



The Truth About Sparrows

Marian Hale

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"The Wynns are an unforgettable family. The details of their struggle to survive the Great Depression will linger long after the last page has been read."-Ann M. Martin, winner of the Newbery Honor for A Corner of the Universe

A stunning debut novel about the true meaning of home

Sadie Wynn doesn't want a new life; her old one suits her just fine. But times are hard in drought-plagued Missouri, and Daddy thinks they'll be better off in Texas. Sadie hates this strange new place, where even children must work at the cannery to help make ends meet and people are rude to her disabled father.

Yet when trouble comes, it is the kindness of these new neighbors that helps the family make it through. And no one helps more than Dollie, a red-headed chatterbox of a girl who just might become a good friend-if Sadie gives her half a chance.

The Truth About Sparrows is a 2005 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

The Truth About Sparrows Details

Date : Published September 1st 2004 by Henry Holt & Company

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Author : Marian Hale

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Young Adult, Juvenile,
Relationships, Realistic Fiction, Academic, School

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From Reader Review The Truth About Sparrows for online ebook

Nono says

Really enjoyed this book. About a family in the depression who lost a lot but never their dignity. Also about a young girl coming to terms with the changing circumstances of her family. Loved it -thanks Kristi

QNPoohBear says

I thought the prose was really nice. I loved the descriptions of the landscape, their new home and everything they had to do to make it home. The setting is very unique and living near the ocean my whole life, I found it strange to experience someone smelling the salt air and eating shrimp for the first time. The author really excelled at the details of Depression era life in that area. The plot took awhile to be interesting but 3/4 of the way through, I couldn't put it down.

Sadie is very real. She's flawed which makes her more relateable. She's not a plucky too precocious young girl. She has honest, realistic feelings that kids actually experience. I know I would feel the same way in her place, yet as an adult, I found her unlikeable. Her refusal to accept her new friend and their situation annoyed me. I wanted to give her a good talking to.

I loved the secondary characters. The disabled Daddy made the story more interesting. I liked his grit and determination. The lively neighbors are the best part of the story. I liked the descriptions of them though I felt they were just too nice.

Fernanda says

Great book for middle schoolers. It portrays families who are drifting through America during the Great Depression trying to find places where they can start a new life. Kids will learn that sometimes what they think can only be happening to them is actually happening to all those around them. While the protagonist is a girl boys should get a message out of this book as well.

L11-Sharri Moses says

Twelve year old Sadie Wynn and her family have to leave their home in Missouri because her father has lost his job and they will have to look for a job elsewhere. They decide to look for a job in Texas. Many people have been affected by the drought and Depression. Sadie's best friend Wilma and her family lost their home and had to go live with relatives in California. Wilma begs Sadie to never forget they are best friends and they promise to write to each other every day. Sadie is resentful about leaving her home and angry at strangers that stare at her father's polio-withered legs. They find a one-room shack made out of tar-paper on the coast of Texas. Her father builds a fishing boat and fishes to earn money. Sadie is unappreciative of what she has and what is really important until she has to deliver her newborn sister a month early. The baby has trouble breathing and her new friend Dollie is there to support her. Sadie realizes that "instead of counting my blessings like Daddy asked me to do, I'd been feeding my bitterness." This family learns to endure the Depression and they also become closer and stronger through it. This book would be good for students in

grades 5-8. There are many themes that could be discussed such as, The Depression, survival, living with disabilities, and life in Dust Bowl Missouri. There are other books that could be read to delve deeper into The Depression. Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse is another historical fiction book that could be read, compared and discussed. n Students could write in a journal as they read this fiction books. They could write about the hardships that were endured. There are nonfiction books that would give the students more information like, The Great Depression by Jacqueline Farrell and Hardship and Hope: America and the Great Depression by Victoria Sherrow.

Katriina says

I love this book! Taking place during the Great Depression, The Truth About Sparrows creates a whole new world where if you can't make do with what you have, you don't survive. It teaches you that you can be happy with very little. As long as you have your family and friends, you'll be okay.

LaDawn says

Another book I picked up because it was next to Shannon Hale in the library! This is a wonderful book about a young girl in the depression, leaving her nice home to live in a shack on the coast. She discovers some uncomfortable truths about herself, and becomes a better person and friend because of it. A very believable story with likable characters.

Angela Kinnett says

Loved this book about a young girl and her family forced to move to Texas to find work. The hardships they had to endure, and the new friendships that were built helped her to deal with the loss of a lifetime friend.

Melissa says

This is a book that will make you count your blessings. Sadie's family is one of the thousands who fled the dustbowl during the depression years, and they struggle to build a new life far from everything familiar. Sadie resists everything about her new life, almost especially her new friends. There is a strong undercurrent of Christian faith in this book, which is handled in my opinion with authenticity. I found Sadie's story very moving and uplifting. I was only a bit troubled by the subplot (which gives the book its title) that I felt was unfortunately underdeveloped.

Faye says

A great children's book. Well written. A great story. A lot of meaning and good thoughts in this book. I read it for book club.

A. says

I loved this book. It was one of those beautifully written stories that makes you feel happy even when it is breaking your heart. It made me feel young again, in the way that the main character always feels too many emotions and with a limited range of life experience has no way of knowing how to deal with them. (Can you tell I like coming of age stories?)

It is the author's first novel, and I wish I could tell her that it was a job well done.

Olivia I says

The book, *The Truth About Sparrows*, by Marian Hale is a first person narrative of a thirteen year old girl and her family's struggles during the Great Depression. Set in 1933, Sadie Wynn, the main character, experiences a difficult move from their home in Missouri to the southeastern coast of Texas. Her parents feel that it is the best for the family of five; with another child on the way, as it was difficult for them to find work. In the beginning of the book, Sadie is angry with her parents because she does not want to move and feels secure in her own home. However, as the book progresses, she discovers that she should be thankful for what she has because what really matters are the people around her. Although she greatly misses her old friend Wilma since they've been separated, Sadie meets another girl named Dollie who eases her into the move even though she initially finds the girl irritating. On one of the first nights in Texas, Sadie encounters a homeless man who asks for some food. She later finds out that he lives in a cardboard box on the seawall and eventually finds out that he lost his family. In order to earn some money, Sadie begins working at the Cannery nearby with their new neighbors who become their friends. Every day, Sadie thinks and prays about the man, whom she refers to as Mr. Sparrow, and even leaves him food one night. Then, a hurricane hits the town they live in and inflicts very bad damage. With another baby on the way, the family needs to stick together more than ever during this difficult economic time in America.

I enjoyed this historical fiction book as it portrayed the typical family struggle during the depression well. I highly recommend this book as it was very interesting to read as I found myself not being able to put it down. This book demonstrated how even during the toughest of times, there is a way to get through them and prevail, especially with the love from family and friends.

Melinda says

I got this book since it was next to Shannon Hale in the library. The only reason why I like it is because it's exactly like the *Little House* books.

Abbya says

[The Truth About Sparrows](#) by Marian Hale was a wonderful read to take a look at the depression through the eyes of a child. The book takes place in the year of 1933 right in the heart of the Great Depression, and twelve year old Sadie doesn't want to leave her old life in Missouri but times are tough and Sadie and her

family, including her pregnant mother, disabled father, and many siblings, decide to move down south to Texas to build a boat and become fishers. Sadie meets new people and new places like Aransas Pass and Dollie but her stubbornness doesn't let her see what she has. Will Sadie grow into her new home or continue to miss her old one? The story is a first point perspective which in my opinion makes it more interesting. The story taught me many valuable life lessons like being thankful for what you have and that who are inside always shines through. Overall this book was an excellent story and I very much enjoyed reading it and would recommend it to anyone who loves a heartwarming story about friends, family and life.

Awesome1234 says

This book shows poverty and struggle, throughout the story you see the main character Sadie become more and more depressed. She had to leave her home and everything she loved to go to a far away place. She must make new friends, and a new life. The setting is during the great depression. Sadie and her family live happily ever after. If you like stories about struggle and hope read this book you won't regret it.

The author wants the reader to understand what this girl had to go through, the struggles she overcame, and her greatest achievements [for example she must live her life as a young lady instead she is teased by others who wish they were as lucky as her.] Marian Hale made this book especially for young readers. If you like a story with ups and downs then read this book. Hale wants you to understand and learn from this book, she wants you to imagine yourself in Sadie's position, What would you do?

Nancy says

A keeper to share.
