



2018

The Parker Inheritance

Taylor Harris

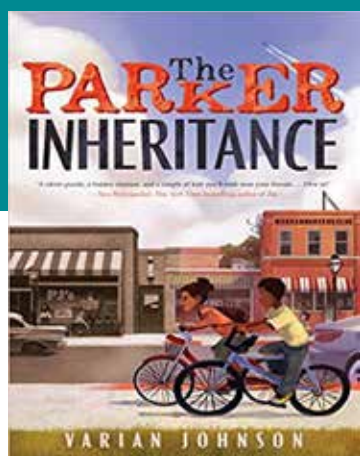
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Book Review

The Parker Inheritance

Author

Varian Johnson

Illustrator

Reviewer

Taylor Harris

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

331

Year

2018

Publisher

Arthur A. Levine

ISBN

9780763674755

Living in her grandma's old house, Candice stumbles upon an old letter full of clues that promise a large sum of money. Intrigued, Candice and her new friend, Brandon, begin the hunt. Diving into the past to figure out what the clues could mean, they discover some of the troubled history of their town, Lambert. Eventually, they find out that the person who had created this treasure hunt was a young black man who left Lambert out of necessity and ended up passing as a white man. Because of his new identity, he was able to create a much better life for himself. After many years of seeking revenge, he decided to create this treasure to both help Lambert and to reveal the messy history of the past. Candice and Brandon solve the mystery and accomplish both goals.

This is an intriguing mystery that unveils the terrible history of racism and segregation in our country. Though segregation was outlawed in 1954, it took many years for the country to actually start living it, and even when they did, the prejudice and racism did not disappear. This story shows how poor conditions could be for blacks at that time, and how we still have not achieved a perfect equality. The story jumps between the modern day search for the hidden fortune and a historical fiction line that shows the racist conditions of our country in the late fifties and sixties. This allows the reader an even greater understanding of the mystery as they have more information than the characters themselves. Themes of revenge, prejudice, racism, and friendship weave their way through the words and mysterious plot, ending in a well-written adventure that emphasizes a chance for hope and becoming better. Well-paced, interesting, and engaging, this book is a great historical fiction mystery.