

## ***Carrying Albert Home* by Homer Hickam Book Club or Community Read Toolbox**

For more information, please see  
<http://homerhickam.com>

Homer's latest book *Carrying Albert Home*  
is the story of a classic love triangle.

Homer (the author's father) loves Elsie.

Elsie (the author's mother) loves Albert. Simple.

Except there's a difference to this ménage à trois,  
a rather large, scaly one. Albert is, well, an *alligator*.

This is a story about Elsie and Homer's epic adventure with the alligator named Albert (and, for no apparent reason, a rooster), where everything is true, except the bits that are made up.

Told with the warmth and down-home charm that made *Rocket Boys* a beloved bestseller, Homer Hickam's rollicking novel is truly a testament to that strange and marvelous emotion we call *love*.



## **Carrying Albert Home Discussion Questions**

*These are suggested questions to be used by book clubs who choose Carrying Albert Home.*

(1) Do you think the marriage of two young people like Elsie and Homer would last today?

(2) What is your opinion of Elsie and Homer? Did you like them both equally? Did you understand their motivations? How were they different?

(3) Did you like Albert? If so, what made him likable? Do you think a real alligator would act that way?



(4) Why do you think John Steinbeck and Ernest Hemingway have cameos in the novel? Did you like the way Hickam wrote about them?

(5) Although the novel states that the rooster's purpose in the story is not entirely understood, do you have an opinion about why he made the journey? Did he represent something more than himself?

(6) Did the novel make you want to put an alligator in a washtub in the backseat of your car and go on a 1000-mile road trip? In these times, what do you think would happen if you did?

(7) Hickam says that in the process of writing the novel, he came to understand that the stories his parents told him about Albert were their "witness and testimony to what is heaven's greatest and perhaps only true gift, that strange and marvelous emotion we inadequately call love." Do you agree this was a love story?

(8) Why do you think Homer loved Elsie so much? What about her was lovable? Do you think Elsie loved Homer?

(9) Why do you think Buddy Ebsen sent Elsie the alligator?

(10) Why do you think Huddie and Slick kept popping up in the novel?

(11) Why ever the rooster?

### Decorating Ideas:

<http://www.orientaltrading.com/web/search/searchMain?Ntt=alligator>

We especially like the large inflatable alligator and the bookmarks! Much more there.

### On Amazon.com, all kinds of things:

[http://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_2?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=alligator](http://smile.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_2?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=alligator) We like the stickers, the chocolate molds for gator candy, gator gummies and the plush stuffed gators.

### Google alligator cakes!

<https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search; ylt=A0LEVip7pNNVVGQADbAnnllQ; ylu=X3oDMTEwcTc4aWkwBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNxc3MtcXJ3?ei=UTF-8&hsimp=yhs-001&hspart=mozilla&fr=yhs-mozilla-001&p=alligator+cakes+photos&fr2=12642>

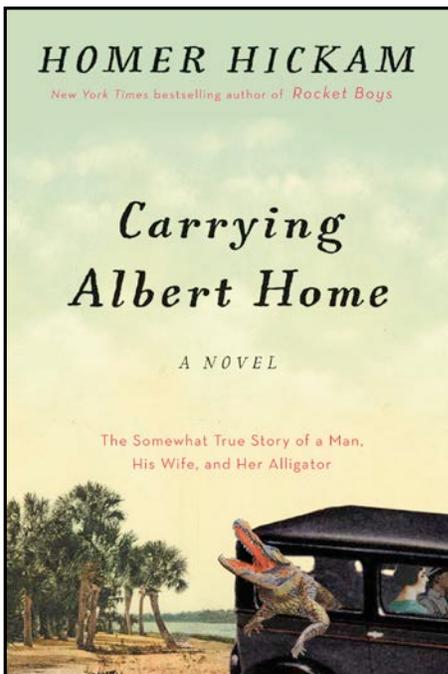
### On Pinterest, see Alligator Rides among others!

<http://www.shop.com/Pet+Supplies/pet+alligator?k=60> There are many cute alligator dog toys available, even at PetSmart

### Information on alligators, just google, here is one:

<http://www.liveanimalslist.com/reptiles/crocodiles-and-alligators.php>

**Foreign languages available** - Please search for them by title and publisher. Some will come out a few months later than the October 2015 USA hardcover:



Three English versions, American, International (for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and such and United Kingdom for England  
Dutch: HarperCollins Holland  
Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish: HarperCollins Nordic  
French: Mosaic imprint  
German: HarperCollins Germany  
Hungarian: HarperCollins Hungary  
Italian: HM imprint  
Japanese: HarperCollins Japan  
Spanish: HarperCollins Iberica  
Portuguese in Portugal: HarperCollins Iberica  
Portuguese in Brazil: HarperCollins Brazil  
China: (simplified characters) United Sky.

**Other versions available:** Reader's Digest  
Condensed Books, Audio, ebooks, Large Print

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**Connect:**

**Email:** [H3Hickam@homerhickam.com](mailto:H3Hickam@homerhickam.com)

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*Albert visits a West Virginia book club*

