.



No one will be in Hannibal to meet the boat. Cap lives at least three miles from there.

We've walked farther than that. Besides, we like helping people.

Okay, you win...and so does Cap.

CAP AND DOODLE

The girls left their luggage in their cabins and went to find the boys.

Excuse me, have you seen two boys, one tall and one short?

You'll find the Alden boys on the top deck.

That Mr. Jay isn't very friendly. Why'd he cover his face?

How did you know his name?

From his name tag.

Come on. It's time to eat!

What a great bridge!

It's the Eads Bridge. I'm Paul Edwards, and you must be the Alden children.

Yes. You must read a lot about bridges.

I do, I also write articles about the river.

Do you write mysteries?

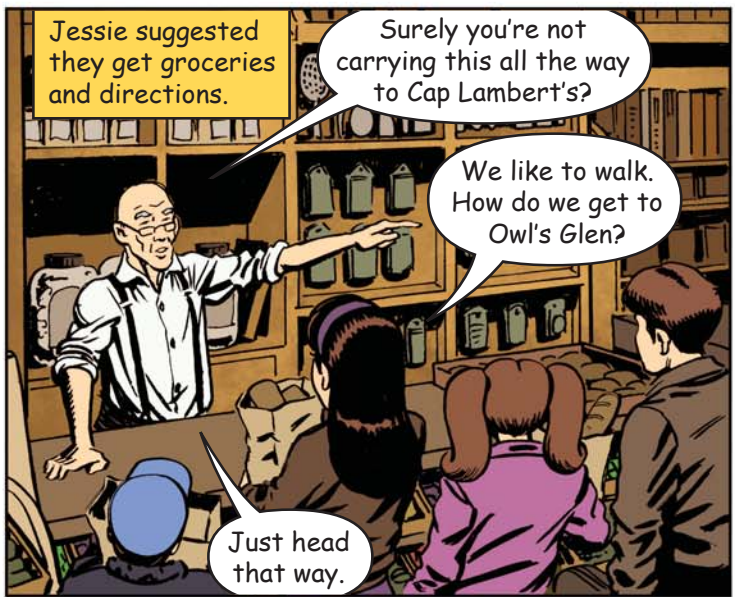
No, why?

That Mr. Jay is a mystery man. He seems to watch us, but won't show his face.

That is mysterious. You may have to point him out.

Are there pirates on this river?

No, but there are legends of pirate treasure buried around here. I just wrote a story in the paper about it.





**WEIRD
NOISES,
STRANGE
LIGHTS**

After supper, Cap explained why he had disconnected the phone.

I was getting strange calls. I'd answer but only hear breathing.

Who'd call someone and not talk?

This sure is good popcorn. Even Doodle loves it.

I grow it in my garden.

Tomorrow we'll make sure the garden is weeded.

We met a writer who said there is pirate treasure around here.

I've heard those stories, too, but they're only legends.

This has been some treat. I didn't think you kids would be such a big help.

We need to find more ways to help Cap.



WILL-O'-THE-WISP

The next morning...

What can we make for breakfast?

There's ham in the refrigerator.

Great. I'll get some eggs from the chicken house.

I saw a funny flickering light last night.

Maybe it's a will-o'-the-wisp--a sort of ghostly light.

But if you're seeing strange lights, I don't want you outside after dark.

After breakfast, the children explored the farm.

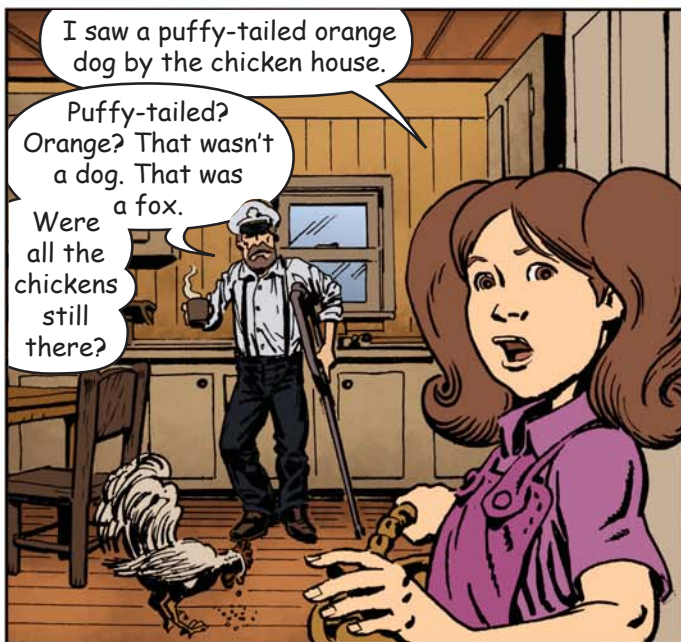
Here's where the light was last night, right?

Where's Benny?

Here I am!



SCRAMBLED EGGS





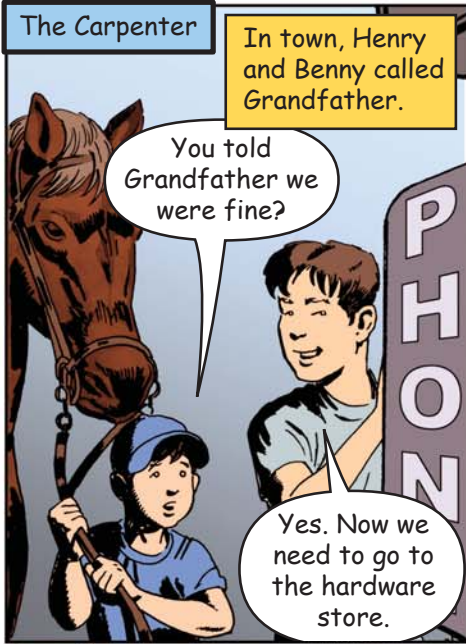


The Carpenter

In town, Henry and Benny called Grandfather.

You told Grandfather we were fine?

Yes. Now we need to go to the hardware store.



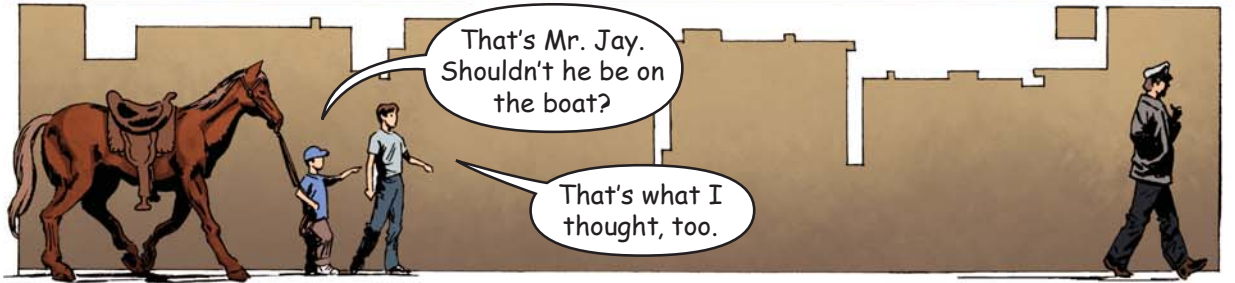
I need to scare away a fox.

This light will do.



That's Mr. Jay. Shouldn't he be on the boat?

That's what I thought, too.

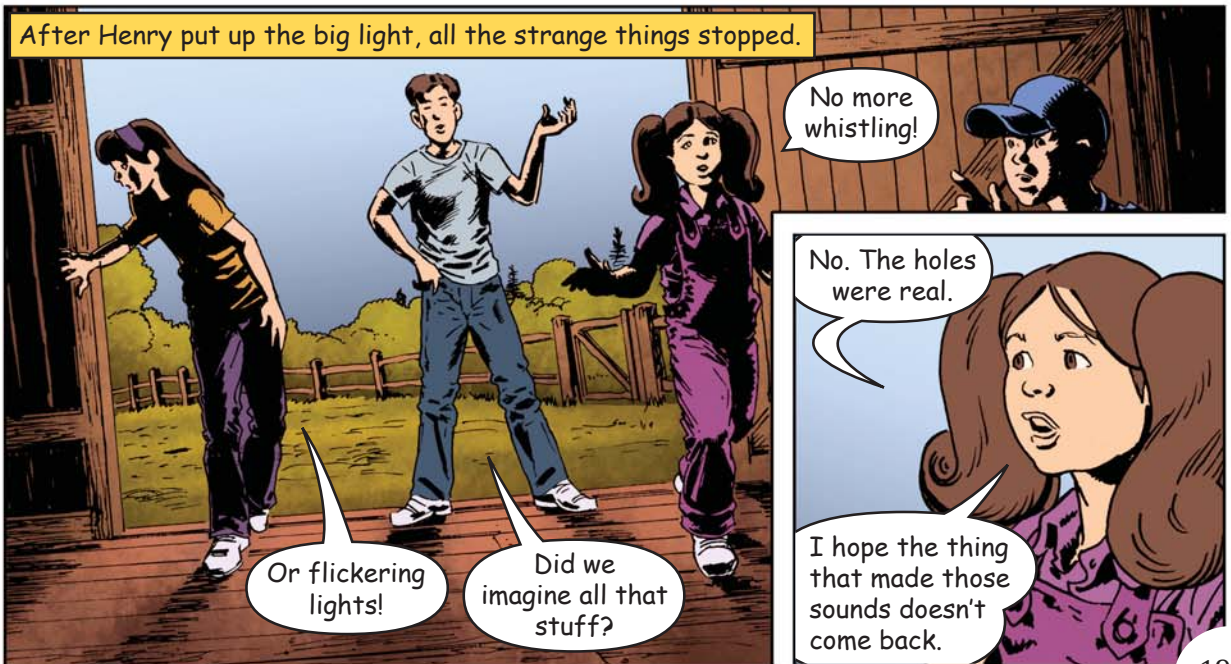


We saw a strange man down the road.

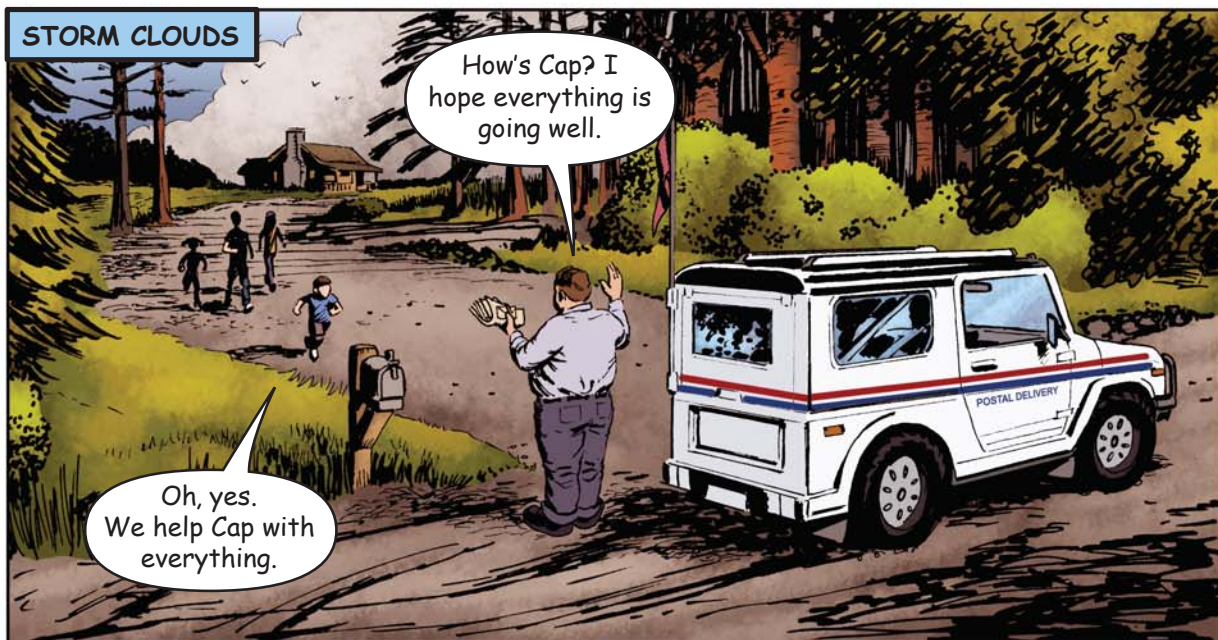
I've seen him, too. Very unfriendly. Doesn't talk much.

Here are some sunflower seeds for Cap's rooster. Give them both my best.

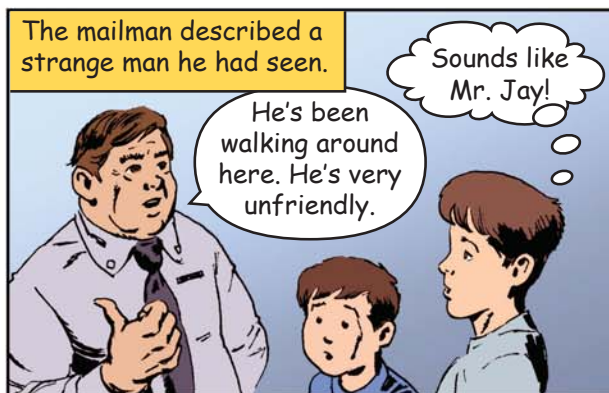




STORM CLOUDS



The mailman described a strange man he had seen.



Your Grandfather will be here Saturday.

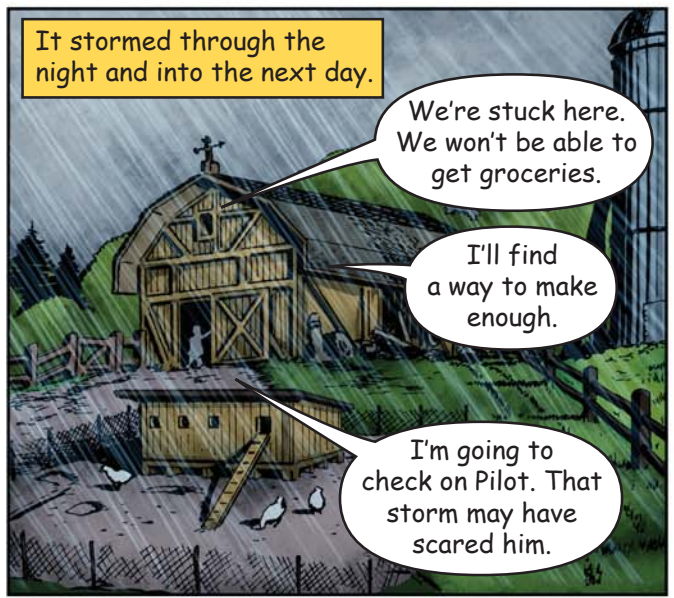




That night...

Come on, Henry. Let's close down the barn.

I'll check the chickens.



It stormed through the night and into the next day.

We're stuck here. We won't be able to get groceries.

I'll find a way to make enough.

I'm going to check on Pilot. That storm may have scared him.



Henry returned a few minutes later.

Violet, someone's been out there!

That could have been the wind.

I don't think so. Come look!



Footprints!

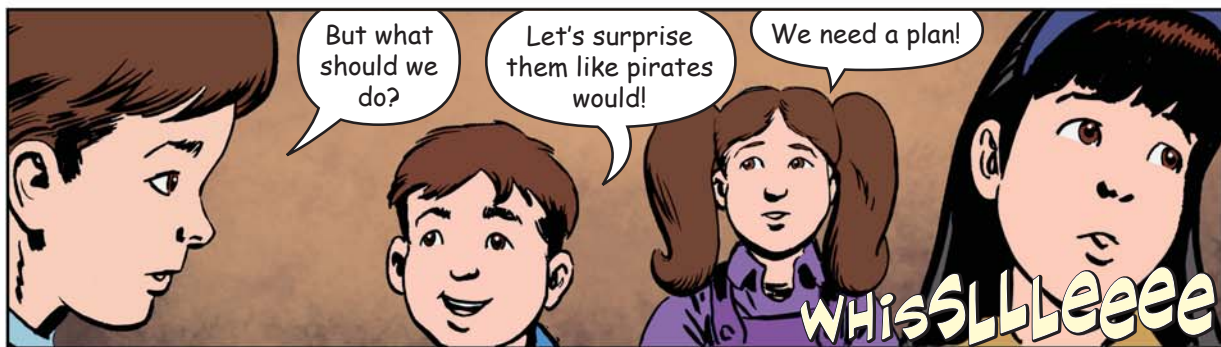
They could be yours.

No, my soles are smooth and these are waffled.



The Aldens searched inside the barn next.

I know I fixed that loose board. Why is it pulled up?



HENRY'S PLAN

That night, Henry's plan was ready.

Is your heart beating really fast?

Even my skin feels creepy.

I won't fall asleep. I'm ready for Jessie's signal.

When the lights go on, I'll shut the barn door and trap them inside.

SKRITCH-SKRATCH-SKRITCH

CAUGHT!

Hurry,
Jessie, pull off
the mask.

You got
him!



SUSIE
HODGES!



Don't cry. No
one is going to
hurt you.

Let's go
inside.



No, I can't...
my brother...

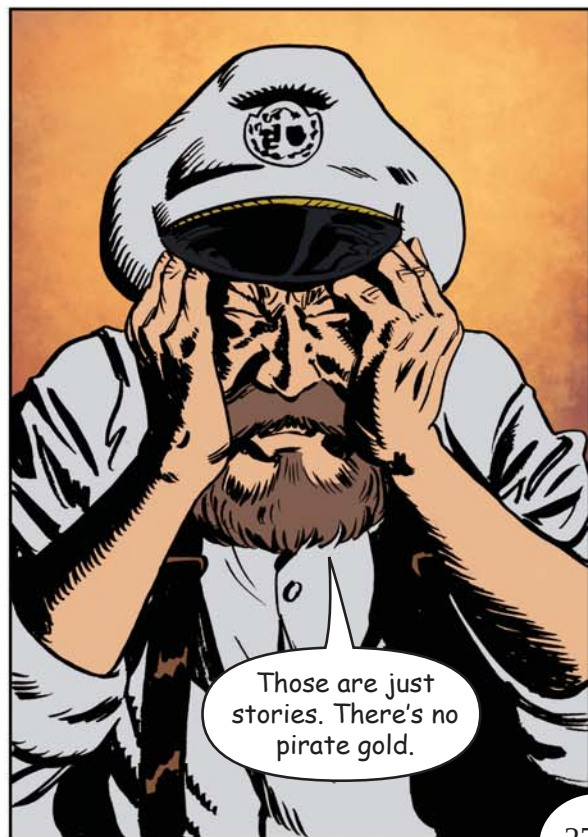
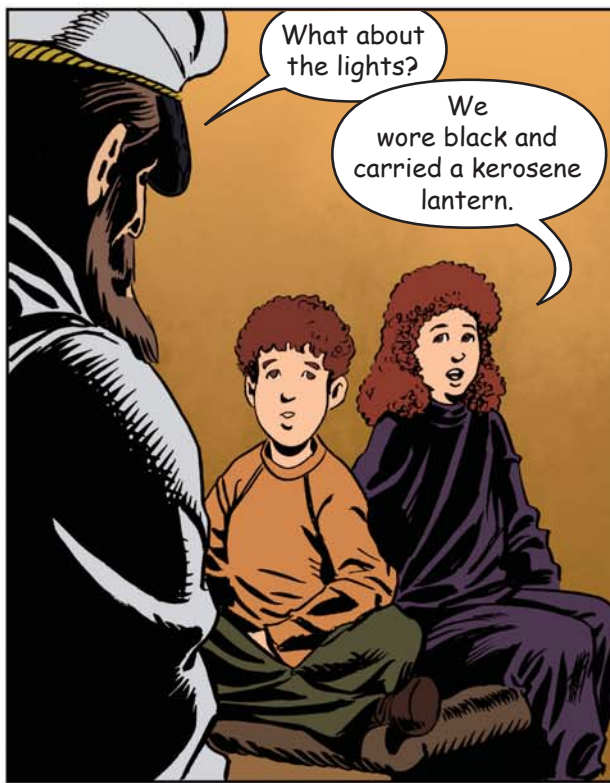
Where's your
brother?



Out
there.











THE FINAL SURPRISE

The next day, Grandfather arrived.

We can't wait to show you around!

Where's Cap? I have to talk to him.

Your son has been in touch with me. He wants to come home.

He tried to call, but was too scared to talk.

That was Jason on the phone?

Soon, father and son were together again.

Come meet my son, Jason.

I'm sorry I was unfriendly. I didn't know what would happen when I came here.

Cap's son was Mr. Jay!

This is yours.

Would you like to keep it?

Oh, yes.

The Hodges joined them
for dinner--and dessert!

This may
have been our best
mystery adventure
ever.



But the Aldens also couldn't wait
to get back home to their boxcar!

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Gertrude Chandler Warner was born on April 16, 1890, in Putnam, Connecticut. In 1918, Warner began teaching at Israel Putnam School. As a teacher, she discovered that many readers who liked an exciting story could not find books that were both easy and fun to read. She decided to try to meet this need. In 1942, *The Boxcar Children* was published for these readers.

Warner drew on her own experience to write *The Boxcar Children*. As a child she spent hours watching trains go by on the tracks near her family home. She often dreamed about what it would be like to live in a caboose or freight car—just as the Alden children do.

When readers asked for more Alden adventures, Warner began additional stories. While the mystery element is central to each of the books, she never thought of them as strictly juvenile mysteries. She liked to stress the Aldens' independence. Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny go about most of their adventures with as little adult supervision as possible—something that delights young readers.

During her lifetime, Warner received hundreds of letters from fans as she continued the Aldens' adventures, writing nineteen Boxcar Children books in all. After her death in 1979, her publisher, Albert Whitman and Company, carried on Warner's vision. Today, the Boxcar Children series has more than 100 books.

