

Moon Over Manifest Study Guide

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

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Plot Summary

Moon Over Manifest is a novel by author Clare Vanderpool. In this novel, Abilene Tucker has been sent to stay with friends of her father in Manifest, Kansas in 1936. Abilene is unhappy being separated from her father and hopes that he will return for her before the end of summer. To keep her occupied, Abilene attempts to unravel a mystery apparent in a group of letters she finds hidden in the room she is living in in the home of her father's friend, Shady Howard. This mystery, however, will reveal more than the identity of a spy as Abilene finds her place in Manifest. Moon Over Manifest is a touching story of one girl who learns to be a child even as she discovers what it means to be an adult with too much responsibility.

Abilene Tucker has grown up on the rails, moving from town to town with her father, Gideon, until recently. Gideon has sent Abilene to live with Shady Howard, an old friend of his from his childhood that Abilene never knew about. Abilene is confused over her father's sudden need to send her away, a need that recently came between them after Abilene nearly died from an infection in a cut on her knee. However, Abilene is confident that Gideon will return before the end of summer to get her.

Abilene jumps off the train before it pulls into the station, having learned from Gideon that a person should see a town before it has a chance to see her. Abilene walks along the road and comes across a gate that says Perdition. Abilene knows what perdition means because she and Gideon have often gotten free meals in various churches while on the road. As Abilene ponders this, Shady Howard comes up behind her. Shady takes Abilene into town where she meets Hattie Mae, the writer of a column in the local paper whom she is aware of because of a copy of the local paper her father has carried around all these years.

The following day, Abilene goes to the last day of school so that she might meet some of the local kids. The nun who teaches her class gives Abilene an assignment to write a story that is due at the end of summer. Abilene does not believe she will be in Manifest at the end of summer, so she quickly forgets about the assignment in favor of studying some letters and keepsakes she finds in a box in the room she is using at Shady's. While looking through the letters, Abilene is joined by two girls from school, Lettie and Ruthanne. Abilene tells them about a mysterious spy mentioned in the first letter. Together the girls make a list of suspect from the people who lived in the town then and now, suggesting they spy on them for clues.

The girls spend the rest of the afternoon following their suspects around, following the undertaker, Mr. Underwood, to the cemetery, where they see him measuring out a grave from the length of his own body. Afterward they return to the treehouse and discover a note warning them to back off. The girls think the note is from the spy, the Rattler. Lettie and Ruthanne go home then because it is getting dark. Abilene realizes that she lost her father's compass. Abilene goes in search of it and finds it hanging on the porch of the house with the Perdition gate. Abilene tries to get it back, but cannot reach it and breaks a pot she used to stand on.



Abilene returns the following day to get her compass and ends up paying Miss Sadie, the owner of the home, to read her fortune. Miss Sadie tells Abilene a story about the two boys in the letters she found and then makes Abilene promise to work around her house to pay off the price of the pot. As Abilene spends the summer working for Miss Sadie and hunting for the Rattler with Lettie and Ruthanne, she learns how the boys in the letters, Jinx and Ned, changed everything for the people of Manifest. However, Abilene also learns of Ned's death in World War I, a devastating moment for both Jinx and Miss Sadie.

When the stories are over, Abilene discovers that Miss Sadie was Ned's mother, separated at Ellis Island when they first arrived in the country. Abilene also learns that Jinx thought Ned's death was his fault and that he has been running ever since. Jinx is Abilene's father, Gideon, and he believes that he is the cause of the deaths of everyone he loves, which is why he has sent Abilene to Shady. However, Abilene is able to convince Gideon to come to her in Manifest, their one true home.



Santa Fe Railway, Path to Perdition, and Shady's Place

Santa Fe Railway, Path to Perdition, and Shady's Place Summary

Moon Over Manifest is a novel by Clare Vanderpool based loosely on the writer's personal family history and the town of Frontenac, Kansas.

Santa Fe Railway. May 27, 1936. Abilene Tucker is on a train headed to Manifest, Kansas, a town where her father lived when he was a child. Abilene checks her few belongings, her two precious dimes, a letter for the people of Manifest from her father, and a box lined with an old Manifest Herald that holds her father's compass. The Herald contains Hattie Mae Harper's first column, one Abilene has read often. The compass is broken and has an engraving that Abilene believes is the manufacturer's name and date. Abilene places it around her neck as the train approaches Manifest. Having grown up jumping from trains, Abilene jumps off this train as it slows so that she might see the town before it sees her.

Path to Perdition. Abilene checks her belongings after jumping the train and then begins to walk toward a grove of trees, washing her face and hands in a small spring. As she continues to walk into town, Abilene thinks about the preacher her father has sent her to. This surprises her because Gideon has never had much use for preachers. Abilene notices a gate that was welded using forks, kettles, horseshoes, and the grate from an old potbelly stove. This gate reads what looks like "Perdition" across the top.

Shady's Place. A man comes up behind Abilene and hands her the compass she dropped further back on the road. The man introduces himself as Shady Howard, the preacher Gideon has sent her to stay the summer with. Shady takes Abilene into town to the newspaper offices, where he tells her he needs to pick up a letter. Instead of a piece of mail, however, Shady picks up a typewriter whose letters are sticking. At the newspaper, Abilene meets Hattie Mae, the writer of the column in the copy of the Manifest Herald Gideon has carried around with him for nearly twenty years. Hattie Mae offers Abilene a sandwich and a cold drink after her long trip.

Shady takes Abilene back to his place, a building that is like a cross between a bar and a church. There are pews and stained glass stacked against the walls facing a bar with nothing but a single bottle of booze on the shelves. Shady had explained that he is the interim pastor for the Baptist Church that burned down fourteen years ago. Shady shows Abilene around and directs her to her bedroom upstairs. Abilene prepares for bed and settles in. However, she decides she should hide her valuables before she goes to sleep. Abilene searches the room for a good place and finally finds a loose floorboard. When she goes to put her things inside, Abilene discovers a box filled with old letters



and keepsakes already inside. Abilene wants to look at the box, but Shady calls upstairs and urges her to go to sleep.

Santa Fe Railway, Path to Perdition, and Shady's Place Analysis

The main character, Abilene Tucker, is introduced in these early chapters. The point of view is first person; therefore, the reader gets to know Abilene quickly and intimately in these chapters. Abilene is a little girl during the Depression who has lived most of her life riding the rails with her father, Gideon. After Abilene is injured on a train and nearly dies from the ensuing infection, her father sends her to Manifest Kansas where he once lived as a child. Abilene knows the stories of the town her father has told her, but she has never been there or met the man her father has sent her to live with. Abilene is unhappy being separated from her father and looks forward to meeting up with him again at the end of summer. However the reader wonders if this reunion will take place based on a look between Abilene's new guardian and another woman in town when Abilene mentions it.

The setting is made deeply important to the plot in two ways in these early chapters. The first way in which the setting impacts the plot is the Depression. If not for the Depression, Abilene and her father would not be riding the rails, taking their meals wherever they can. More than likely, Abilene and her father would have something of a normal home life and Abilene would be more of a child rather than a small adult. Another way in which the setting impacts the plot is the town of Manifest itself. Manifest has become a talisman of some sort to Abilene, a place her father often talks about, but a place she has never seen filled with people she feels she knows but has never met. Manifest is the only home Abilene has ever heard discussed, the only home she has in any sense of the word.

Three other characters are introduced in these chapters. Shady Howard is a preacher who is odd. Shady runs his church out of an old bar and seems to live his life more as a handyman and all around jack of all trades rather than a man of religion. Hattie Mae is an outgoing, courageous woman who has written a column in the local paper for nearly twenty years and appears to pretty much run the paper now that her uncle has grown older. Hattie Mae is a character Abilene knew about before coming to town because of her first column which appears in a newspaper scrap her father has carried with him for nearly twenty years to protect an old compass. Finally the reader is introduced to Gideon Tucker, Abilene's father. Although Gideon will not appear in the text until late in the novel, he is a huge part of Abilene's life, her thoughts, and he becomes a shadow character that the reader will come to know almost as if he were there from the beginning.



First Morning, Sacred Heart of the Holy Redeemer Elementary School, Fort Treeconderoga, and Main Street, Manifest

First Morning, Sacred Heart of the Holy Redeemer Elementary School, Fort Treeconderoga, and Main Street, Manifest Summary

First Morning. May 28, 1936. Abilene wants to explore the items in the box she found, but does not have time now. Abilene quickly dresses and prepares for school, still convinced it is a dumb idea. Abilene watches Shady fix Hattie Mae's typewriter as she eats his unappetizing breakfast before rushing out the door.

Sacred Heart of the Holy Redeemer Elementary School. When she arrives in the classroom and the students begin asking questions about her parents, Abilene answers them cryptically, still insisting her father will come for her before school starts again. The kids tell Abilene about Miss Sadie, who happens to be her neighbor, the one living behind the gate that says "perdition". The teacher, Sister Redempta, hands out report cards. When she is done, she tells Abilene that since she has no work to base a grade on, that Abilene should write a story due on the first day of school in the fall that Sister Redempta can use to assess her level of literacy.

Fort Treeconderoga. When school lets out at lunch, Abilene takes the box she found in her room up to the tree house out back to explore its contents in private. Abilene studies a hand drawn map and the keepsakes. Abilene then reads the first letter, disappointed that the names in the letter do not include her father's name, Gideon. The letter, however, mentions a spy in Manifest named Rattler. Just as Abilene finishes the letter, Lettie and Ruthanne call up to her from below. Abilene tries to send them away, but is ashamed when she realizes they only wanted to make friends.

Main Street, Manifest. Abilene shows the girls the map and the first letter. Together they begin making a list of possible suspects as to the identity of the Rattler. They focus on Mr. Underhill, the undertaker, and decide to follow him as he moves through town. They follow him to the cemetery where they see him lie on the ground, as though measuring a grave. The girls are spooked and decide they should go because it is close to dark. They go back to the tree house and find a note stuck to the tree that warns them to leave things alone. They are spooked by this, assuming that the note is from the Rattler.

As Abilene turns to go into the house, she discovers that the compass is gone. Abilene goes back to the cemetery, but cannot find it. On her way back to Shady's, Abilene sees



the compass hanging from the porch of Miss Sadie's. Abilene goes up to the porch and tries to reach it, but she is not tall enough. Abilene stands on a pot, but the pot turns over and breaks before Abilene can reach the compass. Abilene realizes someone is sitting on the porch and has seen her. Abilene quickly runs away, leaving her compass behind.

First Morning, Sacred Heart of the Holy Redeemer Elementary School, Fort Treeconderoga, and Main Street, Manifest Analysis

Abilene goes to school for the final day of class, something she finds outrageous, and meets a group of kids her own age. These kids are all understandably curious about her and Abilene reveals the more nomadic side of her life when she handles their questions with just the right amount of honesty and vagueness. Abilene cannot escape the teacher, however, who gives her an assignment she is to complete during the summer. Again Abilene insists that her father will come for her before fall and again an adult in her life insists that she focus on the present rather than the unknown future. The reader again wonders if Gideon has no intention of coming back for Abilene.

Abilene befriends Lettie and Ruthanne, a couple of cousins her age, and shares with them some of the information from the letters she found in the cigar box in her room. The letters are between a young soldier in World War I and a friend named Jinx. After overcoming her desire to have one of these boys be her father, Abilene focuses on the mystery of the Rattler, a suspected spy mentioned in Ned's first letter to Jinx. The girls begin searching for Rattler among the long term residents of Manifest, specifically the undertaker. Afterward they find a note warning them away, something that only fuels their desire to continue searching.

When Abilene loses her father's compass and finds it hanging at Miss Sadie's, the reader feels some apprehension for Abilene because of talk that Miss Sadie is some kind of diviner in a previous chapter. However, Abilene proves her courage and depth of importance the compass holds for her when she attempts to get it anyway. Unfortunately, her attempt fails, foreshadowing a moment later in the novel when Abilene will try to recover it again.



Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Triple Toe Creek, A Bargain is Struck, and Likely Suspects

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Triple Toe Creek, A Bargain is Struck, and Likely Suspects Summary

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. May 29, 1936. Shady leaves to collect some old wood at a neighbor's and Abilene sneaks back over to Miss Sadie's, hoping the woman is not home and she will be able to get her compass back. However, Miss Sadie has moved the compass and Abilene is forced to go inside the house. Miss Sadie mistakenly thinks Abilene is there for a fortune teller's reading and demands one of her dimes for the service. Abilene reluctantly gives it up, but refuses to hand over her other dime. Miss Sadie asks what Abilene wants and she says she wants to know about her father. When asked for an item that he has touched, Abilene hands over Ned's first letter.

Triple Toe Creek. October 6, 1917. Jinx jumps from a train, checking his few belongings to make sure they all made it intact. When he hears the sound of a girl's voice, Jinx hides in the bushes and watches as a young woman chastises a boy for taking her fishing, refusing to go to the homecoming dance with him. When the boy is alone, Jinx approaches him with the hope of trading his fish away from him. Jinx offers the boy a bottle of liquid that he claims is arctic glacial waters from Alaska that will make him smell irresistible. They make a trade, the cologne for the fish.

As Jinx baths in the river, the boy from earlier returns, jumping in the river in an attempt to wash away the foul smelling cologne Jinx gave him. They begin to argue when they hear a gunshot. They go to grab their clothes, but cannot find them. The boys hide in the bushes and watch as a KKK meeting begins in a clearing just feet from them. Ned explains that Manifest is mostly made up of immigrants and the KKK hate them, often torturing innocent people because of their accents. The only reason Ned says immigrants come to the area is because of the work in the mines. When they hear two men come to the creek to take a swim, Jinx gets an idea. Jinx takes their robes and leads Ned into the center of the meeting. They get in line for the outhouse, and when it is Jinx's turn, he replaces their newspaper with poison ivy.

A Bargain is Struck. May 29, 1936. Abilene is convinced that Miss Sadie is a fake and becomes upset that she told a story about two people she did not know instead of her father. However, Abilene cannot help but notice that the lure Ned mentions in Miss Sadie's story is a lot like the lure she found with the letters. Miss Sadie sends Abilene to get her some ointment and she notices for the first time that Miss Sadie has a bad cut on her leg, not unlike the cut Abilene had on her own knee that caused such a deadly infection. As Abilene moves to leave, Miss Sadie tells her that she wants her to work around the house to pay off the cost of the pot that was broken before she will allow her



to have her compass back. Abilene goes to her room to look at the fishing lure. Abilene discovers the manufacturer is the same Miss Sadie mentioned in her story.

Likely Suspects. May 30, 1936. Abilene lies in bed thinking of Gideon before trying to find a way to avoid going to Miss Sadie's and decides she should make herself invaluable to Shady so that he will not allow her to go. However, Shady somehow knows about her deal with Miss Sadie and sends her over. Abilene tells Shady about her deal with Miss Sadie and the story she told her the day before. Shady admits to knowing both Ned and Jinx, but does not tell Abilene about any connection Gideon might have had with them. Lettie and Ruthanne arrive then. Abilene takes them to her room and they discuss the Rattler and the likely suspects again. After the girls leave the house, Abilene shows them a column of Hattie Mae's from 1917 that mentions a possible case of poison ivy among the members of the KKK above an ad for a special hemorrhoid cream.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Triple Toe Creek, A Bargain is Struck, and Likely Suspects Analysis

Abilene goes to retrieve her compass only to find herself forced to give up one of her precious dimes to hear a story about two boys she has no connection to. Abilene is fascinated by the story because it deals with the two boys from the letters she found, and is even more fascinated when she discovers that a fishing lure that appears in the story appears to be the same one she found in the box of letters, but still annoyed by the loss of her dime and the lack of connection between this story and her father. Abilene deeply wants to learn about her father, to feel close to him and feel as though they are still connected. However, everywhere Abilene looks, she fails to find her father. The reader, however, suspects that there might be more of Abilene's father in these stories than she suspects.

The story itself is about a young boy with a troubled past who jumps off a tree while attempting to escape his recent past and an uncle called Finn. The similarities in his story to Abilene's are fascinating and appear to create a connection that Abilene herself does not see at first. The story also appears to be the beginnings of a close friendship that will one day give birth to the relationship that will create the letters and keepsakes that Abilene has found hidden in her bedroom. Not only this, but it shows the maturity in Ned, but also the ingenuity in Jinx. In the end, Abilene realizes it is a true story when she makes the connection between the two fishing lures and also when she finds reference to a bad case of poison ivy among the KKK members in Hattie Mae's column for the week following Jinx and Ned's first meeting.



Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, The Art of Distraction, and Frog Hunting

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, The Art of Distraction, and Frog Hunting Summary

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. May 30, 1936. Abilene stands at the gate to Miss Sadie's with Lettie and Ruthanne. They warn her against going in, but Abilene knows this is the only way she will ever get her compass back. Abilene finds Miss Sadie outside. Miss Sadie wants Abilene to begin turning over the soil in her garden to prepare for the year's planting. Abilene cannot imagine Miss Sadie will ever get anything to grow in the dry soil. As she works, Abilene asks questions about Ned and Jinx that she hopes will get Miss Sadie talking again. Abilene learns that Ned arranged for Jinx to live with Shady and the two become good friends. Miss Sadie also tells Abilene that Ned came to Manifest on an orphan train and that no one knows where he came from. Ned was adopted by Hadley Gillen.

The Art of Distraction. October 27, 1917. Ned works in the coal mines with most of the other men in town, all immigrants who often work their shifts with people of their own nationality to prevent accidents from miscommunication or racial tension. On this day Jinx is waiting for Ned to tell him a plan he has to create and sell fireworks. However, when Ned goes to pick up his check, he learns that he will have to work a second shift. Not only this, but Ned has only been paid in company store vouchers so he has no cash to spend except forty cents at home. However, Jinx's taunts about Pearl Ann, the girl Ned is infatuated with, causes Ned to show up just the same. Ned and Jinx watch the fireworks man show them what is inside one of his largest items, a Manchurian Fire Thrower, showing them all they need to know to make one of their own. Then they go to play a shell game. Jinx helps Ned when a silver dollar there and afterward explains how the shell game proprietor tried to trick him with distraction. Then Jinx shows Ned the Manchurian Fire Thrower he stole from the fireworks man. Ned refuses to be a part of Jinx's scheme, however.

Frog Hunting. June 5, 1936. Abilene has the day off and finds herself unable to stop comparing Miss Sadie's story to what the things she has found. Ruthanne and Lettie come by and convince Abilene to go frog hunting with them. They go into the woods for their hunt. Abilene comes across a grave all alone out there and has it nearly uncovered when she hears a scream in the distance. Abilene runs in the direction of the scream only to find one of the boys from school, Billy Clayton, cutting wood outside a pretty little house. Sister Redempta comes out a few minutes later without her veil. They overhear Sister Redempta tell Billy Clayton that his mother has delivered a healthy baby boy. Abilene learns that Sister Redempta often delivers babies in difficult situations.



Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, The Art of Distraction, and Frog Hunting Analysis

Abilene returns reluctantly to Miss Sadie's and begins work in the garden while Miss Sadie watches and quietly tells more of the story of Jinx and Abilene. This time Miss Sadie talks about Ned's work in the mines with the other men in town, most of them immigrants who came to Kansas for a better life but instead find themselves working too hard for too little, often just vouchers to the company store that barely cares for their families.

Jinx again reveals his intelligence and the things he has learned on the road with his Uncle Finn. Jinx steals a firecracker under the nose of the man selling them and then helps Ned win at a shell game when the man tries to cheat him by distracting him with a monkey. Jinx is a wise person for someone so young and clearly has a great deal of affection for Ned, the beginnings of a relationship that is bound to make a huge impression on someone so young and so in need of love.

Abilene goes frog hunting for the first time, revealing again to the reader how much of a childhood Abilene has missed out on living on the rails with Gideon. This appears to be a large part of the reason Gideon has sent Abilene to Manifest in the first place. At the same time, Abilene finds a grave that sparks her interest because it is all alone in the woods. However, Abilene fails to see the name on the grave before she is distracted by the birth of Billy Clayton's new brother.



Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor and The Victory Quilt

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor and The Victory Quilt Summary

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. June 6, 1936. Abilene walks slowly to Miss Sadie's the next morning thinking about the grave she found. Abilene begins to feel as though someone is following her and decides to play her rhyming game again to keep her mind off it. When Abilene becomes spooked, she hides in the bushes and then rushes out, running into Sister Redempta. Abilene is then admonished by the nun and reminded of her assignment. Abilene returns to her work in the garden, all the while wondering what Sister Redempta was doing in this part of town. When Sadie mentions the new Clayton baby, Abilene wonders if Sister Redempta came to see Miss Sadie.

The Victory Quilt. October 27, 1917. Ned buys popcorn and goes to the booth of the Daughters of the American Revolution where Pearl Ann's mother is standing, telling everyone who passes about the victory quilt they are making for the soldiers overseas. The quilt is to be signed by President Woodrow Wilson when he stops in Manifest during a tour of the Midwest and auctioned off, the proceeds to support the troops.

Ned asks Pearl Ann to go on the carousel with him, but her mother calls her back. Ned thinks Mrs. Larkin dislikes him, but Pearl Ann tells him it is simply because she knows nothing about his background. This angers Ned and they argue briefly before Mr. Devlin, the owner of the mine, comes up and distracts Mrs. Larkin. Mr. Devlin is followed by his son, who has recently enlisted in the military thanks to a bribe to keep the recruiter from verifying his age. The two boys tangle and Lance Devlin accuses Ned of being anti-American or even an enemy of the country because of his unknown immigrant status. When Jinx joins Ned a short time later, Ned agrees to go in on the fireworks scheme with him.

A short time later, a Hungarian woman attempts to donate a square to the Victory Quilt but Mrs. Larkin refuses to accept it. The Hungarian woman puts a curse on Mrs. Larkin in response.

Ned and Jinx hide in an abandoned mine near Shady's and build dozens of Manchurian Fire Throwers to sell to the local kids. As they work, Jinx tells Ned that his father took off when he was young and his mother became ill. Jinx's Uncle Finn came to help and ended up teaching Jinx most of what he knows about conning people because he used Jinx as a partner in his miracle cure scams. At the same time, Jinx recalls how someone from his uncle's past confronted them one night after a successful scam at a revival and threatened to tell the police. The man was killed when Jinx fell after Finn hit him for not tying the ex-partner up properly. It was then that Jinx and his uncle separated and Jinx found himself in Manifest.



They make fifty dollars and split it in half, with Jinx taking the extra seventy-five cents. Ned takes his money and bribes the military recruiter into allowing him to enlist while Shady forces Jinx to use his part to buy the Victory Quilt to make up for the menace the fireworks have created all over town. Much of this last bit Abilene learns from Hattie Mae's column from 1918 followed by an ad for Velma T's vitamin elixir as well as one of Ned's early letters from Camp Funston dated a little over a month later.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor and The Victory Quilt Analysis

Abilene is allowing the story of the Rattler to haunt her, not unlike Jinx and his fear of being caught by the police. The reader learns that Jinx was taken in by his uncle, a con artist who uses Jinx as a partner in his schemes to scam people out of their money. After one of these con's, Uncle Finn convinces Jinx that he killed a man when he fell to the floor unconscious after being hit by his uncle. While Ned and the reader think this story has a few holes in it, Jinx clearly believes himself responsible for a murder. The reader also learns that the name Jinx is a nickname that Jinx picked up the night of the murder when his uncle told him that everyone around him dies because he is a jinx. This a powerful thing to tell a child and it is clear that Jinx might believe it is true simply by the fact that he chooses to call himself by this nickname in the new town he has come to live in.

Jinx and Ned make lots of money from their homemade fireworks, causing havoc all over town. At the same time, Ned has made enough money to enlist in the military and go off to war in an attempt to prove just how patriotic he is. Ned's letter home to Jinx after he arrives at boot camp announces that he could not do it if not for Jinx. This lays some of the responsibility for Ned's current location on Jinx, a situation that act just like Uncle Finn's proclamation of Jinx's unlucky nickname. It could come back to hunt Jinx in the end if Ned does not make it home safely.



Under the Stars, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and Elixir of Life

Under the Stars, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and Elixir of Life Summary

Under the Stars. June 12, 1936. Abilene tells her friends Miss Sadie's latest story over and over and they analyze every aspect of it. They find it interesting that Miss Sadie talks about herself in the third person in her story, but it is clear she interacted with Jinx and Ned all those years ago. They are also fascinated with the curse Miss Sadie placed on Mrs. Larkin and the way Ned's letters seem to support everything in the stories. The girls, who are out in the night searching for something Miss Sadie has asked for but not explained fully, share a small meal of liverwurst sandwiches and gingersnap cookies. As they wait for whatever Miss Sadie wants to appear, they talk about the woods.

Ruthanne tells a story from her Uncle Louver about how he was out in the woods one night and heard a rattling sound and saw a dark shape. When he came back with his brothers the next morning to look for the source of the sound all they found was one of his traps with a boot and a foot inside it. They wonder if this might be the Rattler. When the story is done, they look around and realize the mysterious item Miss Sadie has sent them for is worms.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. June 13, 1936. Abilene returns to Miss Sadie's the next day with her bucket of worms. Abilene asks Miss Sadie about the curse she placed on Mrs. Larkin in her previous story. Miss Sadie says it was not a curse, just words of anger in her native Hungarian, hoping that Mrs. Larkin's life would be as long as the hair on her chin. As Abilene works, she thinks about Gideon and the injury to her own leg that caused the infection, not unlike the infection on Miss Sadie's leg, that could have ended her life. It was then Gideon began to act weird, to suggest she come to Manifest. As if reading Abilene's mind, Miss Sadie tells her that Jinx thought it was his fault that Ned went to war.

Elixir of Life. July 12, 1918. Jinx tries to keep his days busy in Ned's absence. At one point he created a gate for a neighbor made of forks, shovels, horseshoes, and the grate off a potbelly stove. However, he did not do a very good job and never got another job. At the same time, Jinx is made to work for Miss Velma T at her house after he blew out the windows in the chemistry lab at school. One day Jinx comes home with a ten-pound catfish and shows it to Shady. As they discuss it, the sheriff shows up for his share of Shady's moonshine. The sheriff tells Shady about his brother-in-law in Missouri, also a sheriff, who is looking for a couple of con artists who killed a man up there. The sheriff tells Shady that his brother-in-law thinks one or both of the con artists came to Manifest. The sheriff, who is searching the bar for booze Shady has hidden, finds the fish and steals it along with another bottle of booze he finds hiding in the back room. The sheriff then demands twice his normal amount of booze by the next day or he



will shut Shady down. Shady cannot make that much that quickly, so Jinx takes him to Velma T's, where they add what little booze they have left with her vitamin elixir. A few days later they replace what they have taken with some of Shady's fresh made booze. That night as they make their way home, Shady and Jinx see a cross burning in front of the German Fraternal Hall where some workers from the mine had a meeting discussing the unfair work conditions.

Under the Stars, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and Elixir of Life Analysis

The setting makes another appearance in the novel when Abilene realizes that her friends have lied to her to hide the hardships of their lives. Lettie has lied about the two cookies she has brought to have at a midnight picnic to hide the fact that she has sacrificed her own cookie as well as something else that she had to use to trade with a sibling. Ruthanne also belies the hardships in her own home as she shares stories with Abilene. Again the Depression makes it way into the novel, showing the reader what a hard time all the characters are having at this time in history.

Abilene continues to go to Miss Sadie's despite her unhappiness with the work and the company. However, Abilene is beginning to come around to Miss Sadie's stories, finding herself drawn into the lives of Jinx and Ned. At the same time, however, Abilene continues to wonder about her own father and the footsteps he left behind in Manifest. No one ever talks about Gideon and she is beginning to wonder what impact he had in this town, if any at all. The reader, however, is beginning to see the parallels between Jinx and Gideon.

Jinx mixes Velma T's elixir with Shady's booze because the two were made out of the same green corn and therefore have a similar scent so that the sheriff will not be able to tell them apart. The reader is already aware of Velma T's elixir because it was an ad in the paper and Ned mentioned it in a letter; therefore, the reader must assume that Jinx's actions will prove to be important.



Dead or Alive, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, No-Man's-Land

Dead or Alive, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, No-Man's-Land Summary

Dead or Alive. June 17, 1936. Abilene finds reference to the burning of the cross in front of the German Fraternal Hall and finds it outrageous even as she is glad to find yet another article that supports Miss Sadie's stories. Lettie and Ruthanne are out of town, so Abilene spends a few days keeping busy gathering plants for Miss Sadie. This morning she goes to the newspaper to see Hattie Mae. Abilene asks Hattie Mae about Gideon, but she does not seem willing to talk about him. Hattie Mae suggests that something happened to Gideon in Manifest that left him unwilling to talk about it or to return to Manifest.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. Abilene goes to Miss Sadie's later that day in a bad mood and bypasses the house in an attempt to find a pot for the flowers. When Abilene tries to get into the potting shed, Miss Sadie yells at her and tells her to stay away from there. Abilene notices that Miss Sadie's leg is worse than before and offers to lance it, but Miss Sadie refuses. Abilene returns to her work and Miss Sadie begins to talk about death, particularly the Widow Cane's death. Miss Sadie tells Abilene that when the Widow Cane died, her property went into probate because she had no heirs. On her property is an abandoned mine that Mr. Devlin has recently learned stands over an ore vein. Mr. Devlin wants to buy the land, but lies about what he wants to do with it.

No-Man's-Land. July 20, 1918. Jinx runs into Shady's, excited because he has been selling many bottles of Velma T's elixir mixed with Shady's booze. Shady, however, quickly settles Jinx down and hides him in a hidden compartment in the bar because he is expecting many people from town to arrive for a secret meeting. Hadley has organized a meeting with people from all the different diverse groups in town to talk about Mr. Devlin's desire to buy the land on Widow Cane's property. However, they do not want Devlin to know. They discuss the land and their need to keep it away from Devlin in order to have leverage against him to force him to treat his workers more fairly. At first everyone rejects the idea of working together, but the Hungarian, Miss Sadie, convinces them they are more alike than they think. They decide to work together, but cannot think of how they might come up with enough money to buy the land. Jinx, however, has a few ideas.

At the same time, the Spanish influenza has just begun to spread throughout the country, causing medical personnel around the country to encourage quarantines of known areas of infection. For this reason, natural springs where people are thought to heal or even prevent diseases are becoming popular with the rich. Overseas, Ned writes that he has become a runner for his commanding officers and that one of the other runners was killed just a mile from camp on his first run.



Dead or Alive, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, No-Man's-Land Analysis

Abilene reveals to the reader the depth of her loneliness for her father. Abilene cannot find solace in his absence in the people of Manifest because it seems as though none of them remember him or want to talk about him. Abilene has grown up on the railroad so she knows she could find him if she really wanted to. However, Abilene has become committed to Jinx and Ned's story, therefore she decides to stay until it is finished.

Miss Sadie's leg is growing more and more infected, presenting a danger to her life if she does not do something about it. Abilene wants to help her, but Miss Sadie refuses. This parallel's Abilene's own sadness, suggesting to the reader that Miss Sadie has lost someone close to her or suffered a similar loss to the one Abilene is currently dealing with.

Jinx is present during a meeting of several groups from town. This is the first time these separate groups have all met together for a single purpose because they are accustomed to being divided into their own racial groups in everything from work to worship. Miss Sadie has a huge part in drawing these people together, showing the reader not only how much all these people have suffered in leaving their homes and coming to America, but since coming to America, there has been prejudice against them. They unite for a common cause and turn to a child, a con artist who has just walked into the lives for an answer as to how to change their entire existence. It is a huge responsibility for this child, but he has the experience they need and the hope brings them together in a way they have never done before.



One Short, One Long, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and The Walls Go Up

One Short, One Long, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and The Walls Go Up Summary

One Short, One Long. July 3, 1936. Abilene, Lettie, and Ruthanne spend a day playing on the school playground. However, Abilene cannot help but make connections between the stories and the keepsakes she has found. Abilene also finds herself making connections between Jinx and Gideon. It gives Abilene some relief to realize she has finally found her father in Manifest. Lettie and Ruthanne begin talking about the Rattler again, suggesting new suspects. Ruthanne suggests Mr. Cooper, the barber.

Abilene finds Lettie and Ruthanne outside the post office. They watch Mr. DeVore sort the mail and place a note in Velma T's box. Then Mr. DeVore writes out a telegram. Abilene listens, aware of what the signals mean because of some time spent with a woman who was a telegram operator in her past. Abilene is saddened by the "missing you" message of the telegram.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. Abilene goes to Miss Sadie's and works all day cleaning rugs and washing jars on the porch. Aware that Miss Sadie is in a foul mood, but wanting to hear more of her story, Abilene begins talking about the story with wrong information to goad Miss Sadie into talking.

The Walls Go Up. August 15, 1918. Everyone in Manifest seems to get sick at once. Mr. Devlin, Mr. Burton, and Sheriff Dean immediately leave town and the county medical examiner comes and quarantines the town. However, it turns out to all be a scam to get Devlin, Burton, and the sheriff out of the way of Jinx's plan. Shady and a group of men begin making booze in large quantities while Velma T begins making the basic syrup of her elixir to be mixed first with spring water from Widow Cane's property and then Shady's booze. Mrs. Larkin is the only person who remained in town who people were not sure would keep their secret. Mrs. Larkin voices objection at every step of the way, leaving some wondering how smart it is to trust her. Mrs. Larkin becomes even louder in her objections when Shady suggests they use the baptismal bath at the First Baptist Church. When the time comes, Shady makes an awkward prayer over the mixing of the elixir and booze.

At the same time, the paper is filled with information on the deadly Spanish influenza while Ned writes home in hopes that everyone is doing what they have always done to give him more reason to want to come home. Ned talks about the boys who have died in his unit and expresses hope that Jinx will take his lure and go fishing.



One Short, One Long, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and The Walls Go Up Analysis

Abilene finally makes the connection between Jinx and Gideon, suggesting that they are one and the same. This gives Abilene some relief, but now she has come to the conclusion that Gideon has no intention of coming back for her. Abilene's loneliness only deepens with this idea.

Abilene knows that she has more than paid for Miss Sadie's pot in all the work she has done this past month, but she continues to do the work without complaint because she wants to know how Jinx's story ends. Perhaps Abilene hopes that the end of Jinx's story will reveal to her something about Gideon that will help her understand him better.

In the story, Jinx has convinced the whole town to trick Devlin, Burton, and the sheriff into leaving town so that they can make the booze infused elixir and sell it to people suffering the new Spanish influenza that is spreading throughout the country. There hope is that they will be able to earn a thousand dollars so that they can buy Widow Cane's property before Devlin has the chance to buy it and use it to continue to control his workers and the entire town. Mrs. Larkin's objections cause some concern and the reader suspects that she might turn out to be a spy of sorts, if not the Rattler himself.



Ode to the Rattler, Drawing Straws, Miss Sadie's Diving Parlor and Distribution

Ode to the Rattler, Drawing Straws, Miss Sadie's Diving Parlor and Distribution Summary

Ode to the Rattler. July 4, 1936. In Ned's latest letter, he mentions a poem written in the senior classroom by Stucky Cybulskis. The girls decide to search for it in hopes that it will reveal something about the Rattler that will help them find out who it was. The girls sneak into the school through a window in the janitor's storeroom. In the classroom, they try to think of a place where the poem might still exist. Abilene finally realizes that it must be in the lid of the desks. They find multiple poems, finally discovering the one mentioned in Ned's letter. The poem, discussing the dark figure of the Rattler walking the woods at night, startles the girls. A noise in the hall spooks them even more. Abilene looks and sees the janitor waxing the floor. They make a noise and the janitor drops his cigar in his bucket of water, prompting him to leave to get fresh water. The girls take the opportunity to escape, but Abilene cannot reach the window. She runs for a door, but the janitor returns causing her to hide in the senior classroom again. While she is there, Abilene looks up "manifest" in the dictionary. A noise outside the school gives Abilene the chance she needs to escape out a door.

Drawing Straws. July 11, 1936. Abilene finds herself stopped by multiple people over the next few days directing her investigation into the Rattler, including an explanation to the embarrassment of foreign names from the barber and a word of warning from Mrs. Dawkins. At church services on Sunday, Shady's usually small crowd includes Mrs. Evans this time around. After the service and while eating cake Hattie Mae brought, Abilene asks an innocent question that causes some discussion of the past that includes discussion of a city fair as well as Mrs. Evans' mentioning her daughter becoming the president of the senior class in 1918.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. July 15, 1936. After the Sunday meeting, Abilene begins to think of Mrs. Evans and goes to the cemetery to see if Mrs. Evans' daughter died. However, Abilene does not find a tombstone for her. On the way home, Abilene stops by Miss Sadie's to check on her.

Distribution. September 1, 1918. Word spreads quickly about the miracle elixir when people begin to quickly recover after drinking it. Jinx and Shady sell the elixir out of the abandoned mine on Widow Cane's property. They work all night, and after a while the faces melt together in Jinx's mind until he comes to believe he has seen his Uncle Finn. In the morning, Jinx and Shady are on their way back to Shady's place when they run into the sheriff. The sheriff then tells them that he believes the murderer his brother-in-law is looking for has been living in the woods near there. At a meeting later in the day, they learn that Burton has been getting information from inside the town and is making noises about forcing the men to return to work. This makes the town fear they have a



traitor in their midst. A few days later, Shady, Jinx, and a man named Donal MacGregor bury a fake coffin filled with bottles of the elixir in order to convince Burton and Devlin that it is still unsafe to return to town.

Ode to the Rattler, Drawing Straws, Miss Sadie's Diving Parlor and Distribution Analysis

Abilene and her friends return to the mystery of the Rattler and find a poem written by one of Ned's contemporaries in the senior classroom at the high school. This leads to some excitement. At the same time, Abilene begins to be told to back off while she also discovers that many in the town are reluctant to talk about the past. As Jinx's story continues and the reader learns that the whole town got involved in the illegal sale of alcohol, the reader wonders if perhaps the town is afraid of this information getting out for some reason. However, there seems to be a darker reason why the people of Manifest do not want to remember the past and Abilene seems to have hit upon it when she wonders if Mrs. Evans' daughter died all those years ago.

Jinx's story continues. The reader learns that Jinx's uncle is in the area, causing some fear for Jinx that this uncle will try to take him away or will inure him somehow. At the same time, the town becomes aware that there is a traitor in their midst, a spy like the Rattler who is telling Burton and Devlin what is going on in the town. This could cause trouble if Burton and Devlin return before the town has raised the money they need to buy Widow Cane's land. For this reason a grave is dug in the woods, suggesting to the reader that this is the same grave Abilene found the day she was hunting frogs.



A Dying Breath, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Day of Reckoning, and The Jungle

A Dying Breath, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Day of Reckoning, and The Jungle Summary

A Dying Breath. August 7, 1936. Abilene, Lettie, and Ruthanne decide they should use the handwriting in the note left by the Rattler to discover who it is. To do this, Abilene comes up with a scheme that will cause everyone in town to submit their handwriting voluntarily. It is announced a short time later that there will be a contest at the newspaper called Remember When in which everyone will submit stories of from 1918 and the best one will win five dollars.

Miss Sadie's Diving Parlor. August 11, 1936. Abilene goes to Miss Sadie's with the contest on her mind, glad that everyone in town is excited about it. Abilene is also pleased with the growth of the garden that she cultivated and planted. Abilene hopes that Miss Sadie will soon finish her story about Jinx and Ned. She begins by describing the arrival of the first train in weeks.

Day of Reckoning. September 28, 1918. Devlin and Burton arrive on the train with the medical examiner, who quickly declares the quarantine over. Burton orders the workers back into the mine that day. Devlin makes a great show of asking Mrs. Larkin to dinner, making fun of her deceased husband in the process.

On October 1, the whole town goes to the courthouse for the land auction. Those involved in the scheme to buy Widow Cane's land, however, are saddened because they came up short of money. On that morning, they are at Shady's mourning their shortfall when Burton comes into the bar. As he sits there, telling Shady all he knows about the scheme and how it will fail, a man from the government comes into the bar and begins asking questions about the stream on Widow Cane's land. Shady gives the man a glass of the water and he adds some kind of powder to it, making notes on a piece of paper he then puts it in an envelope. The man then drinks the water. Aware that people have healed from the elixir that was made with that water, Burton jumps to conclusions and rushes to the courthouse.

When the court session begins, the judge learns the town does not have the money they need and he places the land on auction. Burton makes a bid on the piece that contains the spring only. Jinx urges Shady to bid against him, causing a bidding war that forces the price up. After Burton wins the land, Mrs. Larkin announces to the court that since Burton bought the land, the land with the ore underneath was now at a price the town could afford to buy. The judge allows this purchase, giving the town what it has wanted all along, power over Devlin. Burton loses his job and then his optimism when



the government announces to the court that there is nothing unusual about the spring on that land, that he has simply come to visit his aunt, Mrs. Larkin. Everyone then learns that Jinx and Mrs. Larkin created the scheme together. Abilene learns in Hattie Mae's column from that time period that Burton quickly sold his land to the town at a reduced cost and Mr. Devlin negotiated new work codes and payment arrangements with his workers in order to gain access to the coal vein.

The Jungle. August 11, 1936. Abilene has trouble sleeping as she thinks about Jinx's story. She hears the sound of music in the woods as she has heard on other nights. Abilene goes to investigate and discovers that Shady has been giving food, coffee, and other items to travelers passing through the woods. Abilene remembers all the mornings she has seen Shady with blood-shot eyes, convinced he was drinking, but now she knows he has been helping people not unlike herself and Gideon.

A Dying Breath, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Day of Reckoning, and The Jungle Analysis

Abilene reveals herself to be just as clever as Jinx when she comes up with a plan to find out who wrote the note left on the tree to warn them off of the Rattler. Abilene plans a contest in the newspaper where people will write in to share their memories of Jinx and Ned's time. This causes excitement in the town, opening a well into a time most of them have tried to forget.

Miss Sadie tells Abilene the end of Jinx's plot to get control of the mines for the town of Manifest. Jinx has brought the town together, forcing everyone to work together for the first time in a united cause. Then Jinx uses the one woman the reader was convinced was a spy for Devlin to trick Burton into helping them buy the land out from under Devlin. The trick works and the town gets what it wanted, forcing Devlin to bow to their demands. Now it seems there is nothing left in Jinx's story but celebration, but the growing darkness of Ned's letters leave the reader wondering if there is some tragedy waiting around the corner.

Another aspect of the setting of the novel comes through in the last chapter of this section. The jungle is a name for the territory nomadic travelers move through and where they find each other or things left behind for another's use. Abilene discovers that Shady is helping people such as these with food and supplies, suggesting Shady's deeper connection to Gideon that he seems to have hidden up to this point.



Remember When, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Homecoming, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and St. Dizier

Remember When, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Homecoming, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and St. Dizier Summary

Remember When. August 12, 1936. People respond to the Remember When contest in droves, causing Abilene, Lettie, and Ruthanne to get caught up in the stories when they are supposed to be looking for the same handwriting from the warning note. Most of the letters contain names Abilene recognizes, including Ned's name. After a time they finally find a match to their note in an annoyed letter from Mr. Underhill.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. August 23, 1936. In the excitement of finally finding the Rattler, Abilene goes to Miss Sadie. Miss Sadie is unimpressed. Not only this, but her leg wound has grown much worse. Miss Sadie begins talking about death before she starts the next part of the story.

Homecoming. October 27, 1918. The town is planning a fair to celebrate the changes in Manifest. Everyone works together, even learning some of each other's recipes and games. As Jinx helps, he feels the sheriff watching him. Jinx turns to Shady for help and Shady decides to distract the sheriff by pretending they have been hiding some booze in the grave where they supposedly buried the victim of the flu. The sheriff follows and takes the booze, unaware that it is a third prune juice. The sheriff backs off, but that evening the sheriff from Missouri comes to town and bullies Sheriff Dean into helping him find the two cons responsible for Junior Haskell's death. Jinx sees the sheriffs coming and he runs into the woods and right into his Uncle Finn. Uncle Finn threatens to kill Jinx when Jinx attempts to stand up to him. Uncle Finn tells Jinx he did not kill Junior, Uncle Finn did, but that he plans to kill Jinx and blame him for everything. Uncle Finn holds a gun to Jinx and begins walking out of the woods, but he is spooked by a rattling sound. Uncle Finn stumbles and Jinx escapes, but then he is shot as he runs away. The next day the Missouri sheriff oversees the burial of Jinx.

Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor. August 23, 1936. Abilene demands Miss Sadie to explain her story, insisting that Jinx cannot be dead because he is Gideon and Gideon is still alive. Miss Sadie waits for Abilene to settle down before continuing the story.

St. Dizier. October 27, 1918. The Missouri sheriff makes Sheriff Dean double check the identity of the corpse when he notices the name on the headstone is not Jinx. Sheriff Dean looks and agrees that it is the right body. The Missouri sheriff walks away. Donal and Shady quickly question Sheriff Dean. Sheriff Dean admits that he realizes the body



is not Jinx, but is Uncle Finn. However, he lied because he figures the other sheriff was overstepping his boundaries and the real criminal is dead.

The First Annual Homecoming Celebration begins later in the day and everyone celebrates together in harmony. However, the celebration is ruined when a soldier arrives with the news that Ned Gillen has died and was buried at St. Dizier on October 8, 1918. A letter written two days before tells Jinx Ned was hit by shrapnel but it was only a scratch.

Remember When, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, Homecoming, Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, and St. Dizier Analysis

Abilene and her friends discover it was Mr. Underhill who left them the note, suggesting he was the Rattler. In her excitement, Abilene shares the news with Miss Sadie. However, Miss Sadie has become very ill from her wounded leg and has become obsessed with death. In the last part of her story, Miss Sadie describes a confrontation between Jinx and his uncle that appears to end in Jinx's death. Abilene is upset by this because she is convinced Jinx and her father are one in the same. Therefore, Abilene and the reader both are thrilled to learn that it is a trick and it is Uncle Finn who has died. It is also Uncle Finn who contributed the boot and foot that Ruthanne's uncle once found in the woods and contributed to the Rattler.

However, things go downhill once more when word of Ned Gillen's death arrives during the celebrations in Manifest. The entire town is devastated by this news because they all loved Ned. Jinx, however, is hurt the most because he believes himself to be a jinx and that all those he loves die.



The Shadow of Death, The Shed, the Diviner, Beginnings, Middles, and Ends, and The Rattler

The Shadow of Death, The Shed, the Diviner, Beginnings, Middles, and Ends, and The Rattler Summary

The Shadow of Death. August 23, 1936. Abilene leaves Miss Sadie's house, taking her compass with her under the belief that she has finally served her final day. Abilene goes to the grave she found while frog hunting and sees her own father's name on it. Abilene then studies the compass and realizes what she thought was the date of manufacture and the company name is actually the place and date of Ned Gillen's death. Abilene also makes the connection between Ned's death and her own near fatal illness and understands Gideon's reaction. Shady appears and tells Abilene that after the news of Ned's death, Jinx ran away, afraid the town would never forgive him for his part in Ned's death. However, it is not just Ned's death that destroyed the town so soon after they finally came together. A more virulent form of the Spanish influenza came to town and killed many people. Shady takes Abilene further into the woods, to the sight of the abandoned mine, and shows her the graves of those who died. It is then Abilene knows for sure Gideon had no intention of coming for her.

The Shed. August 24, 1936. Abilene remembers the skeleton key among the letters and knows what it is for. Abilene unlocks Miss Sadie's shed and discovers not only the bottles of elixir that Jinx once hid there, but also a box of mementos of Ned's childhood. Abilene takes the box and goes to the house where she lances and cares for Miss Sadie's wound.

The Diviner. Abilene realizes that Miss Sadie came to America many years ago with her small son. An infection in her eye forced Miss Sadie to return home, but she could not take her child because he was healthy and did not have a ticket. Miss Sadie leaves him with a friend who is allowed to enter America and has a good situation in New York. However, when Miss Sadie returns several years later, she learns that her friend has died and her son had been placed on an orphan train headed west. By the time Miss Sadie found her son, he had already been adopted by Hadley Gillen. Miss Sadie knows that immigrants are not well accepted in America and she wants to spare her son the prejudice she has suffered in her search for him, therefore she does not tell anyone who she is. Instead, Miss Sadie watches her son grow from a distance. Only one person ever realizes the truth, Sister Redempta, and she gives Miss Sadie pictures, report cards, and drawings from her son.



Beginnings, Middles, and Ends. August 30, 1936. Abilene tells her friends all she knows about Miss Sadie and her father. They learn that the Remember When contest has helped the town remember what was good about the past and they have decided to have another Annual Homecoming Celebration. They also learn that Mr. Underhill was not the Rattler, but he was the traitor who told Burton and Devlin all about the miracle elixir during the quarantine in 1918.

Abilene sends a telegram to her father suggesting that she is fatally ill so that he will come home to Manifest. She waits for the train with Lettie and Ruthanne, but he does not get off. Instead he has jumped the train just outside of the station and Abilene finds him walking toward the gate to Perdition.

The Rattler. August 31, 1936. Abilene gives Gideon the box of letters she found and he tells her he would like to read them once more before giving them to Miss Sadie. With Gideon's help, Abilene is able to piece together some of the missing facts. She realizes on her own, however, that the Rattler was not a ghost or a spy, but Sister Redempta walking through the woods in the middle of the night to deliver babies.

Hattie Mae announces in the paper her intention to retire from writing her column, but that she will have a successor. Abilene Tucker.

The Shadow of Death, The Shed, the Diviner, Beginnings, Middles, and Ends, and The Rattler Analysis

Abilene finally learns the truth about Manifest and with it learns the truth about her own father. Abilene learns that the more virulent form of the flu hit Manifest and killed many of the people mentioned in Miss Sadie's stories, including Mrs. Larkin. It is this that has caused the town to hide from the past, to try to forget those days that should have been so happy, but were spoiled by war and disease. Abilene also realizes that Gideon blamed himself for Ned's death and that he must have been reminded of his reputation as a jinx when Abilene became ill. It is this reason Gideon sent her away and for this reason he would more than likely never come back for her.

Abilene also realizes that Miss Sadie was Ned's mother and that she was an observer in his life in the hopes of protecting him from the prejudice that runs rapid throughout the country and Manifest during that time period. Miss Sadie quietly shares in Ned's accomplishments through her friendship with Sister Redempta, but cannot grieve for her child when he is killed in the war because of her decision to remain separate from him. It is a sad existence that is only revealed nearly twenty years after his death. It is in this revelation that Abilene realizes how Miss Sadie knows this story so well and her almost mystical connection to her own father.

Abilene convinces Gideon to come to Manifest where she believes they can finally make a real home together. Gideon seems willing to confront his past, but Abilene

admits she has no way of knowing if he will stay. In the end, all Abilene can do is paste together the story and hope that it helps reunite a town that once found a way to connect before losing everything that made them a community.



Characters

Abilene Tucker

Abilene Tucker is a twelve year old girl who, during the Depression, is sent to Manifest, Kansas by her father to stay with an old friend. Abilene has grown up on the rails with her father, therefore she is a very mature young girl who has to put aside childhood things in favor of survival. Abilene recently had a life threatening illness when a cut on her leg became infected, prompting her father to send her away. Abilene fully believes her father will return for her at the end of the summer, but the response of the adults around her each time she suggests this leads her to believe she may be mistaken.

Abilene finds a box filled with keepsakes and old letters in the room she is staying in. Abilene reads the letters and begins to investigate a story of a spy called the Rattler in these letters with a couple of local girls. At the same time, Abilene is forced to pay off a debt to Miss Sadie, a local diviner. Miss Sadie tells Abilene a story that features the two boys mentioned in the letters she found.

As Abilene tries to find her place in Manifest, she begins to remind the people of Manifest of a difficult time in their past. The people of Manifest were once a broken a community filled with immigrants who chose to live in their own circles rather than to come together as one. A young drifter once brought them together, but they fell apart again when tragedy struck. With the arrival of Abilene and her own attempts to understand her father's past, the town is once again brought together.

Gideon Tucker

Gideon Tucker is Abilene's father. Gideon has always lived on the rails and he continues to do so as the Depression takes a strangle hold of the country. Gideon and Abilene move from town to town in search of work and food, always on the move and always together. However, when Abilene is injured and nearly dies from an infection in a leg wound, Gideon becomes concerned that their lifestyle will one day lead to her death. Gideon sends Abilene to live with Shady Howard, an old friend from his brief stay in Manifest, Kansas when he was a child. Gideon has no intention of returning for Abilene, but Abilene manages to convince him that Manifest is their home.

Jinx

Jinx is a young boy who has been traveling the rails with his uncle since the death of his mother. Jinx and his uncle have a scam in which they convince people to buy a magic elixir that is said to cure almost anything that ails. One night a man confronts Jinx's uncle and threatens to tell the police about the scam if the uncle does not cut him in. There is a struggle and the man ends up dead. The uncle convinces Jinx that he



committed the murder when he fell after being punched by the uncle. Jinx believes him and agrees to separate and run.

Jinx comes to Manifest and meets Ned Gillen. The two of them become close friends. Through Ned, Jinx finds a home in Manifest and helps the town pull off a huge scam that helps them take control of the local mine and force change. However, when Ned is killed in the war, Jinx believes it is his fault because everyone around him dies. This is how he got the nickname of Jinx. In the end, Jinx runs away because he is afraid the town will blame him for Ned's death. Abilene, who hears the story of Ned and Jinx from Miss Sadie, comes to realize that Jinx is her father and it is this belief that he is a jinx that also caused him to send her away.

Ned Gillen

Ned Gillen is a young man who lives in Manifest. Ned was once an orphan who came to Manifest on the orphan train. Ned does not know where he came from or what happened to his birth parents. This causes Ned a great deal of difficulty, especially when the war breaks out and people begin to question his nationality and his commitment to his adopted country. Ned decides to join the military to prove his patriotism, but he is soon killed in the war. Ned's friendship and death are the catalysts that first bring Jinx to Manifest, where he will find a true home and the reason he flees to prevent condemnation for his part in Ned's death.

Shady Howard

Shady Howard is a typical character of the Depression. Shady is a preacher, a bartender, and an all around handy man. Shady once ran a speakeasy in Manifest when alcohol was illegal and he had to make his own. Shady became an alcoholic during that time, drinking away his demons as he fought to make a living. Later Shady overcame his addiction and took over the First Baptist Church when it burned down even though he has never had any religious training. Shady now runs the church from his old bar.

When Gideon sends his daughter to Manifest, it is to Shady that he sends her. Shady once provided sanctuary to a young boy named Jinx. Now Shady makes a home for Abilene as she struggles to understand her father's actions and the history of her newly adopted hometown. Shady plays a supportive role in Abilene's struggles, not giving her a lot of information until she can work things out on her own, but standing beside her as the awful truth of the past is revealed.

Hattie Mae Harper Macke

Hattie Mae is a precocious teenager when the reader first meets her, a writer who has invented a column for herself in her uncle's newspaper after graduating from high school. This column proves to be invaluable to Abilene as she listens to Miss Sadie's stories. The column reinforces much of what Miss Sadie tells Abilene in her stories,



mentioning certain events that Miss Sadie has described in her story. Hattie Mae also proves to be supportive of Abilene's attempts to find the spy known as the Rattler when she agrees to a Remember When contest in the paper. This contest not only helps Abilene and her friends identify the Rattler, but it also helps the town open up the past and focus on what was good about it rather than focus on the bad. It creates a new beginning for everyone, including Abilene and Gideon.

Miss Sadie

Miss Sadie is an immigrant from Hungary who originally came to Ellis Island with her small son. When an infection of the eye keeps Miss Sadie from being allowed in the country, Miss Sadie is forced to return to Hungary and leave her child behind. Miss Sadie returns and discovers that her son has been sent west on an orphan train and adopted by the owner of a hardware store. Miss Sadie moves to the town where her son is growing up, but she refuses to tell him who she is because she does not want the stigma of immigration to color his life. However, Miss Sadie watches from a distance as Ned grows up and grieves for his death nearly as deeply as does the young boy called Jinx.

When Abilene comes to town and Miss Sadie finds her compass, a compass that once belonged to Ned, she takes it and causes Abilene to come to her. Miss Sadie forces Abilene to work for her to pay for a pot she broke and to earn the compass back. During this time, Miss Sadie tells Abilene the story of Jinx and Ned. This story not only tells Abilene about her father, but it reveals the deep sadness of Miss Sadie and an entire town. However, the telling of the story also begins healing for the town and the people in it.

Mr. Devlin

Mr. Devlin is the owner of the coal mine in Manifest. Mr. Devlin is a cruel man who uses the cheap labor of immigrants in his mines and pays them in company store vouchers for long hours of work. The people of Manifest are unhappy with work conditions and their pay, but they do not know how to stand up to Mr. Devlin to force a change. When it is discovered by the town that Mr. Devlin wants to buy the Widow Cane's property because the coal vein has turned and spreads under it, they decide to buy it first. The town schemes to make money selling a miracle elixir against the Spanish influenza. When the town, with the help of Jinx, manages to buy the land under which the coal lays, Mr. Devlin changes his tune and makes changes in the way he treats his workers.

Mrs. Eudora Larkin

Mrs. Larkin is a straight-laced woman who believes in the heritage of a person. Mrs. Larkin is the president of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Manifest and she dislikes most of her neighbors because they are immigrants, new to the country. Mrs. Larkin appears to be a problem when the town schemes to sell a miracle elixir to raise



the money to buy Widow Cane's property, but she actually proves to be invaluable in a final scheme to assure the town's success.

Finn

Finn is Jinx's uncle. Finn is a cruel man who uses people to get what he wants and does not think twice about committing murder to protect himself. Finn uses Jinx from the time his mother dies to scam people out of their hard earned money. However, it is also Finn who teaches Jinx how to survive on the rails. In the end, Finn accuses Jinx of being a jinx, of killing all those who matter to him in one way or another. Finn also accuses Jinx of a murder he himself committed. When the pressure from the law becomes too much, Finn decides to kill Jinx and accuse him of the murder. However, a noise distracts Finn, allowing Jinx to get away while Finn dies when his head hits a rock. Finn is buried in a grave that is marked with Jinx's real name, Gideon Tucker.



Objects/Places

Letters

Abilene finds letters written to Jinx from Ned Gillen during Ned's time in the military during World War I.

Hattie Mae's Column

Hattie Mae has a column in the local paper that tells all the gossip around town. Abilene reads this column from the time in which her father lived in Manifest and finds in it things that support Miss Sadie's stories about Jinx and Ned.

Compass

Abilene has a compass that belongs to her father and has the inscription, St. Dizier. October 8, 1918. Abilene thinks the inscription refers to the manufacturer, but later learns the compass belonged to Ned and is inscribed with his date and place of death.

Fishing Lure

Abilene finds a fishing lure with Ned's letters that is mentioned both in the letters and Miss Sadie's stories.

Cork

Abilene finds a cork among Jinx's keepsakes that once sat on a bottle of Shady's hooch, the same hooch that smelled so much like Velma T's elixir that Jinx got the idea to mix the two in order to save Shady from trouble with Sheriff Dean.

Nesting Doll

Abilene finds the center of a set of nesting dolls among Jinx's things that she learns was given to him by a small child during the ground breaking meeting that brings the town together in a united effort to scam Mr. Devlin.

Skeleton Key

Abilene finds a skeleton key with Jinx's keepsakes that she eventually discovers opens a shed on Miss Sadie's property where Jinx hid the last bottles of the miracle elixir the town sold to raise money to buy Widow Cane's property.



Telegram

Abilene sends a telegram to her father, Gideon, suggesting that Abilene is dying and needs him to return to Manifest to see her one last time. It is a trick to bring Gideon home that is successful.

Victory Quilt

The ladies of Manifest create a quilt that will be signed by President Wilson and sold to benefit the soldiers of World War I. The signature is ruined when the water tower bursts and soaks the President and the quilt. Jinx buys the quilt and gives it back to Mrs. Larkin who later gives it to her daughter, Pearl Ann.

Hooch

Alcohol is illegal in Kansas in 1918. Shady makes his own whiskey, called hooch by the characters of the novel, and sells it in a bar known as a speakeasy.

Shed

There is a shed on Miss Sadie's property that is kept locked. Miss Sadie becomes angry one afternoon when Abilene tries to get inside it. When Abilene finally does get inside the shed she finds bottles of the miracle elixir the town once sold to raise money and mementos of Ned's childhood that prove Miss Sadie to be his mother.

Widow Cane's Property

Widow Cane dies without an heir, causing her property to go into probate and for the town of Manifest to have first rights to purchase the land for cost and back taxes. This land sits over an important coal vein that Mr. Devlin wants access to, causing a battle between the people of Manifest and Devlin to possess the land.

Devlin's Mine

Devlin Mine is a coal mine in Manifest owned by Mr. Devlin. The workers at the mine work long hours but are only paid with company store vouchers until the town is able to buy a key piece of land that forces Mr. Devlin to negotiate with the workers for better work conditions and pay.



Manifest, Kansas

Manifest, Kansas is a fictional town in Kansas where Gideon Tucker sends his twelve-year-old daughter to live with an old friend. Abilene discovers some secrets buried by the town and brings them to light, allowing the town to finally heal from its deep wounds.

Themes

Secrets and Grief

Abilene comes to a Manifest that is greatly changed from the days in which her father lived there as a boy. Abilene remembers everything about her father's stories of the town, but finds that time has not been kind to Manifest and that the people are not as open and friendly as she had expected. However, as Abilene's time in Manifest grows, she learns more and more about the past the town has hidden away.

Manifest is a coal mine town that is hugely populated by immigrants who are cheap labor for the mine. The groups of immigrants live separate lives, often worshipping and celebrating with only people from their own countries. The mine even separates the work shifts by background so that the workers can communicate easily with one another while in the mine. This causes a division in the town and it allows hatred to fester among those who resent or dislike the immigrants.

Manifest comes together to unite under a single purpose, however, when they decide to raise money to buy a piece of land the mine wants to continue digging for coal. The success of this plan opens up the community and allows them to draw together as one. However, the news that Ned Gillen has died begins to erode this feeling of brotherhood. When the Spanish flu comes to Manifest and kills a large portion of its citizens, the good feelings end and the town turns from the past, burying the painful memories and turning their backs on all that came of the successful scheme. However, Abilene's arrival in town, the daughter of the boy who conceived that scheme, forces the town to confront the secrets of their past and grieve for all that was lost so that they can come together again and look optimistically to the future.

Guilt

Jinx has been told by his uncle that people around him have a habit of dying. Jinx has seen this first hand when his mother dies of some unnamed illness. Later, when a man who threatened his Uncle Finn dies at what Jinx believes is his own hand, the idea that he is a jinx is reinforced. However, Jinx moves on and settles in Manifest, making friends and coming to believe that he can really be a part of a community. This changes, however, when Ned dies. Jinx believes that Ned's death is his fault because he helped him earn the money that he used to bribe the military recruiter into allowing him to join before his eighteenth birthday.

Gideon is reminded of the death of his friend, Ned, when his daughter is injured and a resulting infection nearly takes her life. Gideon sends Abilene away because he does not want her to die because of his jinx, because people around him simply have a habit of dying or running off. Abilene comes to understand this mentality in her father when she hears the story of Jinx and Ned. However, Abilene is not willing to allow her father



to continue thinking this way and she makes him come to Manifest where she hopes they will settle down in a real home for the first time.

Family

Jinx has not known a true family because his father ran off when he was a small child and his mother dies, leaving him alone with his Uncle Finn, a con man who only uses Jinx. Ned does not know who his true family is because he was orphaned and brought to Manifest on an orphan train. Like these two boys, Abilene also has never known a home or a true family, but has lived on the rails all her life with her father, Gideon.

Manifest is a town that is fractured when Jinx first comes there. The town is filled with immigrants who all live their lives separately because of a lack of compassion, of understanding, between the different groups. However, Jinx changes all this when he brings the town together with a scheme to outsmart the mine owner and force him to change working conditions. The town becomes a true family during this time. Unfortunately, tragedy drives them apart again.

Abilene learns the story of Jinx and Ned, but she also learns the story of the town and of the unique woman who shares the story with her. In the end, Abilene is able to bring the town back together, to help them become a community that accepts one another again, just like her father did all those years before. At the same time, Abilene finds a true family in Shady, Miss Sadie, Hattie Mae, and Gideon.



Style

Point of View

The point of view of the novel is first person and third person. The first person sections of the novel are in the voice of Abilene Tucker, a twelve-year-old girl sent to Manifest, Kansas by her father to stay with an old friend. Abilene discovers a box of keepsakes in the room where she is staying and turns them into an investigation into the past of Manifest. As Abilene searches for a spy known as the Rattler and for information about her father, she is told the story of two boys in the letters contained in the box of keepsakes. This story is told to Abilene by Miss Sadie and is told in a third person omniscient point of view that excludes any impression of an authorial voice to the point in which Miss Sadie calls herself the Hungarian woman throughout the story.

The point of view of this novel is an interesting choice. The main part of the novel is told in the first person point of view, taking on the voice of a twelve-year-old girl who is mature beyond her age as she struggles with the abandonment of her father. However, the story of Jinx and Ned is told in a third person point of view that takes the narrator out of the story and provides the distance required for Abilene to understand she is getting an unbiased version of the facts. Later, however, the story turns deeply personal, and Abilene pieces together information that could have biased the story, but did not, showing the reader the depth of character in the narrator. For these reasons, the two different types of point of view in this novel work well together to tell a strong, well formed story.

Setting

The setting of this novel is Manifest, Kansas in 1936 and 1917-18. Manifest is a fictional town based on a real small town in Kansas that the writer has studied intently. The town of Manifest is a coal mine town in which there is a large immigrant population, setting the stage for some of the tensions that fill the plot. At the same time, the novel is set both in the Depression and during World War I, as well as prohibition. This time period is important to the plot because of the impact of prohibition and the war on the people of Manifest in the years in which Abilene's father lived there, but also because the Depression has a huge impact on Abilene's life, leading to her life on the rails with her father and the injury that could have killed her, leading to her father's decision to send her to Manifest.

The setting of this novel is deeply important to the development of the plot. The setting of Manifest in Kansas is important because of the immigrant composition of the town's people. This sets up a situation in which there is the potential for a great deal of tension, tension that influences one boy to join the military and influences others to ban together to stop the unfair work conditions at the mine. The setting of prohibition sets up a situation in which Shady manufactures his own hooch, a drink that is used in



combination with a vitamin elixir that the town sells to make money to buy a key piece of land. The setting of the war brings about the enlistment and death of a favorite citizens that causes a young boy to believe he is a jinx. Finally, the Depression leads one man to raise his daughter on the rails, placing her in danger and convincing him to send her away to a place where he hopes she can finally have a normal life. All of these things make up the character motives and plot situations that drive the story.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple English. The intended audience of this novel is young readers; therefore, the language fits with this demographic. However, due to the fact the novel contains multiple characters who were foreign born, the novel also includes some words and phrases in foreign languages. These words and phrases are quickly explained in the text and pose no risk of confusion for the reader.

The language of this novel is appropriate because it fits the education and speech of a mature twelve-year-old girl, the girl who is the main narrator of the novel. The dialogue also fits the characters in the novel, often broken and rough when a foreign speaker is talking but smooth and educated when a teacher or newspaper writer is speaking. The language is also appropriate to the novel because it fits the demographics of the area in which the novel is set.

Structure

The novel is divided into multiple chapters that each has a specific name that fits with the story about to be told in that chapter. Most of the chapters also have a date under the title that helps the reader know when the story takes place in Abilene's present or eighteen years earlier when Jinx and Ned lived in Manifest. The novel is told in two separate time lines, in Abilene's time and in Jinx's time. However, each time line is linear allowing the reader to follow the jumps in time easily.

The novel contains two main plots and several subplots. The first main plot follows Abilene Tucker as she arrives in Manifest, a town her father once lived in as a young boy. Abilene has come to Manifest to allow her father to take a job on the railroad in Iowa, but she believes he will return for her. Over time, however, Abilene comes to realize her father has no intention of returning. The other main plot of the novel is about Jinx, a young con artist who comes to Manifest after a man is murdered and he is forced to separate from his partner in crime, his uncle Finn. Jinx finds a home for the first time in Manifest with good friends and uses his skills as a con artist to help the town force change at the coal mine where they all work. However, the death of Jinx's friend Ned causes him to run away. One subplot follows Abilene's search for the Rattler, a spy mentioned in a letter from Ned to Jinx. Another subplot follows Abilene's attempts to find something to write a story about for her teacher at the Manifest school. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"The movement of the train rocked me like a lullaby."
Santa Fe Railway, p. 10

"As I stood and brushed myself off, there was the sign not five feet in front of me. It was so weathered there was hardly a chip of blue paint to be found. And it looked to have been shot up so bad most of the words were gone. All that was left read Manifest: A Town with a Past."
Santa Fe Railway, p. 12

"The letters were kind of crooked and a little uneven but they looked to read Perdition."
Path to Perdition, p. 16

"Thinking of spies and people going insane made everyone seem a little frightening."
Main Street, Manifest, p. 43

"He knew he might be fooling himself into thinking that he could stay. That he could leave the past behind."
The Art of Distraction, p. 76

"It tried to remember every detail, even down to the Hungarian woman's not being allowed to contribute a quilt square."
Under the Stars, p. 111

"'The earth, it holds back secrets it is not willing to part with,' I mimicked. 'What a bunch of hooley,' I said under my breath, tossing a dirt clod over my shoulder against the locked up garden shed."
Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, p. 143

"There was a tension that permeated Manifest, as if one shoe had fallen on it and the whole town was waiting for the other to drop."
The Walls Go Up, p. 170

"Perhaps that would explain why he thought he looked into a familiar face as he held out another bottle. It was a man's. There was a coldness to the face and a smile, but not a friendly one. Then the man was gone."
Distribution, p. 200

"Waiting for the tea to brew, I gazed out the window, watching the clouds churn and roil high above the neat rows of Miss Sadie's garden that in fact had come to feel like my own. Those seeds of all kinds—carrot, pea, squash, pumpkin, onion, rested just beneath the surface. I had touched each one, planted each one in rows. Removed and replaced every bit of dirt just so, in hopes that they might take root in this place."
Miss Sadie's Divining Parlor, p. 215



"The music grew louder, and as I rounded the bend near the train tracks, I felt the warmth radiating from the bonfire, saw the glow on the rough and ragged faces. I knew exactly where I was. People living on the road call it The Jungle."

The Jungle, p. 232

"Sitting down with my back against the stone, I took the compass from my pocket and opened the latch. Inside were the words I'd mistaken for the compass maker's name. Now I knew them for what they were. St. Dizier. October 8, 1918. This was Ned's compass, on which Gideon had engraved Ned's date of death and place of burial."

The Shadow of Death, p. 255



Topics for Discussion

Who is Abilene Tucker? Why has she come to Manifest? What does the reader learn from Abilene as she jumps from the train? Why would she do this? What item does Abilene bring with her to Manifest that she continuously loses? Where does this item end up on Abilene's first full day in Manifest? How does this change the way Abilene plans to spend her summer?

Who is Gideon? Why has he sent Abilene to Manifest? What is his connection to Manifest? Why does he send Abilene away? What does he hope she will find there? What does it say to the reader about Gideon's time in Manifest that he chose that place to send his daughter? Why does Abilene come to the conclusion that Gideon never plans to come get her? Does he? Explain.

Who is Shady Howard? Why does Abilene come to live with him? Describe his home. What is unusual about his home? How do these unusual elements of the home describe the type of person Shady is? What does Shady do for a living? Why is there a single bottle of alcohol on his shelf? What does Shady do at night that causes him to have bloodshot eyes the next day? How does Abilene learn the truth about Shady? What does she think of it?

Who is Miss Sadie? What does she do for a living? Do the people of Manifest accept Miss Sadie? What do the kids at school say about Miss Sadie? What is written on the gate to Miss Sadie's property? What does it mean? Why does it frighten Abilene? Who created the gate? What was it meant to say?

Why does Miss Sadie start telling Abilene the story of Jinx and Ned? How does Miss Sadie know so many details of these two boys? Why does she tell a story of Jinx and Ned when Abilene asks to learn about her father? Are Gideon and Jinx connected? Explain. What does Abilene learn from this story? How does this story help Abilene force the town of Manifest face its past and move past it?

Who is Hattie Mae? What role does she play in Abilene's investigation into the Rattler? Abilene's search for evidence of her father in Manifest? What does Hattie Mae write? Why does Hattie Mae have newspapers stacked all over the newspaper office? How do a stack of papers from 1918 get delivered throughout town? How does this lead to a contest called Remember When? Who thought up the contest? For what reason? What does this contest do for the people of Manifest?

Who is Ned Gillen? How did he come to Manifest? Why does he join the military? Where does he get the money he uses to join the military? What is Ned's background? How does this illustrate the racial tensions in Manifest? How does it make Ned feel? What might have changed had Ned known Miss Sadie was his mother? What happens to Ned in the end?