

Walk Two Moons

Sharon Creech

Reviewed by: Keertana Sripathi, 15

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech is a fiction novel that has won the 1995 Newbery Medal. The protagonist of the story is Salamanca Tree Hiddle, who is a thirteen year old country girl. The story starts with Sal, as she is commonly called, and her Gram and Gramps as the three start on a roadtrip to visit Sal's deceased mother in Idaho. During the roadtrip, Gram and Gramps ask Salamanca for an interesting story to hear. Sal then narrates the story of her friend Phoebe Winterbottom in Ohio. After her mother dies from the bus accident during her journey of self-reflection and reflection, Sal and her father drive from Bybanks, Kentucky to Euclid, Ohio. Salamanca, who identifies herself as a country girl, is dismayed by the fact that her new home has barely any trees as compared to the vast number of trees around her old home. In Euclid, Sal's father Mr. Hiddle introduces Sal to Mrs. Cadaver who is described as having wild eyes and crazy frizzy red hair. Salamanca immediately shows dislike towards Mrs. Cadaver as she is afraid that her father might like her and marry her. At school, Phoebe Winterbottom becomes Sal's friend and introduces her to her far-fetched and preposterous stories and assumptions about people based on their looks and actions. Sal finds this ridiculous but soon falls prey to Phoebe's wild yet persuading stories. Because of Phoebe's unique and peculiar perspective, Sal views Mrs. Cadaver as a murderer who killed her husband and buried him in the backyard, which is of course far from the real truth, as Mrs. Cadaver is a very kindhearted and friendly person who acts

as a consolation for Mr. Hiddle as he deals with the death of his very loving wife Chanhassen “Sugar” Pickford Hiddle. The fact is that Mrs. Margaret Cadaver was with Chanhassen in the bus ride and Margaret was the only one who survived. So, Mr. Hiddle found comfort by being near Margaret as Mrs. Cadaver was with Chanhassen during her last few minutes before the crash. Sal explains the story of Phoebe and her missing mother and what came to be once Mrs. Winterbottom returned to her family to her grandparents. As she does this, she, Gramps, and Gram experience the journey that Sal’s mother had as she travelled throughout the country while she was trying to understand who she was. Salamanca realizes that Phoebe’s story was not only Phoebe’s but was also her own story of her and the death of her mother. With the story of the Winterbottoms, Sal learns to cope with her mother’s sudden death. Also, during her road trip with her grandparents, she learns many things and experiences many things such as love, friendship, and death.

I really enjoyed reading about the two stories going on simultaneously throughout the book. One being Salamanca’s road trip with her Gram and Gramps and the other being about Phoebe Winterbottom and her missing mother. Many aspects of life are touched in this book such as love, death, friendship, and grief. As Sal deals with the death of her mother’s life, she starts to learn that life is going beyond your comfort zone and that people must be adventurous in life even if it means risking staying away from their families. She understands how one cannot just stay inside a house safe from all dangers but needs to explore themselves and the world. The language and tone in *Walk Two Moon* is very delightful to read as the reader progresses in the

novel. The age audience most appropriate for this book is 10-14. This book should definitely be bought as a gift because it is truly extraordinary and spectacular on how the many truths of life are expressed through the innocent and sincere eyes of a thirteen year old.

Book Recommendations:

A Million Angels by Kate Maryon