

# ***Echo***

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

## **Annotation**

- The novel, introduced with the fairytale-like story of Otto and the prophecy of a harmonica, transitions to the lives of Friedrich in WWII Germany, Mike, an orphan in 1935 Great Depression Pennsylvania, and Ivy on the WWII homefront in 1942 California all impacted by the history of their times, a harmonica, and the power of music.

## **Book Talk**

- Have any of you every played a harmonica? It seems to be such a simple instrument, but in *Echo* a harmonica, a prophecy, and four characters with the perseverance to overcome the hardships faced in their times, all find the greatest strength in music. If you are looking for a powerful story rich with history, gripping tales, strength, and music, you will love *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan.

## **Book Trailers**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIN9ymcH\\_YE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIN9ymcH_YE)
- Meet the author movie available for those with subscriptions to TeachingBooks.net

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://www.pammunozryan.com/>, (Discussion Guide included on Author's Website)
- Website: [http://dialedin.com/scholastic10/Echo\\_Book/home](http://dialedin.com/scholastic10/Echo_Book/home)

## **Items to use in a library display**

- Harmonicas, Orchestra instruments, Conductor's baton, piano,

## **Food**

- Pears, roasted meat, cinnamon & apples, bread, Spaetzle, strudel, stew with wurst, quince jam, German cookies, apples, roast beef, ice cream, creamed chicken, peaches, potatoes, chocolate fudge layer cake, oranges, roast beef, Swiss chocolate, ice cream

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- Compare and contrast the character traits of Otto, Friedrich, Mike, and Ivy. In what ways are they alike and different?
- How does music impact the lives of the characters in the story? In what ways do they find strength in music?
- Discuss the format in which the author tells the tales of Otto, Friedrich, Mike, and Ivy? How does the format in which the author relates these plot lines impact the novel? How would the novel be different if the story was not told in this way?

## **First Line of the Book:**

- “Once, long before enchantment was eclipsed by doubt, an anxious and desperate king awaited the birth of his first child.”

### **Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

- *Easiest Harmonica Tunes for Children* by Larry McCabe
- *Barbed Wire Baseball: How One Man Brought Hope to the Japanese Internment Camps of WWII* by Marissa Moss
- *Eyewitness to Japanese Internment* by Jill Roesler
- *Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein* by Susan Goldman Rubin
- *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

### **What to Read Next**

- *The Dog in the Wood* by Monika Schroder
- *Behind the Bedroom Wall* by Laura E. Williams
- *13 Treasures* by Michelle Harrison
- *The Harmonica* by Tony Johnston
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar

### **Other Books by this Author:**

- *The Dreamer*
- *Paint the Wind*
- *Esperanza Rising*
- *Becoming Naomi Leon*

### **Additional Resources**

- *Albert Hoxie and his Philadelphia Harmonica Band* (You Tube):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDkmXR\\_dNrl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDkmXR_dNrl)
- Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica:  
<http://www.spah.org/>
- Rodgers and Hammerstein: <http://www.rnh.com/>
- Lesson idea: Study various composers and/or conductors
- Interview with the author:  
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/asset/author-pam-munoz-ryan-talks-about-echo>
- Author explains the inspiration for *Echo*:  
<http://www.pammunozryan.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/What-inspired-ECHO.pdf>
- Discussion Guide - Author Website:  
<http://www.pammunozryan.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Echo-DG.pdf>