**Wish**

by Barbara O’Connor

**Annotation**

A touching story about a girl and her dog, perfect for young animal lovers

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite.

But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is, until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.

**Book Talk**

Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade.

**Book Trailers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZcc_g0ThUc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-MgvFwVpvc>

**Author on the Internet**

* Website: <https://www.barbaraoconnor.com/>
* Twitter: @barbaraoconnor
* Facebook:<https://www.facebook.com/barbara.oconnor727>
* Instagram: barbaraoconnor

**Items to use in a library display**

* items wished on
* Map of Blue Ridge Mountains
* dog images
* Wishbone
* Cinderella pillowcase
* Rainbow Lunch box

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

<https://www.barbaraoconnor.com/docs/wish-discussion-guide.pdf>

**First Line of the Book**

“I looked down at the paper on my desk.”

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

* Animals Nobody Loves by Seymour Simon
* Caring for Your Dog by Derek Zobel
* Choosing a Dog: How to Choose and Care for a Dog by Laura S. Jeffrey

**What to Read Next**

* A Dog Called Homeless by Sarah Lean
* A Hundred Horses by Sarah Lean
* Weekends with Max and His Dad by Linda Urban
* Gertie’s Leap to Greatness by Kate Beasley

**Other Books by this Author**

* [How to Steal a Dog](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/826576.How_to_Steal_a_Dog)
* [The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7626074-the-fantastic-secret-of-owen-jester)
* [Greetings from Nowhere](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2267075.Greetings_from_Nowhere)
* [Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/664167.Fame_and_Glory_in_Freedom_Georgia)
* and more, <https://www.barbaraoconnor.com/pages/books/novels.html>

**Additional Resources**

* Interview with the author: <https://www.teachingbooks.net/author_interview.cgi?id=23339>
* Lesson ideas: <https://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/teachers-guides/9780374302757TG.pdf>

**Name that Book**

“My feet felt like cinder blocks as I made my way across the yard towarrd the house. More than anything, I wanted to just go back to my room and pretend like this day had never happened.” (p. 52)

“How come I didn’t think how much a little girl would love a note like that in her lunch box? I wished like anything I had thought to do that but I didn’t. Just like I didn’t think how silly that rainbow lunch box was.” (p. 203)

“I kept my eyes on the mopping man and in my head I said, *Pineapple. Pineapple. Pineapple.*” (p. 45)

“After a while, he got tired of sniffing and laid down next to the sofa and went to sleep. I tiptoed over and sat beside him, stroking his fur and whispering his name. I couldn’t hardly believe I had my very own dog.” (p. 102)

“But before I had time to start feeling sorry for myself, something good happened. I saw a red bird. A big, bright cardinal on the telephone line across the street.” (p. 65)

“Then I tried to make my room look like a real bedroom and not like a place to store canning jars.” (p. 150)