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Savvy

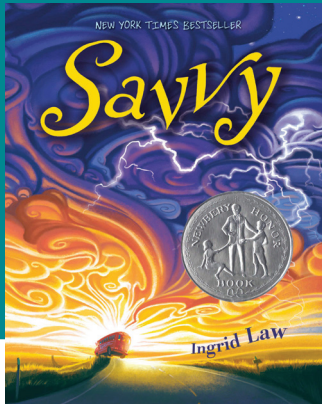
Erica Sonzogni

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Book Review

Savvy

Author

Ingrid Law

Reviewer

Erica Sonzogni

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

342

Year

2008

ISBN

9780142414330

Publisher

Scholastic, Inc.

In the Beaumont family, each person has their own superpower, known as a ‘savvy,’ that they discover on their thirteenth birthday. Mississippi, “Mibs” for short, is about to encounter this monumental day. She is nervous and excited about unearthing her savvy. But on her birthday, her Poppa gets into an accident and is rushed to the hospital with little hope for survival. This event sets Mibs and her siblings on a forty-eight-hour adventure to get to the hospital, hoping to save their father using their savvies. Along the way, they meet many new friends that help them with their quest.

Savvy is a coming-of-age novel. Most children imagine what it would be like to have magical powers, and this makes Mibs an engaging character, who not only has the struggles of a normal teenager but has a new superpower that she must learn to control. The overarching theme that everyone has a savvy inside of them but they must realize it will certainly resonates with many readers. Many areas of the book provide for deeper discussion. For example, one quote in the book states, “I was discovering that sometimes the outcome of a choice was almost as hard to predict or to control as a new savvy.” Drawing this connection between having a savvy to the real life choices that children might confront allows readers to think about their own struggles and how they might approach them.