



Somewhere in the Darkness

Walter Dean Myers

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An exciting, eye-catching repackage of acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers' bestselling paperbacks, to coincide with the publication of SUNRISE OVER FALLUJA in hardcover.

Jimmy hasn't seen his father in nine years. But one day he comes back -- on the run from the law. Together, the two of them travel across the country -- where Jimmy's dad will find the man who can exonerate him of the crime for which he was convicted. Along the way, Jimmy discovers a lot about his father and himself -- and that while things can't always be fixed, sometimes they can be understood and forgiven.

Somewhere in the Darkness Details

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From Reader Review Somewhere in the Darkness for online ebook

Monique says

Okay so another Walter Dean Myers book as I can't lie I believe I will find a book by an African American man that will reach my scholars on topics they can relate to..I did a booktrailer for Autobiography of My Dead Brother and it was one of my most loved, the kids liked the context of someone they love dying and memorializing them..I got a lot of good discussion so I figured yup keep on the vein of deep intriguing reads to make my students think..and so I found this one and read the back-a boy just meeting his father boom it seemed like a no-brainer to read this and see if I can invoke curiosity in some kid in need of a male role model..Alright so this is a story of Jimmy, orphaned but taken in and loved by Mama Jean with a good life with school and friends..struggling in the tenth grade and daydreaming often when everything turns upside down and a tall stranger enters his life and says he is his father--and he just got out of prison after nine years and is taking Jimmy with him to Arkansas. This all happens rather early on in the book and the story follows the men as they travel from New York to Arkansas and Jimmy gets the time with his father he never had; his dad answers questions about his mother, his shady past and teaches him man lessons ---these two who never knew each other learn they need each more than they thought. I thought this book was poignant and touching in spots but overall lacking a lot of action to really hook a young reader but I will save it for my 8th graders for sure as I feel it may be a touch mature with its life lesson/reflection on misdoings and corrections though it was a good read and after starting it late last night I did want to finish it and won't spoil anything but it's a little predictable how it ends with a message to cherish every moment and family is so important..Good but not great read I don't know I am a little on the fence about loving my last few reads sigh..must get something great!!

Ka'leneReads says

GoodRead

Travis O says

Some Where In The Darkness is about a boy (Jimmy) who has not seen his father (Crab) for about ten years. Jimmy is now 14 and has to deal with life as it self without a father,But that is not the hardest thing that jimmy has to deal with. Crab is finnaly back and now wants to know his so called son jimmy. The Father and Son go off on a trip way across the county to meet crabs fears and secrets. One of the places that they went to on their trip was to eat breakfast. They talked about inmportant stuff while they ate.

I realy liked this beacuse it shows the good and the bad about relationships. Even though i am not in a good relationship with my Pop's, this book amzed me . I cant believe that Jimmy was able to upstand so long without a father.

Rebecca McNutt says

This was an amazing story about what it takes to be a family, and about forgiving the unforgivable. The characters were realistic and the story was very original.

James A.C. Morris says

This is my favorite book because it has a lot of drama in it and it contains a black family unlike most authors. I learned that just because you love someone you don't have to put your self in danger.

Cam N says

Somewhere in the Darkness is a great book for anyone who enjoys a book with a good story line and surprises. The main character Jimmy Little is boy who has trouble attending school because of his mother passing, even though he is an honor student. Also Jimmy's father is in jail and has been there his whole life. One day when he comes home from school he sees a man standing in his house. The man claims that he is his father and his name is Crab. He said that he was released early from jail for something he didn't do and he needs to take a job in Chicago because it is required by his parole officer. Later on in the story, Jimmy finds out that he has a kidney disease and he is going to die. Crab escaped from jail for two reasons, one being that he wants to prove to his son that he is not guilty, the other being that he wants to create a relationship that he never had with his son. Will Crab die before him and Jimmy can create a father son relationship? That's for you to find out in Somewhere in the darkness.

Overall, Somewhere in the darkness was a great story. It had an amazing story line and I loved the characters. The only thing is I wish I knew a little bit more about his mother because it left me wondering the whole story. Besides that I would recommend that you read this story and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Drew Vandervest says

Personal Response:

I liked the Somewhere in the Darkness by Walter Dean Myers, because the book showed a true connection between a son and a father. I liked how Crab showed that he cared about Jimmy and broke out to spend time with him. I liked how both of them were set out for an adventure. They had to visit different states to give hope for Crab to have someone confess to the murder. It was sad at the end when Crab had gotten shot in front of his son. It was also sad when Jimmy witness his dad die at the hospital. I liked how Crab actually put in a effort to show his son a father figure. I didn't like how this book dragged on. I rate this book four out of five stars.

Plot:

This book is about a kid with an absent father. There were two main characters in this book and that was Jimmy and his dad Crab. The reason why Crab wasn't involved in Jimmy's life was that Crab was incarcerated for murder. While Jimmy's father and mother were not around, he grew up with a family friend. Crab surprised Jimmy one day and talked to him about how he missed him so much. Crab also explained how he just got released from prison and needed to find work in Chicago. At first Jimmy was skeptical, but ended up going with Crab to Chicago. Crab explained to Jimmy how he broke out of jail and is on the run.

Crab explained to Jimmy how he was innocent and his friend, Rydell had killed the person. Crab tried to prove his innocence by driving down to Memphis to make Rydell confess to the murder. Police find and shoot Crab at the end of the book. Crab dies the next morning in the hospital due to a gun wound.

Characterization

Jimmy grew up with a family friend his whole life and never met his mother nor father. Jimmy was 12 years old. Jimmy lived in Brooklyn with a family friend, Mama Jean. Jimmy grew up in a rough neighborhood. Jimmy met his dad halfway through the book. Jimmy's father's name is Crab. Crab is an prison escapee that broke out to spend time with his son. Crab had gotten locked up for an armed robbery and murder. When Jimmy and Crab first met they were stranger to each other. As the book progressed there relationship started to progress to a healthy father son relationship. At the end of the book Jimmy witnessed his father get shot by the police.

Setting

The book took place in modern time. The setting is important to the story because Jimmy grew up there. The time period is relevant to the story because growing up with one parent or none at all is common these days. Jimmy grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Jimmy lived with a family friend Mama Jean. Jimmy grew up a single child. The Brooklyn neighborhood was run down. Jimmy's father was locked up in Brooklyn's penitentiary. Jimmy's mother was also incarcerated. Jimmy's dad broke out of prison and he drove Jimmy to Chicago, Illinois. Jimmy and Crab stayed at a run down hotel that didn't have running water. Jimmy and Crab stayed in Chicago for two days, they then traveled to Memphis, Tennessee. Crab Located Rydell in Memphis. Rydell was the supposed killer to Crab's murder case. The police killed Crab in Memphis.

THEMATIC CONNECTION:

The theme of this book is appearance vs reality. The appearance of the book is about a fugitive who broke out of prison. The book in reality is that fugitive has a son that he's trying to spend time with. Another part of reality is that Crab broke out to try and make the person confess of the murder.

Recommended:

I recommend this book to people between the ages of 14-45 because a teenager and a parent can relate to this book. I recommend this book to the male gender because it showed the connection between a father and his son. I recommend this book to fathers because this book showed how Crab made an impact to Jimmy's life with such little time. I recommend this book to people who have both parents present in their life. This book can show them how grateful it is to have both parents in life.

Brooke says

this book is on the summer reading list for high school students in the school district of philadelphia. in my opinion, not as good as other books by walter dean myers. i'm curious to know what my students think of it...

Erik Sneedenburg says

1: After reading the first few chapters of Somewhere In The Darkness by Walter Dean Myers, I began to notice his typical style. The main character and the narrator, Jimmy Little, is an teenage black male without a parental figure. This book has described in the beginning chapters a boy faced with a unique issue. He does not know if he can trust his escaped convict father. The remaining chapters will hopefully develop a relationship between the father and son.

2: I am about half way into reading this book and the story is slowly developing. However several characters have come to light. One of this most important characters so far is Jimmy Little. He is the protagonist of the story and symbolizes youth without guidance. He has faced many difficult decisions since the addition of his father. Jimmy has started to realize that with all of his fathers mistakes, he is still human and wants to love him.

3: So far in the book Jimmy is beginning to realize his father does have genuine, human emotions. However, he still holds conflicting feelings about his father. Jimmy's grandmother, Mama Jean, does not like his father. Jimmy feels pressured from both his father and grandmother. He sees his father has changed but still knows of his past. A major theme at this point of the story is family comes first. Jimmy's grandmother wants to protect jimmy from his father and Jimmy's father has placed his son as his highest priority.

Sadie Kaminske says

Walter Dean Myers did a good job writing "Somewhere in the Darkness." It was about a black boy who lived with his grandma because, his mom died, and he had never heard from his dad. Levi didn't like going to school and he tried to skip. One day when he skipped school, a man came to his apartment and told him who he was. The man was Levi's dad, Crab. He was going to take him to New York with him to find a job. I would recommend this book to middle school kids and older because it can get violent at times.

Kelvin Perez says

Jimmy is a kid who lives in Harlem. Jimmy hasn't seen his father in 9 years. One day, he comes back, and he wants to know his son more. Jimmy's father's name is Crab, he is actually on the run from the police. He was gone for 9 years because he was in jail for armed robbery. Now he's accused of killing a man. He takes Jimmy half way across the U.S to find a man who relieve him of his accusation. Along the way, Jimmy learns more about his and about himself as well.

Sarvenaz says

This book deserves a much better cover because the story is really interesting. Jimmy has been raised by his neighbor because his mom died and his father is in jail. Suddenly his dad shows up and says he's out of jail and wants his son back. This is a story about a father and son who get to know the truth about each other.

The best part is on page 167 when the son, Jimmy, finds out the truth about his father and considers what

kind of father he will be in the future:

'...he would tell him all the secrets he knew, looking right into his eyes and telling him nothing but the truth so that every time they were together they would know things about each other. That way there would be a connection ...something that would be there even when they weren't together.'

Honesty between parent and child is a major theme explored in this book and I recommend it. The reason I didn't give it five stars is because there are parts that bored me a bit. But it's worth pushing past to get to the juice.

Jennifer says

The main character, Jimmy, lives with a woman he calls Mama Jean. Out of nowhere Jimmy's dad comes to visit him and says they let him out of jail and he wants to take Jimmy with him to Chicago. Mama Jean hesitates but let's Crab, Jimmy's father, take him. Mama Jean gives him money in case he runs into problems. Along the way he finds out his dad escaped from jail rather than being let out. By the end of the book the police caught Crab and sent him to a hospital where he died.

This book left you wondering about what would happen to Crab if he got caught and how he would avoid that. However, the book didn't have much action and could be boring at times. A lot of the book was taken up by talking. The ending happened really fast too compared to how nice slow and steady the rest of the book happened.

Darin Johnston says

This story involved Jimmy Little, a fourteen-year-old boy who lives in a New York City apartment with Mama Jean, his legal guardian as his father's in prison and his mother is dead. Jimmy comes home from school, he finds a man named Crab who says he's his father. Mama Jean returns home to find Crab and Jimmy talking, so she's happy to see them reunited, but when Crab wants to take Jimmy on a trip, she's suddenly a bit more worried. While she has her reservations, Mama Jean allows the trip to happen. As they travel, Crab reveals that he's broken out of prison and is taking this trip to right some wrong about his imprisonment. I won't spoil the ending, but it's a rather abrupt conclusion to say the least!

5 stars because of the drama that's created by Walter Dean Myers, the drama of Jimmy's trust issues, the drama of Crab and his breakout, and the ending. A great book for your upper elementary/ middle school students!

BYRON says

Jimmy Little, a fourteen-year-old boy, and his estranged father are reunited after nine years. The father is dying of a kidney ailment and has escaped from prison to share the truth of his past and to re-establish a relationship with his son. Jimmy embarks on a physical and psychological journey as he and his father explore their pasts. Because his mother died when he was a baby and because his father has been in prison,

Jimmy never had the opportunity to learn about his roots until being reunited with his father. Jimmy is initially reluctant to develop a relationship with his father, but he soon opens his heart and mind and learns from his father the mistakes he does not want to make in his future. Although Jimmy realizes his father is unable to depart from his illegal ways, he comes to believe that his father was falsely accused and did not kill anyone.

When Jimmy's father revisits an ex-partner-in-crime, he is betrayed again, captured by the police, and dies cuffed to his hospital bed with Jimmy at his side. Throughout the novel, Jimmy transforms from confused teenager who is bright but often daydreams and skips school to a mature young adult. He gains insights into what it means to be an adult and more importantly, a father.

I think this author did a great job writting this story because he shows how a kid name jimmy who is brave because his mom died and his father had gone to prison. This book also is good because it shows you nomatter what happens in life you can still achieve your dreams. i give this book a 4 star because jimmy was very strong and brave because his mother died and after his father died so it was very hard for him but he still kept going on and on.
