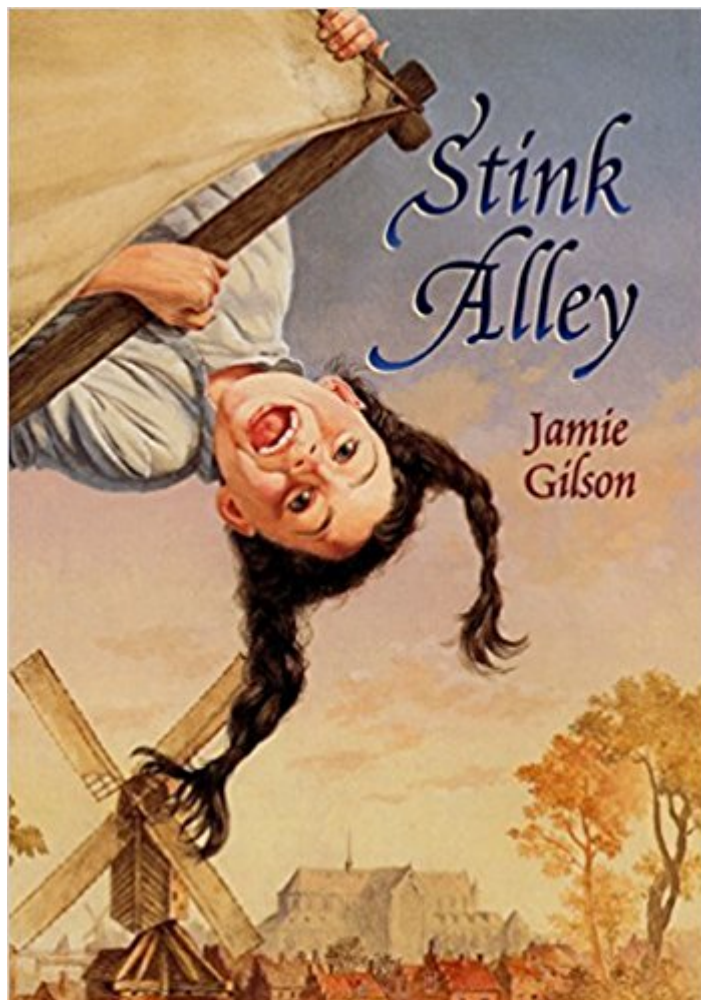


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# Stink Alley



## Synopsis

The year is 1614. Recently orphaned Lizzy Tinker has lived half of her twelve years in Holland, but she does not feel at home there. Lizzy belongs to a small congregation of religious refugees who have fled England in order to worship as they choose. The Dutch people enjoy a free and easy lifestyle that Master William Brewster constantly admonishes his austere English Pilgrims to resist. Many find this difficult, including Lizzy. Although the Brewsters took her in when her father died, she doesn't feel at home with them either. Her undisciplined tongue always seems to get her in trouble. What is more, Lizzy has a talent for cooking, and she loves making sinfully delicious Dutch cookies and cakes. Her kitchen craft has landed her a job cooking for a Dutch family whose precocious eight-year-old son has a stubborn nature, artistic talent, and nose for trouble even greater than Lizzy's own. Heaven help her now! With meticulous research and great imagination, Jamie Gilson has created an authentic, entertaining story that brings to life seventeenth-century Holland and the unique culture that fostered both the Mayflower Pilgrims and master painters such as Rembrandt.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6 Lizzy and a group of about 150 other Puritans fled England for Leiden, Holland, in 1608, to escape the Church of England and practice their own religion. After her father's death, William Brewster, head of the Separatist movement, takes in Lizzy. In contrast to the carefree, fun-filled life

that Dutch children live, she is expected to work every day and to avoid the temptations of Satan. But the 12-year-old finds a bit of adventure and a great deal of trouble with an 8-year-old boy who likes to draw. Embarrassed by his odd name, readers must wait until the end of the story to find out that he is none other than Rembrandt. Lizzy is an appealingly feisty child (the only one to ride the windmill all the way around), and the story provides a glimpse of life in a time and place for which not much else is available. The title and Gilson's reputation will attract readers. A historical note explains what happened to the Separatists and Rembrandt, and the author's speculation about Lizzy's future in the years following this novel. -Jeanette Larson, Texas State Library, Austin  
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Jamie Gilson has written sixteen books, all of them about children, most of them about children in school. And the elementary school where she gets many of her ideas is Central, which all three Gilson children attended. While Tom and Anne are now lawyers and Matthew a photographer, their mother still goes to Central School classes, notebook in hand, looking for stories. She describes Central's cafeteria in *Do Bananas Chew Gum?*, its Spit Pit in *Thirteen Ways to Sink a Sub*, and the contents of some of its fourth grade desks in *Hobie Hanson, You're Weird*. Central students have taught her how to sing "Jingle Bells, Batman Smells," how to chew a mint so it sparks in the dark, and how to play soccer on a field of mud. She spent two weeks with the whole fifth grade class while, in a kind of total immersion, they studied the Western Movement. On the first day the boys and girls found out who they'd be married to for those two weeks. Then they took pioneer identities, joined a wagon train, chose supplies, decided whether to cross a rushing river at midnight, made pumpkin butter, dipped candles, and built mock fires with fake buffalo chips. They had a wonderful time--mostly. Jamie wrote a book about it: *Wagon Train 911*. "It's true, though," she says, "that while Central is very special to me, every school is brimming with rich stories. I talk with children all over the country about my writing, and the one question they always ask is, 'Witt you put us in a book?' If I were there long enough, I expect I could." Jamie Gilson's professional life has always involved writing and communications. Formerly a teacher of junior high school speech and English, she was a staff writer and producer for Chicago Board of Education radio station WBEZ, a writer of Encyclopaedia Britannica films, and continuity director for fine arts radio station WFMT. She was, for ten years, a monthly columnist for Chicago magazine. Born in Beardstown, Illinois, Jamie Gilson spent her early years in small towns in Illinois and Missouri where her father worked as a flour miller. After graduating from Northwestern University School of Speech, she married Jerome Gilson, then a law student and now a trademark lawyer. They live within sight and sound of Lake Michigan

in a suburb of Chicago.

A book used by us for our homeschool reading. It was a cute book, but the kids felt the end didn't tie up well. Nothing really offensive about it at all, though.

My children enjoyed this book.

this book is very interesting. the book shows how a 12-year old pilgrim girl tries not to succumb to the culture of Holland. the girl, who is Elizabeth tinker, also called Lizzy, is brought into William Brewster's house after her papa and stepmother dies. she struggles to follow William Brewster, who is the leader of their separatist group. even brewster has brought her in, she doesn't feel home with them either. Master brewster is very strict, and always says that her father corrupted her. the life of a 12 year old pilgrim girl is very interesting if you read this book. i recommend this book for ages 8-14 year old kids.

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