

Chasing Redbird Short Guide

Chasing Redbird by Sharon Creech

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Overview

Thirteen-year-old Zinnia Taylor lives in a rambunctious household. Three brothers and three sisters, all of whom seem to have a noisy way about them, push Zinny through the "dog trot" passage into the quiet sanctuary of the home of her Uncle Nate and Aunt Jessie and cousin Rose. Zinny and Rose are the same age, and she comes to think of Uncle Nate and Aunt Jessie as her second parents. Here Zinny is one of two children until the age of four when she gets whooping cough. Rose gets whooping cough, too, and dies. Aunt Jessie changes after her daughter's death and seems to live in a dream world.

When Aunt Jessie dies, Zinny begins to think that both deaths were her fault and takes on a burden of guilt. She is certain Rose caught whooping cough from her and that she has frightened Aunt Jessie so badly with a snake that she died. Following his wife's death, Uncle Nate's mental condition deteriorates. He chases shadows and mists, certain he is seeing Jessie, saying he is chasing his Redbird, his nickname for her.

Then Zinny's best friend moves away, and she is left with too many siblings, too much noise, and too little room. The discovery of an old trail overgrown with grass and weeds provides the perfect project for her to be alone to sort out her feelings of guilt at being a "murderer." She believes the trail is hers and no one else's and becomes obsessed with clearing the trail, all twenty miles of it, and planting zinnia seeds the full length. Zinny says, At the time, I thought this idea dropped down out of the blue, and I didn't know it would become so important. It didn't occur to me that I might be escaping something or even chasing something. It didn't occur to me that it would seem selfish. As for the zinnias and naming the trail after myself—well, I suppose I wanted to be known as something other than the strangest and stingiest dirt-daubing doodlebug, as something more than a little mashed-up fritter at the bottom of the pot. I suppose I wanted people to know exactly which Taylor I was, and for me to be something other than "Zinnia Taylor: killer."

Uncle Jake tries to dissuade her and she wonders why he does not want her up on the trail. Was he meeting someone up there, and he did not want anyone to know?

Besides the voids created by her losses, there is Jake Boone, recently returned to Bybanks, Kentucky, with his mother. Jake clerks at Mrs. Flint's general store and develops a special interest in Zinny. He begins giving her gifts, starting with cookies at the store, a hundred bottle caps, a stolen dog, a cricket, a small carved horse, and, ultimately, his mother's ruby and diamond ring. Zinny is suspicious of his intentions. Other boys have befriended her when they really were interested in her older sisters, especially, May. Zinny is not about to be made a fool of again, especially when May already wants to be Jake's girlfriend.

Zinny gains permission from her parents to clear the trail and sets about the task with a niggling sense of mystery as she uncovers stone after stone on the trail. She has plenty of time to think about her family, Jake, Uncle Nate, Aunt Jessie, and Cousin Rose. By



the time school is out she has cleared four miles, but those miles start stretching out when she devotes each day to clearing the trail. She finally progresses so far that it takes too much time to walk to the end each morning and back home in the evening, so she convinces her parents that she should be allowed to camp along the trail. They insist on some conditions to insure her safety, and she agrees to come home every ten days.

Time stretches out before Zinny as she sets up camp and works on the trail. She encounters some unsavory characters one evening, and sometime later she stumbles into the path of a bear.

There was another source of unease, more difficult to explain. Several times I glimpsed a fluttering at the corner of my sight, or a moving shadow, or a spot of color—often red—as of someone's sleeve or cap, ducking behind a tree. I'd halt, wait, listen, suspecting that someone was near, watching me, spying on me. Sometimes I thought it was Aunt Jessie I was seeing, and that she was there in the woods, watching over me.

Small items that make life a little easier appear in her camp site. She is fortified and reassured by her Dad's "visits" when he hitches rides with the pilot of a crop duster and keeps watch on her and her progress.

When day ten arrives and she heads home, she is surprised by her own eagerness to go home. She is not sure whether she should stay the night or just grace them with her presence for a few minutes. She thinks they might be happier with her gone and annoyed if she comes back and gets in everyone's way. On her way down the hill she sees Jake Boone on the trail and calls out to him. Then she discovers that he has been "watching over" her as he puts it, and that he was the one responsible for the sudden appearance of the items she had forgotten.

She is annoyed with him for "protecting her" and annoyed with herself for sounding nasty. She is happy that he had wanted to protect her but suffers conflicting feelings and emotions she cannot understand.

Zinny's quick thinking saves her from harm when she meets two teenage boys who are drinking and hunting. A mother bear and her cub become a metaphor for Zinny when she thinks of the times Aunt Jessie stepped in between Zinny and her mother. She had always thought her mother did not care, but maybe Zinny was wrong, maybe her mother had been angry like the bear. Tired and hungry, Zinny wants to sleep but slips and falls from the tree where she has taken refuge from the angry bear. In a tired and demented state she follows Aunt Jessie out of the woods to a clearing. Zinny lies down in the clearing and sleeps till daybreak then finds a cabin. She looks through a crack in the shuttered windows and sees Aunt Jessie's coat. The joy and horror of seeing the coat propels her down the hill to the pasture where she cuts a fence, mounts a horse pastured there, and rides for home. Her family is leaving for the circus, and she stays behind to look after Uncle Nate. After they are gone, she puts him on the horse and takes him to the cabin, where the mystery unraveled.



Zinny and Jake discover they like each other, and a meaningful friendship develops. The zinnias grow and bloom along the trail, and visitors follow the trail and find Zinny's house. In the end, the whole family loses their privacy as strangers start using the trail. "One day two women clomped onto the porch, asking to use the bathroom.

"There's no facilities on that trail,' they said."

About the Author

Sharon Creech was born July 29, 1945, in Cleveland, Ohio. She grew up as part of a "big, noisy family... with hordes of relatives telling stories around the kitchen table," she explained in the *Seventh Book of Junior Authors & Illustrators*. She was an enthusiastic writer all through her school years and loved paper, pencils, and pens. A voracious reader, she was particularly interested in American Indian myths, Greek myths, and the King Arthur legends.

Creech earned a bachelor's degree from Hiram College, a master's from George Mason University in Washington, D.C., then worked at the Federal Theater Project Archives, and as an editor at the *Congressional Quarterly*. In 1979, as a divorced mother of two children, she accepted a teaching position in Thorpe, England, at the TESIS England American School. There she met Lyle D. Rigg, head master, and three years later they married.

Creech lived in Europe for twenty-plus years but maintained her American citizenship and a summer home at Chautauqua Lake, New York. She and her husband recently returned to the United States and live near Princeton, New Jersey. Most of that time she has taught at the international school in England and its sister school in Switzerland. Experiences from that period prompted her to write about the effect those schools and places had on her and her family and all the students she has met over the years. Bloomability was the result.

In "A Guide to Teaching Sharon Creech's *Walk Two Moons*, *Chasing Redbird*, and *Bloomability*," Creech makes these statements about herself. "I have a tremendous affection for the people I grew up with and the places I've lived. My rowdy and noisy family was definitely the model for the Taylors in *Chasing Redbird*. I have three brothers and one sister. When I was growing up LOADS of relatives and friends were always roaming through the house."

Creech says that much of her inspiration comes from her time spent at school: Some of my material comes from my experiences with students. Seeing students here at our school going through such angst brings back vivid memories of that tumbling time! As a teenager, I always thought that everyone else knew something that I didn't; that there must be a manual out there that I didn't have access to! I still feel that way some days.

For *Walk Two Moons* I leaned heavily on two things from my own childhood: one was an early love of Native American mythology and the second was a trip my family took from Ohio to Idaho in 1957.

Sal's trek across the U.S. was a way for me to write about parents and children, and about my home country.

Setting

Chasing Redbird is set on a farm near Bybanks, Kentucky. Zinny lives in her family's home which is yoked to her Uncle Nate's and Aunt Jessie's home. One home, Zinny's, is filled with life, noise, and people. The other is quiet, filled with samplers on the walls and a more genteel way of life that attracts Zinny. She shares a bedroom with two older sisters who treat her as though she is more than a little strange.

This is a rural community where everyone knows everyone, and Zinny feels she has no privacy.

Sorrow influences the lives of the Taylors.

Two untimely deaths create introspection and guilt for Zinny. Counterbalancing the sorrow is the crazy way Uncle Nate acts after the death of his daughter and then his wife. Unable to fully accept the loss, he chases his "Redbird", Jessie, and bushwhacks snakes or anything resembling a snake. He runs through the fields and hills surrounding the farm chasing his Redbird.

A boisterous household of children, preschool through teens, contrasts with the "quiet as a tomb" house next door. It provides the backdrop for a close-knit family who love each other and think it strange of Zinny to want to be alone. The antics of the younger boys are humorous.

The trail begins on her family's farm and ends in Chocton, Kentucky, twenty miles away. It symbolizes Zinny's search for adulthood, responsibility, learning about who she is. As it stretches between the two points, Zinny stretches. She learns independence.

She becomes comfortable with herself. She becomes introspective and comes to terms with the guilt, self-doubt, and selfishness that are a part of her being. When the trail is completed and the mysteries are solved, Zinny becomes magnanimous, sharing the trail with strangers.



Social Sensitivity

This is a coming of age novel. Readers will identify with Zinny's search for a place that is hers, a place she need not share with others. They will understand the emotional upheaval experienced with the advent of puberty. Many may understand separation through the moving of a friend or death of someone very close. Jealousy is an emotion common to young people. It may be jealousy between siblings or the jealousy of a mother because of her child's intimate relationship with someone else when she wants to be the confidante. Readers may see their own lives as a journey of discovery as they examine the metaphor for Zinny's journey of discovery as she uncovers the physical trail in a literal journey between Bybanks and Chocton.



Literary Qualities

Creech writes with an easy use of figurative language and folksy comments which create vivid images for the reader. The first person account allows the reader to vicariously experience Zinny's struggle to find her place in a large family, cope with grief and guilt, and accept the friendship of Jake.

The use of flashbacks help the reader understand the guilt Zinny feels for the death of her Aunt Jessie and cousin Rose.

This device also helps the reader understand the misadventures and misdeeds of Jake Boone as he tries to win her friendship.



Themes and Characters

Creech develops several strong themes in *Chasing Redbird*. Perhaps the strongest is the coming-of-age theme. Zinnia Taylor is thirteen years old. She must learn to handle new emotions involving issues of boyfriends and death, space to be herself, know herself, and control over her life.

Another theme addresses some of the unsettling emotions of puberty; her attraction to Jake Boone, her dislike of Jake Boone, her hope that he really does like her and not May, and her fear that he is only using her to get close to May. At the same time she loves her family and cannot bear to be with her family. Changes in the way her body looks cause discomfort. She has a need for privacy in a space that is all hers, a place to keep her personal possessions and treasures. These are themes common to young people Zinny's age.

Another theme is separation and loss.

Young people lose people who are close to them. Death may be one cause. It may be separation for a variety of reasons. For Zinny, it is the death of her beloved Cousin Rose and Aunt Jesse, people close to her. Her life has become introspective and riddled with guilt as she sorts through her emotions. She must come to terms with their deaths. Feeling certain she is the cause of both deaths makes her feel unworthy to be alive herself.

Young people may have similar feelings of guilt because they are alive when close friends meet an untimely death.

Zinny Taylor is a feisty thirteen-year-old. She is a strong character with definite ideas about right and wrong, the importance of friends, and sensitivity towards her Uncle Nate and Aunt Jessie. She is determined, maybe a little headstrong, and she definitely becomes obsessive. She resents being treated as a child by her two older sisters, with whom she shares a bedroom. She pretends to be asleep so she can listen in on their conversations and takes special delight in "knowing" that Jake Boone's gifts and attentions are for her and not May.

As the story begins, Zinny is unsure of who she is and unsure of her place in her family and her responsibility for the death of her Aunt Jessie and cousin, Rose. As the story progresses she becomes more self-sufficient, introspective, and courageous as she tackles the clearing of the trail at the back of their farm. As the days and weeks pass, Zinny becomes self-assured and learns the truth about her Aunt Jessie's death. She learns to talk to and listen to her parents.

She finds joy in the fact that she really does like Jake Boone and that the feeling is mutual.



Jake Boone, a tall broad-shouldered boy of sixteen with short dark hair, moves back to Bybanks with his mother and immediately wants to renew his acquaintance with Zinny. He gives her a box of bottle caps to add to her collection, a puppy, a small wooden horse, and finally his mother's diamond and ruby ring. Jake is a man with a mission, too. He cares about Zinny even if she rejects his overtures of friendship. He cares so much that he watches over her at night as she camps on the trail. He places little things at her camp site that she neglected to pack. At first there was a cup amid the cans of beans, then a can opener, and finally a bar of soap. Zinny was worried about her brain because she could not remember bringing any of those things.

Uncle Nate is the brother of Zinny's father. He and Aunt Jessie welcome Zinny into their home as if she were their daughter. Jessie's life is bound up in that of her daughter Rose, and when Rose dies of whooping cough, Aunt Jessie seems unable to continue living. Following his wife's death, Uncle Nate's behavior becomes erratic. He sees things that are not there. He is certain Jessie, his Redbird, is out there somewhere and chases over the farm and into the hills in search of her. His mind seems more and more removed from reality, which causes Zinny and her family much concern.

Zinny's parents and family live on her grandparent's farm. Her father and Uncle Nate inherited the property. Her mother seems preoccupied with work responsibilities and caring for a large family. Zinny thinks her mother is happy to have one less child to think about, thus glad Zinny is with Uncle Nate and Aunt Jessie. Her father is occupied with earning a living to support his large family. He does display an understanding of Zinny's need for space and consents to her adventure. Her mother consents only after extracting promises and conditions from Zinny. Dad shows parental love and concern when he hitches a frequent ride with a local crop duster to check on Zinny.

Zinny's siblings are all background characters, a supporting cast. They are rambunctious, noisy, and sometimes demanding of each other. Her two older sisters must share their room with Zinny. They view her with disdain and talk about her when they think she is asleep. May is certain that Jake's attentions and presents are really for her, not Zinny, and Zinny is too thick-headed to know it.



Topics for Discussion

1. What is your interpretation of the saying in Aunt Jessie's kitchen? "Life is a bowl of spaghetti . . . every now and then you get a meatball."
2. What other sayings have you heard people use to describe life? What saying can you create to describe life?
3. In chapter four we meet Jake Boone.

The chapter title is "One-Day Special"; explain why the day is special. What is your impression of Jake?

4. Zinny has felt guilty about the death of Rose since she was four, and now she is adding guilt for her Aunt Jessie's death.

She believes she is responsible for both.

In chapter ten she decides she cannot tell anyone about it. She keeps the secret to herself and thinks of herself as, "Zinnia Taylor: killer." Why does she think she is responsible? What advice would you give her?

5. Chapter ten tells us how different members of the family reacted to Aunt Jessie's death. How are they coping with her death and their grief? What is grief?
6. Zinny confuses clearing the trail with punishment and redemption for killing Aunt Jessie. Read her thoughts in the last paragraphs of chapter ten. What is your reaction?
7. Jake keeps giving unusual gifts to Zinny.
Why? What is his motive? In chapter eleven he gives her a turtle. What kind of gift is a turtle for a girl?
8. In a flashback Zinny remembers Aunt Jessie's reaction to the plastic rose in the flower garden. It was not what Zinny expected. Why did Aunt Jessie think it was a mean and nasty thing to do? Why did Zinny put it there?
9. Is it wrong to lie? Zinny lies about Bingo when she returns him to his owners because she suspects Jake stole Bingo. Why did she lie? Is it wrong?

Was there an alternative?

10. Why does Zinny not believe that Jake likes her instead of May? In the last paragraphs of chapter seventeen, Jake voices his intent. How does Zinny react? In chapter nineteen she says "my mind got all mixed up. What was I supposed to do? And how did I feel about Jake?" How do you think Zinny feels about Jake? Zinny really



thinks she is unlovable. Why? Have you ever felt unlovable? What made you feel that way?

11. All this time Uncle Nate has been chasing his Redbird and acting crazy. How would you handle him? How would you convince him that he is not seeing Jessie, his Redbird?

12. Jake gives Zinny the ultimate present, a diamond and ruby ring belonging to his mother. Zinny hides it and then it is gone from the hiding place. What could have happened to it?

13. Uncle Nate talks to Zinny about the trail and wants to know if she has seen any snakes. He tells her Aunt Jessie would not have wanted her up there.

Zinny has mixed emotions about his remark and trouble sorting out her emotions about the trail. Why is the trail so important to her?

14. Earlier, Zinny had convinced herself that the entire trail was a public right-of-way. In chapter twenty-three she comes to a fence. What does the fence mean? What does trespassing mean?

How does Zinny reconcile her behavior?

15. Zinny devises a "plan" for camping on the trail for the rest of the summer. She and her parents have a very interesting conversation when she broaches the camping subject. They really have a fairly frank talk and expose their feelings to each other, perhaps for the first time. Why have they avoided this kind of discussion before now? How do you communicate with your parents?

16. Zinny finally sets off alone to camp and work the trail. Why is it important for her to be alone? Have you ever felt like Zinny? How did you handle the situation?

17. Does Zinny imagine things or does she really see the shadow of someone else in the woods? If someone is there, who could it be?

18. Alone, Zinny has lots of time for reflection. She thinks about her first memories. What is your earliest memory?

Share it with your peers.

19. Reread chapter twenty-nine. Zinny has a case of the "what ifs". "I kept thinking that if I'd never been born...." Are any of these events her fault? Do you ever think, what if? What kinds of thoughts start you down that path of thinking?

20. At the end of the tenth day on the trail, Zinny starts home and catches Jake spying on her. How does she feel about his spying? Compare her feelings and emotions about going home with the emotions she has when she gets home.



21. Why does Jake do foolish things to impress Zinny and why will Zinny not allow herself to be impressed?

22. Zinny has a conversation with herself about Jake and her worries about Jake.

Why is Jake's behavior ambiguous, neither all right nor all wrong?

23. When Zinny arrives home she discovers Uncle Nate is not well, and she is pressed into sitting with him during the night. While he sleeps Zinny starts snooping. Why is she snooping? What does she hope to discover as she plays detective? She becomes spooked and puts a pillow over Uncle Nate's face. Why? What is wrong with her to make her act this way?

24. Near the beginning of chapter thirtysix, Zinny asks herself some pretty hard questions. What are the answers?

25. In this same chapter Zinny encounters the teen boys. She is in real danger. What do you think of the way she handled the situation? She lied to them. How do you feel about that?

26. Zinny asks herself why she cannot give up the trail and go home. Help her answer this question.

27. Chapter forty-two is titled, "The Cabin." Explain the cabin. What does Zinny learn in it about Uncle Nate, Aunt Jessie, and herself?

28. Why did life stop for Uncle Nate and Aunt Jessie after the death of Rose? Why did life go on for Zinny?

29. How did Zinny rid herself of the guilt she carried?

30. What kind of life do you envision for Zinny?



Ideas for Reports and Papers

1. As you read *Chasing Redbird*, pretend to be Zinny and keep a journal.
2. Draw a picture to illustrate Zinny's and Uncle Nate's houses.
3. Squirt gardens are described early in the book. Design your own squirt garden.
4. Chapter seven tells how Zinny discovered the trail and started clearing it. Investigate the area where you live. Are there any trails there that you might learn about? Do some research on a trail and plan to hike a portion of the trail. Keep a journal of your experience on the trail.
5. Zinny talks a little about her collections in chapter eight. Do you collect? What do you collect? Why? Set a date when those who collect can bring a collection to school to share.
6. In chapter ten, the doctor said diabetes killed Aunt Jessie. How could that be? Find out about diabetes. What is it? How does it affect the body? How is it treated? How does a person get it?
7. Jake gave a cricket as a present to Zinny so she could tell the temperature. Can we really use a mathematical formula and a cricket to determine the outside temperature? Find out and share with your peers.
8. Zinny has to have a fire for cooking. Write instructions for starting a fire.
9. Make a list of the essentials you would need for a ten-day camping trip.
10. In chapter twenty-eight Creech describes a beautiful morning following a night of fitful dreams for Zinny. Choose an art medium and artistic style to illustrate that description. If you feel you do not have the artistic ability, find pictures in old magazines to cut and paste into a collage. Display your work for others to enjoy.
11. In chapters twenty-seven and twentyeight Zinny's dreams get confused with reality. Why does she experience confusion? Why do we dream? Do dreams have meaning? Do some research on dreams. Choose a medium for sharing your information with your peers.
12. Write a letter to Zinny and give her some advice about safety issues with strangers and what she should do to keep herself safe.
13. She meets up with the bear and her cub.

What should you do if you meet a bear?



Find out how to protect yourself. Create a safety poster to illustrate your findings and share it with your peers.

14. Create a VENN diagram comparing Zinny and her older sister, May.

15. Create a VENN diagram comparing Zinny and Jake.

16. Create a VENN diagram comparing Zinny at the beginning of the story to herself at the end of the story.

17. Buy a packet of zinnia seeds at a garden shop. Till a sunny spot and plant them.

Read about zinnias. Is there something special about them that would prompt Zinny's mother to name her Zinnia?

18. Zinny's name, Zinnia, is an unusual one. How did your parents choose your name?



For Further Reference

Children's Literature Review, vol. 42. Detroit: Gale, 1997.

Commire, Anne, editor. Something About the Author, vol. 49. Detroit: Gale, 1998.

The essay includes a biographical sketch of Creech, a recent photograph, a detailed list of books, a list of awards, and notes on several of her novels.

Cooper, Ilene. Review of Chasing Redbird.

Booklist (February 15, 1997): 1054. Cooper says Creech's work is ambitious and asserts that in some aspects it succeeds.

She maintains that the trail blazing metaphor for her journey of self-discovery is overdone and at times unbelievable.

Creech, Sharon. "Newbery Medal Acceptance Speech." The Horn Book Magazine (July-August, 1995): 418-25. The text of Sharon Creech's acceptance speech for the Newbery Award for Walk Two Moons.

Heins, Ethel L. Review of Chasing Redbird.

The Horn Book Magazine (May-June, 1997): 316-17. A positive review saying the "writing is laced with figurative language and folksy comments that intensify both atmosphere and emotion."

Hendershot, Judy, and Jackie Peck. "An Interview with Sharon Creech, 1995 Newbery Medal Winner." Reading Teacher (February, 1996): 380-82.

Holtz, Sally Holmes, ed. Seventh Book of Junior Authors & Illustrators. H. W. Wilson, 1996, 67-69. An essay about Sharon Creech.

Review of Chasing Redbird. Kirkus Reviews (February 1, 1997): 220. The reviewer, other than placing Zinny in a Virginia mountain family instead of Kentucky, has positive remarks about the writing, characterization, and dialog.

McMahon, Thomas, editor. Authors & Artists for Young Adults, vol. 21. Detroit: Gale, 1997. Entry includes biographical information about Creech, a photograph, and a bibliography of her work.

Review of Chasing Redbird. Publishers Weekly (January 20, 1997): 403.

Rigg, Lyle D. "Sharon Creech." The Horn Book Magazine (July-August, 1995): 426-29.

Text of speech about Sharon Creech by her husband at the Newbery Award ceremony for Walk Two Moons.

Stevenson, Deborah. Review of Chasing Redbird. Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (March, 1997): 243.



Related Titles/Adaptations

Creech writes about coming-of-age themes and finding one's place in a family in *Walk Two Moons*, where Sal travels from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents to visit her mother. Mary Lou, the protagonist in *Absolutely Normal Chaos* begrudgingly begins keeping a journal about her summer and her perfectly normal family. In *Bloomability* Dinnie feels kidnapped when her aunt and uncle take her with them to Switzerland where her uncle is a school headmaster. She leaves her family in the Southwest and longs for letters from her mother, but only receives mail from two elderly aunts. *The Wanderer* describes Sophie, a thirteen-yearold adopted child, making a perilous journey from Connecticut to England on a forty-five foot sailboat with her grandfather and male cousins.

With each protagonist, except Mary Lou in *Absolutely Normal Chaos*, Creech connects a journey with self-discovery.

The protagonists of these four novels cope with loss in the form of the death of someone very close or separation because of distance. They all experience the stirrings of that first boy /girl relationship.

Related Web Sites

"Achuka Authorfile: Sharon Creech." <http://achuka.co.uk/scfile.htm>. A short interview with Creech on the website for Achuka Children's Books UK.

"ALSO About Sharon Creech." <http://www.ala.org/alsc/creech.html>. A brief biography of Creech from the American Library Association.

Educational Paperback Association. "Creech, Sharon." http://www.edupaperback.org/authorbios/Creech_Sharon.html. Short, autobiographical sketch by Sharon Creech for the Education Paperback Association.

Ramsey, Inez, site administrator. "Sharon Creech Teacher Resource File." <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/creech.htm>.

htm. Contains links to biographies and teaching guides for units on Creech's novels.

Sheinkin, Rachel. "A Guide to Teaching Sharon Creech's *Walk Two Moons*, *Chasing Redbird*, and *Bloomability*." <http://www.harperchildrens.com/schoolhouse/TeachersGuide/creech.htm>. HarperCollins, 1998.

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