



# A GIRL called BLUE

By Marita Conlon Mc Kenna

# PROTAGONIST

The protagonist in the novel is a twelve year old girl called Blue O' Malley. She was abandoned at birth and has since been brought up in an orphanage.

# SETTING

The main setting in the novel is an orphanage in Dublin called Larch Hill. It is run by nuns. As was common at the time, being brought up in an orphanage was not easy. Life was harsh, but not all of the time. Some of the nuns were kind, some were not.

# CHARACTERS

As well as Blue, there are other children in the orphanage like Molly, Mary, Jess, Sarah. We meet the head nun of the orphanage Sister Regina, as well as other nuns like Sister Monica, Sister Carmel and Sister Rita.



# CHARACTERS

We also meet a family called the Hickeys who are thinking of adopting Blue. We meet a taxi driver called Jimmy Mooney and his mother.

# PLOT

As Blue has been in Larch Hill since she was a baby, she is determined to find out about her mother. She just wants to be part of a family like everyone else.

# PERIOD OF TIME

The story takes place roughly in the middle of the last century, probably in the 1960s. As you read the novel, you will wonder why some things happened, but you must remember that things were different back then.

# POINT OF VIEW

The story of the novel is told entirely from the point of view of the protagonist, Blue O' Malley. This helps us to empathise with her as a character.



# PROBLEM

The problem is that Blue has been abandoned at the orphanage since birth. Because her mother never signed the necessary papers, Blue cannot be adopted.

# RESOLUTION

As Blue cannot be adopted, how can her need for a family to call her own be achieved? Can there be any resolution to her problem?

# GENRE

This book is historical fiction. Although the story is not a true story, elements of it reflect what happened during this period in Ireland.

# THEMES

This novel explores many themes:

- The importance of belonging
- The meaning of family
- The corruption of power
- Loneliness
- Loyalty



# THEMES

This novel explores many themes:

- Life in an Irish orphanage in 1960s Ireland
- Child Labour
- Physical and mental abuse
- Courage and hope

# SEQUENCE

The story of the novel is told in pretty much sequential order.

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