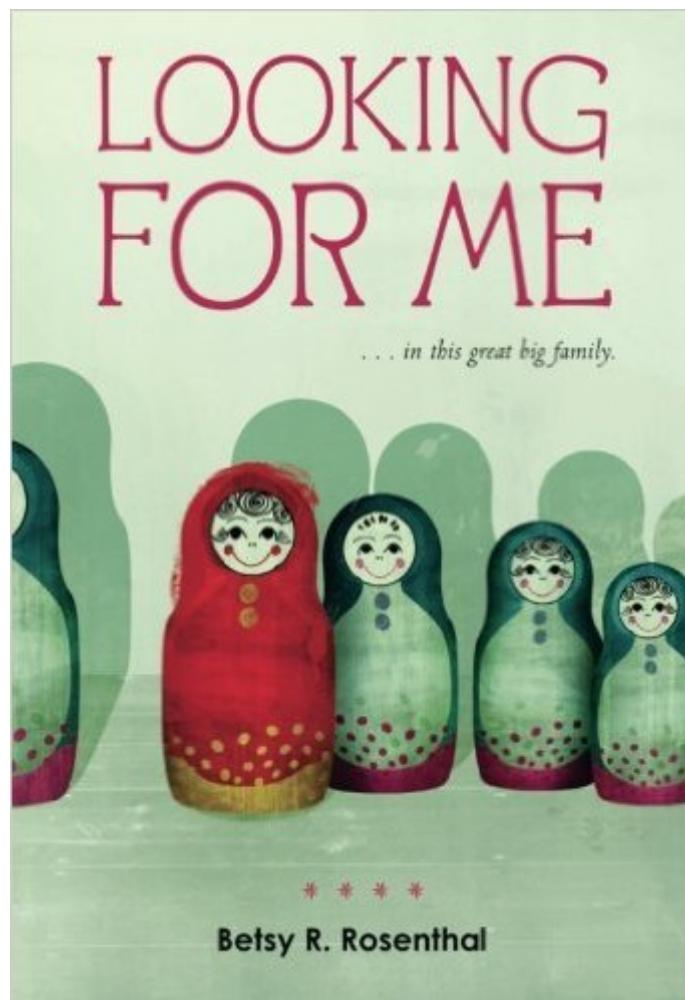


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# Looking For Me: ...in This Great Big Family



## Synopsis

One of twelve siblings growing up in Depression-era Baltimore, Edith isn't quite sure of who she is. Between working at her father's diner, taking care of her younger siblings, and living in the shadow of her more mature sisters, she feels lost in a sea of siblings. When a kind teacher encourages Edith to be a teacher herself one day, Edith sees prospects for a future all her own. Full of joy, pain, humor, and sadness, this novel in verse is an enduring portrait of one family's pursuit of the American dream.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1130 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 10, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544022718

ISBN-13: 978-0544022713

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #436,010 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #155 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #395 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Baby #450 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This collection of poems and vignettes tells the story of Edith who is child number four in a large family in Baltimore circa 1936. Edith is the mother of author Betsy R. Rosenthal who has been able to instill on her daughter the texture and soul of that time and place for a working class Jewish family. Family, food, traditions, births and deaths are presented with unadorned reality as seen through the eyes of a young girl. There is pathos and humor but all enfolded in a close knit household where the common thread is love. There is a short piece that tells of Edith's father going to his mother's house, Bubby Anne, on Tuesdays for the gefilte fish that may be a little boney. The family lives on a street with mostly Catholics so there is a short verse on how difficult it can be to

keep Kosher with all the bacon, shrimp, crab and pickled pig's feet being offered when Edith visits friends after school. When her friend Eunice offers a kielbasa or a ham sandwich and Edith must refuse she expounds that she's "a picky eater". In reality Edith doesn't want her eating rules to get in the way of play. As the family grows Edith must work harder and harder to maintain her autonomy. There is a description of sharing the tub; back to school clothes she describes as hand-me-down down down down downs, her desire to sleep "one to a bed" and not waking with feet in her face; her wish to spread her arms wide and not be told she can't. Each small poem highlights a slice of life in the days and times of long ago Baltimore for a little girl who we can't help but admire. The book ends with Edith being fearful that her family won't attend her school achievement ceremony where she will be getting an award.

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