The Exact Location of Home
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Book Review
The Exact Location of Home

It’s been three years since Zig’s seen his dad. Thinking a geocacher called Senior Searcher is actually his father, Zig uses an old GPS unit to track down different geocaches in the hope that he’ll find some clue about his father’s whereabouts. Meanwhile, the bills are adding up and Zig and his mom are evicted from their apartment and go to live in a homeless shelter. His grades are dropping, he spends less time with his friends, and he’s no closer to finding his dad than before. Eventually, he finds out that his dad has actually been in jail, which is why he suddenly disappeared. Though his geocaching adventures did not lead Zig to his dad, they did introduce him to a new friend, and finally, a place to call home.

A heartbreaking story that represents the realities of poverty and homelessness, this book is eye-opening to the struggles that kids face, both in and out of school, when they are homeless for a time. Simple things that we all take for granted, like pencils and paper, are difficult to come by when you don’t have anything. This story is a perfect example of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs - when basic needs (like food, clothing, and shelter) are not met, children do not learn as effectively. This story stands to remind us to all be a little kinder and more understanding as we often have no idea what people are going through. Beautifully written, this first person narrative has a powerful effect on the reader, invoking one’s empathy. This insightful story of hope, friendship, and hardship will captivate reader’s attention and their hearts.