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# Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.



## Synopsis

Margaret shares her secrets and her spirituality in this iconic Judy Blume novel, beloved by millions, that now has a fresh new look. Margaret Simon, almost twelve, likes long hair, tuna fish, the smell of rain, and things that are pink. She's just moved from New York City to Farbook, New Jersey, and is anxious to fit in with her new friends—Nancy, Gretchen, and Janie. When they form a secret club to talk about private subjects like boys, bras, and getting their first periods, Margaret is happy to belong. But none of them can believe Margaret doesn't have religion, and that she isn't going to the Y or the Jewish Community Center. What they don't know is Margaret has her own very special relationship with God. She can talk to God about everything—family, friends, even Moose Freed, her secret crush. Margaret is funny and real, and her thoughts and feelings are oh-so-relatable—you'll feel like she's talking right to you, sharing her secrets with a friend.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0570 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 29, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 1,121 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,272 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction #28 in Books > Children's Books > Religions #41 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

If anyone tried to determine the most common rite of passage for preteen girls in North America, a girl's first reading of *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* would rank near the top of the list. Judy Blume and her character Margaret Simon were the first to say out loud (and in a book even) that it is

normal for girls to wonder when they are ever going to fill out their training bras. Puberty is a curious and annoying time. Girls' bodies begin to do freakish things--or, as in Margaret's case, they don't do freakish things nearly as fast as girls wish they would. Adolescents are often so relieved to discover that someone understands their body-angst that they miss one of the book's deeper explorations: a young person's relationship with God. Margaret has a very private relationship with God, and it's only after she moves to New Jersey and hangs out with a new friend that she discovers that it might be weird to talk to God without a priest or a rabbi to mediate. Margaret just wants to fit in! Who is God, and where is He when she needs Him? She begins to look into the cups of her training bra for answers ...

Judy Blume's body of work returns to her original editor, Richard Jackson, with the rerelease of four classics in hardcover. An African-American family moves to all-white Grove Street in *Iggie's House*, to be released in April. The author's breakthrough title, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, about 11-year old Margaret Simon's struggles with puberty and religion, is now available in hardcover as well as in a Spanish-language edition, *Estas ahí Dios? Soy yo, Margaret*. Two additional titles came out last season: *Blubber* takes on preteen teasing; and *It's Not the End of the World* explores the effects of divorce. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

When I went to live in foster care at 10 I wanted to read this book. I purchased it with my allowance and then was told I had to take it back. Because I had crossed out the price on the book, the used bookseller wouldn't let me return the book for full price. I stood in the back of his store tears streaming down my face because this was the book that I thought I needed to read to understand what it meant to start middle school and all the changes my new found friends were going through. Up to that point I was raised by all men in a pretty neglectful environment. Now don't ask me why it took me over 30 years to finally get the courage (yes courage) to read this book. It was not the awful "sex" book my foster mother told me it would be, and I think if I read it back then, a lot of questions I was never given the answers to would have been more readily available for me. It was a quick read and should be something that girls of that age are afforded the opportunity to read. There is nothing in this book that might change how they behave, but it could give young girls at that age the confidence to have open and honest discussions with their mothers about this time in their lives.

I was told years ago I should read this book because its got a good take on finding a Connection that works for you. Its sweetly told. It kind of peters out. I was left feeling like the author gave up on

her point.

Like every other girl that was raised in the 80s, I read just about every Judy Blume book that I could get my hands on. Twice. Or more. They made those feelings of not fitting in and awkwardness okay. Maybe not exactly normal, but okay. They also taught me that sometimes you just have to laugh at yourself (okay, and maybe at others too). My daughter is now ten-years-old and she reads. No, I mean she READS. This child reads more books than I do (and I read a whole lot of books!). Keeping her in books is almost a full-time job. We've recently starting readings books together. We try to find a book that we both want to read and after we've both finished it, we "sneak out" to breakfast one Saturday before the boys are up and talk about the book. Of course, this one made the cut and it was really a great book for us to use. It started some really good conversations between us about growing up and being a girl and just how tough it can be. Being a non-religious household, I was also able to talk to her a little about beliefs and differences between people and their belief systems. The message of this book was definitely not lost in all the years and made a great jumping off point. Recommended for pre-teen girls, of course!

I purchased this for my granddaughter. She is enjoying it. I read it as a young girl, my daughter read it, and now it is her turn.

I read *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.* several times when I was a pre-teen and it's still just as good. It was originally published in 1970, but the topics such as periods, bras, and religion were still relevant in the late 80s when I read it and continue to be relevant today. Also, the amount of punctuation in the title has always made me seriously happy. I highly recommend reading this book to tween girls!

Book was expedited quickly. The book itself is a classic. I have read this book nearly 30 years ago, and have purchased this for my tween daughter to read. Some of the passages in the book are definitely for past generations, but it was fun to relive the book again when my daughter asked me certain questions about those parts of the book.

What a wonderful book. Margaret is a great character going through life lessons as a young girl. If you are an adult who still struggles with what you went thru in your youth like moving to a new school or body image, trying to fit in, understanding the world around you this is still a great read no

matter your age. Revisit that in a gentle way as written in this book. It really does help. You will cry a little and laugh a lot.

This original "hippie" version is so much better than the sanitized and modernized re-releases. I read this as a young boy and could finally empathize with my female peers. As a parent, I introduced it to my girls, making sure they understood the point of the book, that the realities created for us by our parents and our peers are often for THEIR benefit, not ours.

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