



2010

### Grounded

Lauren McMullan

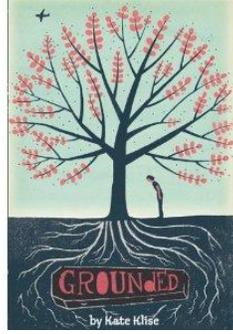
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Klise, Kate. *Grounded*. Feiwel and Friends, 2010. ISBN 9780312570392. \$16.99. 196p.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Juvenile Fiction;

Subject: Grief—Juvenile fiction; Swindlers and swindling—Juvenile fiction; Books—Reviews;

Daralynn lost her daddy, brother, and little sister in a plane crash. At first it does not feel real—Aunt Josie’s tears, Mother’s new job styling dead people’s hair, and Grandmother’s slowly deteriorating mind. However, life continues, Mother opens up her own hair salon, and summer begins. Because her mother has become brusque and angry, Daralynn doesn’t feel like she can talk to her. When a crematorium opens right next to Aunt Josie’s retirement home, Daralynn becomes suspicious of the owner, Clem. She starts her own investigation of him and reveals him as a swindler and heart-breaker. In the process, she re-awakens herself and her mother to what it means to be alive.

With characters as developed and lovable as those found in Richard Peck’s *A Year Down Yonder*, and with a story that masterfully weaves together love, humor, healing, mystery and loss, *Grounded* is, quite simply, a terrific book. For anyone who has experienced loss, *Grounded* offers sound and hopeful insights. This is a marvelous book to read-aloud in the classroom and spark discussion about what students value in their life—or what keeps them grounded.

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