

Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream

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Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream is about a girl named Clara Lee, who is 8 years old third grader. She lives in Bramely town, where every fall there is a festival called Apple Blossom festival with floats for everyone important in the town. Every year, one high school girl gets selected to be the “Miss Apple Pie”, and one elementary school girl gets selected as “Little Miss Apple Pie.” Clara Lee really wants to be Little Miss Apple Pie but lacks the confidence to do so. However, one day she gets scared by a dream and goes to her grandpa who knows everything about the meaning of dreams. Her grandpa says that her dream means good luck. So when the time came for signing up to be Little Miss Apple Pie, Clara puts down her name because she believes she has good luck. But her confidence is shaken when a girl named Dionne signs her name. Dionne is a member of one of the town's founding families and is completely American, whereas Clara is half American and half Korean. Clara loses faith in her good luck. However, when the time came for them to present their speech at the assembly, she gains complete confidence when she presents her speech that everyone in the audience loved. When the school announced Clara's name for the winner of Little Miss Apple Pie, she was flabbergasted and regains full confidence back in herself.

I think this is an excellent book for children because it shows them that if you believe you can do something, with luck and the confidence, the chances of you accomplishing it is much greater than being self depriving. This book is also very well written and easy to understand, in addition to the enjoyable pictures! Young girls will really enjoy reading this book. The little downside that I found in this book is repetitiveness of the the point they are trying to make, causing it to be a little boring. Overall I think it's a great book to read, that will motivate children to show that with belief and confidence you can achieve anything that you want to achieve in life.

The appropriate age group for this book is the ages of 6-11. I would recommend buying this book as a gift to young girls.

Recommended Readings:

- *Lulu and the Duck in the Park* – Hilary McKay
- *The Name Jar* – Yangsook Choi
- *Clementine* – Sarah Penny Packer
- *Half Magic* – Edward Eager