Moon Over Manifest

By

Clare Vanderpool

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed
Moon Over Manifest
By Clare Vanderpool

Table of Contents

Suggestions and Expectations ................................................................. 3
List of Skills ............................................................................................. 4
Synopsis / Author Biography ................................................................. 5
Student Checklist .................................................................................... 6
Reproducible Student Booklet ................................................................. 7
Answer Key ............................................................................................. 78

About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine of these years. He is the author of the novel for Young Readers, Mystery at Red Marsh Lake (Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2019), available on www.amazon.com. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites www.reedpublications.org and www.novelstudies.org.

Copyright © 2012 Nat Reed
All rights reserved by author.
Permission to copy for single classroom use only.
Electronic distribution limited to single classroom use only.
Not for public display.
Revised 2020.
Moon Over Manifest
By Clare Vanderpool

Suggestions and Expectations

This 84 page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on a few chapters of Moon Over Manifest (usually about 25 pages of the novel) and is comprised of five different activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

→ A portfolio cover (p.7) as well as a Checklist (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

→ Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5, makes reference to the following:

a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
c) compare and contrast two characters;
d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
e) drawing inferences from the text;
f) determining a theme of a story . . . and many others.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include life’s journey, grief, coal mining, prohibition, World War I, the Spanish Influenza, importance of family, belonging and roots, homelessness.
Moon Over Manifest
By Clare Vanderpool

List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homophones
3. Identifying / creating alliteration
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify foreshadowing.
7. Identify personification.
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create similes
14. Identify anagrams

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a time line of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel.
4. Complete a KWS Chart

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Compare two characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Write a book review
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write about personal feelings
6. Complete an Observation Sheet

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a Collector’s Card
Moon Over Manifest

By Clare Vanderpool

Synopsis

Abilene Tucker feels abandoned. Her father has put her on a train, sending her off to live with an old friend for the summer while he works a railroad job. Armed only with a few possessions and her list of universals, Abilene jumps off the train in Manifest, Kansas, aiming to learn about the boy her father once was.

Having heard stories about Manifest, Abilene is disappointed to find that it's just a worn-out old town. But her disappointment quickly turns to excitement when she discovers a hidden cigar box full of mementos, including old letters that mention a spy known as the Rattler. These mysterious letters send Abilene and her new friends on an honest-to-goodness spy hunt, even though they are warned to "Leave well enough alone."

Abilene throws all caution aside when she heads down the mysterious Path to Perdition to pay a debt to the reclusive Miss Sadie, a diviner who tells stories from the past. It seems that Manifest’s history is full of long-held secrets. What will happen if they are finally revealed? [The Publisher]

Author Biography

Clare Vanderpool

If you ask anyone who knows me, they will tell you that I have a very strong connection to place. I live in Wichita, Kansas, about four blocks from where I grew up, in an old neighborhood called College Hill. From my house I can walk to my parents' house, my sister's house, the school I went to and where my kids go now, the pool, the sledding hill, and two bookstores!

I grew up reading many wonderful books in a lot of strange places. Books like Harold and the Purple Crayon, Anne of Green Gables, and Island of the Blue Dolphins in places like dressing rooms, the bathroom, and church. (Like you never read a book in church.)

While I do have a college degree in English and Elementary Education, my best education has come from reading, listening to family stories, looking out the car window on road trips, pretending to be pirates with my brother, and just plain imagining.

Besides writing I like to go to the pool with my kids, browse at the bookstore, have a neighbor over for tea, watch re-runs of Monk, have a lot of kids playing at our house, and go out for dinner with my husband. Life is good. (The Author’s Website)
Moon Over Manifest
By Clare Vanderpool

Student Checklist

Student Name: ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade / Level</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moon Over Manifest

By Clare Vanderpool

Name: ____________________________
Before you read the chapter:

The *protagonist* in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of *Moon Over Manifest* is twelve year old Abilene, a most unusual character living a very different kind of life than most girls her age. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read (or movies you have seen). What do you think makes for an especially intriguing protagonist?

Do you think *Moon Over Manifest* is an effective title for a novel? Why or why not?

What is the best title of a book you have ever read (or heard of)?
Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

| vigilant | dyspepsia | perdition | dilapidated | interim |
| antiquity | extraordinaire | discombobulated | tentative | anticipation |

1. When the bank manager was in a serious car accident, an ___________ manager was appointed by head office.
2. “I can’t emphasize it enough,” Ms. Potter said. “Everyone in our class must be ___________ if we are to catch whoever is stealing the lunches.”
3. Johnny Bower was a goalie ___________ during the 1960s.
4. Surprisingly, the mayor lived in a ___________ old house by the factory.
5. Sara found the ___________ of waiting for the bell to ring was more than she could bear.
6. The nurse was quite certain that the pills would cure his ___________.
7. He felt quite ___________ after being struck on the head with the basketball.
8. She is a student of ___________, especially pertaining to ancient Greece.
9. The preacher warned them that a life of sin would end in ___________.
10. I gave him a ___________ timetable which is good until the end of the month.

Questions

1. Describe why Abilene was going to the town of Manifest.

2. Describe the setting of the first chapter.
3. __________________ started to write a weekly column in the Manifest Herald in the year _________.

4. How had Gideon come to know Shady?

5. What action did Abilene take to fulfill the advice, *it’s best to get a look at a place before it gets a look at you*?

6. Describe how Shady and Hattie Mae treated Abilene when she arrived in town.

7. Think of an example to support Abilene’s statement: *I’d always been in the protective shade of my father*. Why did this feeling make her feel vulnerable?

8. Why did they think it might be a good idea for Abilene to attend school the next day, even though it was the last day of school before summer holidays?

9. Describe what Abilene found when she was looking for a place to hide her compass.
A. A simile is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter One is “Hearing Gideon tell about it was like sucking on butterscotch.”

What two things are being compared in this example?

Invent your own similes comparing the following items with something from your imagination:

a) the glitter of a Christmas tree ornament

b) the call of a chickadee

**Bonus**: Find another example of a simile later in the novel and come back and enter it below.

B. Copy out any three sentences from these chapters and underline the nouns.
Extension Activities

Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first few chapters of our novel. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.