

Gertrude Chandler Warner (April 16, 1890 – August 30, 1979)

Gertrude Chandler Warner was an American author, mainly of children's stories. She was most famous for writing the original book of [The Boxcar Children](#) and for the next eighteen books in the series. Warner was born on April 16, 1890, in [Putnam, Connecticut](#), to Edgar Morris Warner and Jane Elizabeth (Carpenter) Warner. Her family included an older sister, Frances, and a younger brother, John. From the age of five, Warner dreamed of being a famous author, and began writing in ten-cent blank books as soon as she was able to hold a pencil. Her first book was an imitation of [Florence Kate Upton's Golliwog](#) stories and was titled *Golliwog at the Zoo*. It "consisted of verses illustrated with watercolors of the two Dutch clocks and the Golliwag." Warner presented this book to her grandfather, and every Christmas afterwards, she would give him a hand-made book as a present.

While growing up, Warner loved to read, and her favorite book was [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#). Being in a musical family, she was predisposed to play an instrument; in her case, she chose the [cello](#), and her father bought her a cello kit at a young age. However, because of her frequent illnesses, Warner never finished [high school](#). After leaving in her [sophomore](#) year, she learned from a tutor and finished her secondary education. In 1918, while she was teaching [Sunday School](#), Warner was called to teach first grade, mainly because male teachers were being called to serve in World War I. Warner continued teaching as a grade school teacher in Putnam, CT from 1918-1950. Also during this time, she returned to school for education courses at Yale University summer school. Warner never married. In 1962 she moved to a brown-shingled house, and lived there with her companion, a retired nurse. In her later life, before she died at age 89, Warner became a volunteer for the [American Red Cross](#), the Connecticut Cancer Society and other charitable organizations. She is buried in Grove Street Cemetery, Putnam, Connecticut.

Take a Walk in Gertrude Chandler Warner's Footsteps

1. **42 South Main Street**- Miss Warner lived here from 1890 to 1928.
2. Israel Putnam School, **97 School Street**- Miss Warner taught at this school for 32 years.
3. **106 South Main Street**- Miss Warner lived in this house from 1928 to 1933. (5th house from corner)
4. **16 Wilkinson Street**- Miss Warner's third residence.
5. **22 Ring Street**- Most of her books were written in this house, which she called "The Acorn". This is the last house that she lived in.
6. Grove Street Cemetery- Enter on Grove Street using main entrance (Evergreen). Miss Warner's grave is in the last section on the left.

Other Important Places for Miss Warner

Putnam Congregational Church, 175 Main Street, Putnam, CT

Putnam Public Library, 225 Kennedy Drive, Putnam, CT

Gertrude Chandler Warner Library, Putnam Elementary School, 33 Wicker Street, Putnam, CT