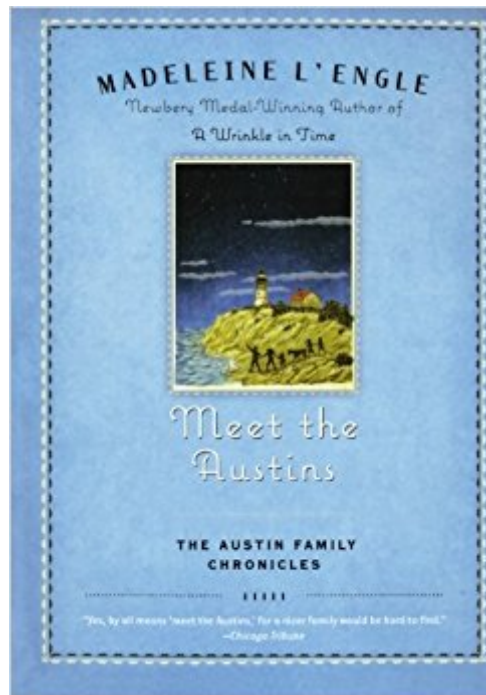




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Meet The Austins: Book One Of The Austin Family Chronicles



Synopsis

For a family with four kids, two dogs, assorted cats, and a constant stream of family and friends dropping by, life in the Austin family home has always been remarkably steady and contented. When a family friend suddenly dies in a plane crash, the Austins open their home to an orphaned girl, Maggy Hamilton. The Austin children—Vicky, John, Suzy, and Rob—do their best to be generous and welcoming to Maggy. Vicky knows she should feel sorry for Maggy, but having sympathy for Maggy is no easy thing. Maggy is moody and spoiled; she breaks toys, wakes people in the middle of the night screaming, discourages homework, and generally causes chaos in the Austin household. How can one small child disrupt a family of six? Will life ever return to normal?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1080L (What's this?)

Series: Austin Family (Book 1)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Square Fish (September 2, 2008)

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Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 45 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #255,061 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #190 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences #257 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #425 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

Age Range: 12 - 16 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

Customer Reviews

Reading award-winning author Madeleine L'Engle's *Meet the Austins* is like taking a vacation with the warm, compassionate Austins--an extraordinary family who takes a little girl named Maggy Hamilton under its wing when her father is killed in a plane accident. Adjusting to a new household member is not easy, as the 12-year-old narrator, Vicky, will testify. Maggy is spoiled, "ubiquitous," laughs in a "horrid, screechy way," and appears to be a child of an entirely different species from the

thoughtful, intelligent, kind, yet not cloyingly so, Austin kids. Still, Vicky and her other siblings (Rob, Suzy, and John) grit their collective teeth and struggle to understand her, which becomes easier and easier as the loving family seems to rub off on the newly orphaned Maggy. The Austins are beyond question a charming family, but their path is by no means rock-free: Vicky sneaks off to a friend's house and severely injures herself in a bike accident, they all get the measles, John is beat up after his guest sermon in church, and they almost lose little Rob. Despite ordinary family setbacks, there's no use pretending this is a run-of-the-mill family. When Vicky is sick, her older brother, John, comes into her room and soothes her with a discussion of the solar system, our atomic composition, and the relativity of size. Family dinner-table talk includes the ethics of meat eating, and a chat with Grandfather ends up with a discussion of whether Einstein believed in God. As in all of L'Engle's novels, she asks the big questions: What is the meaning of life, and how does death fit into that? Are there different kinds of intelligence? What happens when you remove a screw from a radiator? This strangely comforting novel, first published in 1960, is an ALA Notable Book, and was followed by four other books featuring the Austin Family: *The Moon by Night*, *The Young Unicorns*, *A Ring of Endless Light* (a Newbery Honor Book), and *Troubling a Star*. (Ages 9 to 12) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

• A family story that simply doesn't date, characters ring as true now as I'm sure they ever did. •
 • Charlotte Jones Voiklis, *Granddaughter of Madeleine L'Engle* • Yes, by all means meet the Austins,' for a nicer family would be hard to find. The book is beautifully written, with integrity and warmth, and young people are bound to identify with the characters, each a person in his own right, and to read absorbed from first page to last. Thoroughly recommended. •
 • Chicago Tribune • An unusual book. . . . There are intimate details of home life that everyone will recognize with pleasure; there is great warmth in the family relationship, and it is movingly communicated. •
 • The New York Times • Told with warmth and humor, this is a perceptive, forthright story of a loving and likeable family. •
 • Booklist • Her books . . . tend to be about the intersection of some fantastic unearthly world and the ordinary world in which we live. •
 • Daniel Handler (a.k.a. Lemony Snicket) • . . . [an] ode to faith and family . . . •
 • Quin Hillyer, *American Spectator*

Madeleine L'Engle is my absolute favourite author, and I miss her terribly. She has written many, many wonderful books, both for mature and teenage audiences. She has a most unique and open view of religion and the world that is valuable to see her eyes - through her characters. Meet the Austins is Book One in the pentology *The Austin Family Chronicles*, introducing the reader to Vicky

Austin, who tells the story, her siblings John, Suzy and Rob, and her parents, Victoria and Wallace. The book opens up with a death in the family, of Uncle Hal, who has left behind a ten-year-old girl, Maggie. The Austins are a beautifully loving family in the farmlands of Connecticut, who suddenly find themselves taking care of her, who is very close to Suzy's age, but a difficult, wilful, disruptive child who upsets the entire household. It becomes very clear that Maggie's upbringing was not with a close-knit, communicative family. While learning to respond to this change and how it affects every person, both in the family and out, it also allows the readers to see the changes it brings in Maggie as well. Being a part of the Austin family is wonderful; to see how each individual grows and lives with the others, how they love each other, how they sometimes have conflicts. It gives excellent insight into Vicky and the views, opinions and actions of a twelve-year-old girl. I was right around that age when I began reading this book, so it was all too easy for me to identify with Vicky. I have always loved all of Ms. L'Engle's books and still read every one I own even at age 48, to be part of the family again. The other four books are just as charming as this one, and I recommend it for any teenage reader as well as adult readers.

I have this book in hard cover and in kindle version. I have read these books since I was a young girl. They never go out of style.

This is a fabulous series for young adults.

I originally downloaded this for my daughter, on the recommendation of her teacher. It went to her Kindle and I added it to my iPad using the Kindle app. I was genuinely surprised at how much I enjoyed it, it inspired me to download *A Wrinkle in Time*, which I am also really getting into right now. A great read for precocious readers who are not yet mature enough for today's tween books. The kids in the Austin family are growing up in the Early sixties, but their adventures and issues are timeless.

Found an old copy of "Meet the Austins" in a box at my Mom's. Re-read it, and wondered why I didn't have the whole set. Since that copy was falling apart, ordered a new one, and bought the others. "An Acceptable Time" is an excellent read!

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Good!

My granddaughter likes Madelene L'Engle (as do I) and we are sorry that she is no longer with us.

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