



CLARE VANDERPOOL

If you ask anyone who knows me, they will tell you that I have a very strong connection to place. I live in Wichita, Kansas, about four blocks from where I grew up, in an old neighborhood called College Hill. From my house I can walk to my parents' house, my sister's house, the school I went to, the pool, the sledding hill, and two bookstores! I grew up reading many wonderful books in a lot of strange places. Books like *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and *Island of the Blue Dolphins* in places like dressing rooms, the bathroom, and church. (Like you never read a book in church.)

While I do have a college degree in English and Elementary Education, my best education has come from reading, listening to family stories, looking out the car window on road trips, pretending to be pirates with my brother, and just plain imagining.

Besides writing I like to go to the pool with my kids, browse at the bookstore, have a neighbor over for tea, watch re-runs of *Monk*, take the dogs for a walk, and go out for dinner with my husband. Life is good.

For more about Clare, visit:

WWW.CLAREVANDERPOOL.COM



LET'S TALK

1. Abeline says Shady has a mis-matched or a jigsaw life. What do you think she means by that? Can a person be more than one thing?
2. Think about the attire of the diviner, Miss Sadie, and the nun, Sister Redempta. Why do you think the author compares the two on page 172? Do you believe two people with such differing backgrounds and life choices can be alike and even friends?
3. Now that you have been through a quarantine this year, think about your community. How does it work together at this time? What things changed? What stayed the same? Where there any events planned to keep children occupied or busy? How is our 2020 quarantine like the 1918 one in Manifest and how is it different?
4. Names have great importance in this book: the name of the town, people, and businesses all seem to have more than one meaning. List some names that interest you. Look them up in a dictionary. Are the meanings what you expected? If you were writing a story what names would you use and why? Compare the names Gideon and Jinx.
5. Why does Gideon send Abilene away to Manifest? Is he being a good father? Why do the town folk not tell her about her father right away?
6. Do you think hearing the stories of "Jinx" instead of "Gideon" change the way Abilene thinks about her Dad?

LET'S CREATE

Think about the Who, What, Where, When and Why of Hattie May's news articles. Interview a family member or neighbor to find out stories from your town's past. Write up your own "scoop" from the information you discover.

Some questions you could ask;

- What was school like for you?
- Did you walk or have a school bus?
- What was your favorite class and why?
- What did you do in winter for fun?
- Was there a County fair that you attended?
- Were prizes given? Who won?

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LET'S CREATE CONTINUED

Do you keep a box of treasures or have you ever found an old trunk, box or drawer filled with interesting and unexplained items? Choose three items and connect them to a time in history and make your own story about them. Do some research on the time period you choose.

Lettie shared her gingersnap cookies with Ruthanne and Abilene. These cookies were a very special Depression Era treat. You too, can make these yummy cookies! Ask for help from an adult.

GINGER CRINKLES COOKIES

2/3 cup salad oil

1 cup sugar

1 egg

4 TBL molasses

Sift together

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon ginger

After mixing together, refrigerate for 1 hour. Make balls and roll in sugar.

Bake at 350 degrees for 12-15 minutes

LET'S DIG DEEPER

Here is more information with thoughtful questions and activities from Clare's website.

https://clarevanderpool.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/MoonOverManifest_Teachers_Guide.pdf

More about orphan trains similar to Ned's experience.

<https://orphantraindepot.org/history/the-orphan-train-experience/>

Below are some pictures of the 1918 pandemic and a timeline;

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/historical-images.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/milestone-infographic.htm>

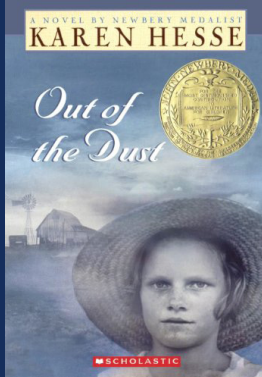
Imagine what it was like for Miss Sadie to leave her son behind at Ellis Island. Below are pictures of what that experience might have looked like.

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/ellis-island#&gid=ci0234684f6000251a&pid=getty-images-486720173>

Below is a DK site with photographs of items from WWI, click around to see and learn more.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/world-war-i/>

LET'S READ MORE



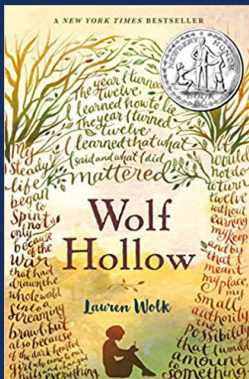
Out of the Dust
by Karen Hesse



Orphan Train Girl
by Christina Baker
Kline



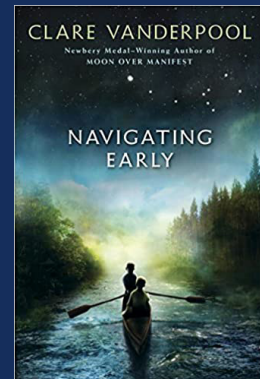
Two Roads
by Joseph Bruchac



Wolf Hollow
by Lauren Wolk



Echo Mountain
by Lauren Wolk



Navigating Early
by Clare Vanderpool