

# Life With Willie, The Weeping Willow Tree

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I dedicate this book to all abandoned and  
orphaned children in the world.

Willie was a magic, weeping willow tree, who could move from one place to another. He moved whenever and wherever he heard a child's cry for help. The Wide Wings Orphanage was one of those places where he heard cries.



The Wide Wings Orphanage had stood alone on two acres of land in the country near a small town in northern California for a very long time before Willie the weeping willow tree graced the land with his magnificent presence. There wasn't another building or residence within a mile of the large stately house, and only a few small trees and bushes surrounded the orphanage.

When Miss Emma Stanton bought the orphanage, she cut down the large trees in the yard and used them for firewood. She didn't like big trees because they filled the yard with leaves each autumn. She didn't even consider the cool shade that they provided during the summer months. All she thought about was the falling leaves.

The once-clean, white paint on the outside of the eight-bedroom, three-bath orphanage became grubby and was beginning to flake and peel due to neglect. The inside wasn't much better. However, the graying, white walls and light-brown hardwood floors were clean. Emma Stanton made sure that every room was clean. She didn't really care if the orphanage was clean; she just wanted the children to stay busy.

Once a week, Miss Stanton would go to town to shop for groceries, but she never bought anything to brighten up the orphanage. The children of Wide Wings asked Miss Stanton a few times if they could go to town with her, but she always said no.



Henrietta Baines came to live at Wide Wings Orphanage on a hot summer day. At that time she was only ten years old. Now, she is twelve and the eldest of the ten children at the orphanage; their ages range from two years to twelve years.

She took care of the young children's personal needs such as helping with their baths, brushing their hair, and making sure that their teeth were brushed after each meal.

