

Book Critic: Harper Q.



Title: *Moon Over Manifest*

Author: Clare Vanderpool

Genre: Fiction



Big Idea (This book is REALLY about...):

This book is about Abilene, a girl who's father left her abandoned at a town from his past, (page 1-8) Manifest, and trying to uncover a mystery, and along the way discovering people who you could trust, unlikely friendships and surprises, and realizing where you belong.



Summary (Leave the ending a mystery!):

When Gideon Tucker leaves his daughter, Abilene, in a small town from his childhood, Abilene is left confused and basically lost. But when she finds a cigar box with old mementos and a fortuneteller who could reveal the past of these objects, a mystery unfolds, and a surprising ending. Abilene's teacher gives her a story to write to get a grade for her class, and though Abilene has to go through a lot of mystery and the unknown, she realized that this town, Manifest, is where she really belongs. Although there is sadness, confusion, and joy, she realizes that everything happens for a reason, and that this was just what made life so beautiful.



Best Quote: How does it relate to the big idea for the book?

"For those of us who made it home, let us always remember. And for those who didn't come home, let us never forget."

-Clare Vanderpool, page 336

This quote relates to the big idea of the story by showing that even when there is sadness, you can always find joy and happiness and that sometimes, the littlest things in life could affect you the most, and that life will go on.



How does the main character(s) change over the course of the story?

Abilene: Abilene is abandoned at her father's childhood town, and she is lonely and unsure, and very alone. But as the story progresses, Abilene begins to realize who she can trust, and that friendship can come from unlikely places. (Ruthanne and Lettie, page 37, and Miss Sadie, page 55-57) And Abilene begins to understand that life isn't all happiness, that there is also sadness and loss, (page 320) but joy can even be found in the toughest situations.



Unanswered Questions: Will Abilene and Gideon go back to their original home, or stay in Manifest? What, in the very end, happened to Miss Sadie?