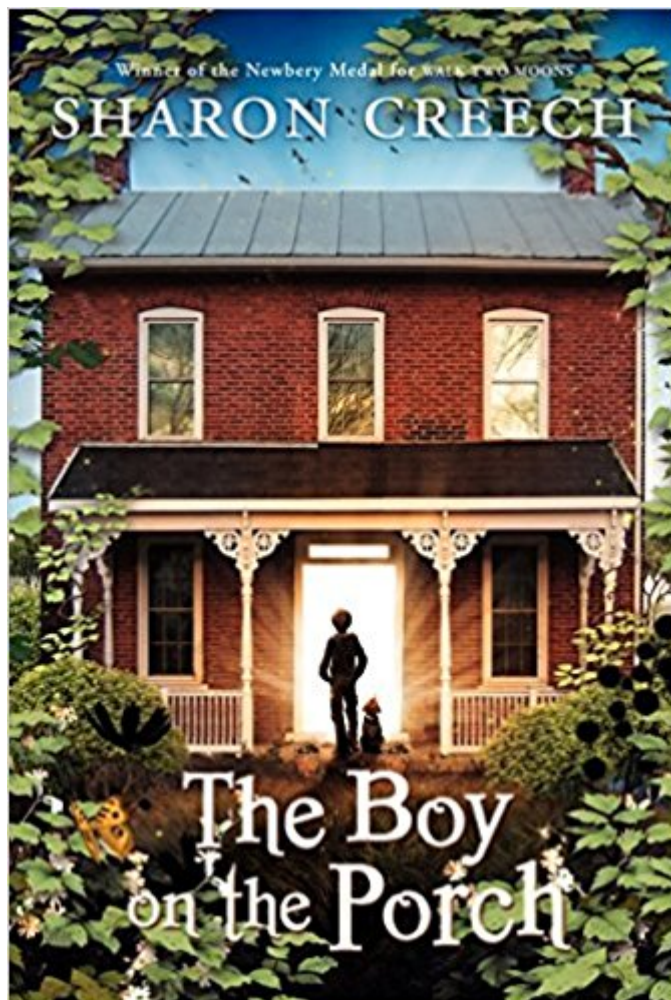


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# The Boy On The Porch



## Synopsis

Fans of Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech's Ruby Holler will love her latest tween novel about finding family when you least expect it. *The Boy on the Porch* is a singular story about opening your heart and discovering home in unexpected places. Extras in the paperback tell of Sharon Creech's inspiration for the book! When a young couple finds a boy asleep on their porch, their lives take a surprising turn. Unable to speak, the boy, Jacob, can't explain his history. All John and Marta know is that they have been chosen to care for him. And, as their connection and friendship with Jacob grow, they embrace his exuberant spirit and talents. The three of them blossom into an unlikely family and begin to see the world in brand-new ways.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (September 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061892386

ISBN-13: 978-0061892387

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 83 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,439 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption](#) #134 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) #1025 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6—Creech draws readers into a brilliantly simple, sentimental, and adult-centered moral scenario. On a rural American farm, an isolated couple finds a mute, mysterious, and artistic boy (who could be six, seven, or eight) abandoned on their porch. The longer he stays with them, the more his various talents become apparent and the more attached they become. They dread the day someone might come back to claim him. Readers will fall for the boy along with the taciturn couple and will become utterly absorbed in the what-would-you-do element of this cleanly written

narrative. Others, however, may be distracted by the overly idyllic portrayal of farm and rural life, one-dimensional characters, and the aura of righteousness. It is, after all, an far-fetched premise, no matter how well written by such a renowned and skillful author. As an excellent vehicle for exploring moral quandaries, schools and libraries seeking books around which to discuss values will definitely want this title. However, Creech's fans should be aware that this is a departure from her previous fare, more like her *The Unfinished Angel* (HarperCollins, 2009) than her titles featuring strong female narrators. Rhona Campbell, Georgetown Day School, Washington, DC (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

John and Marta, a young couple living on an out-of-the-way farm, find a young boy deposited on their porch. He does not speak, seems unafraid, and has only a crumpled note to indicate his identity: "Plees taik kair of Jacob. He is a good boy. Wil be bak wen we can." The uncertain couple open their home and their hearts to this silent boy with a talent for music and art and love. It is a fragile happiness, lived moment to moment as Marta and John dare not make long-term plans. The brief chapters of this slender novel reinforce the idea of time stolen, as the days unfold in the shadow of the inevitable return of the boy's family. What could be a melodrama is crafted into a richer and more gracious story in Creech's masterful hands. The outcome of Jacob's time with John and Marta is long lasting and solid and pays forward in a completely believable and satisfying manner. Grades 4-6. --Kara Dean --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I thought Sharon Creech had another Newberry winner as I read this book. I was pulled into the story from page 1. The emotions the book portrayed were excellent. This is a book children and adults will both love. Children will learn a lot about the way the world works from the main characters. The direction the story takes after the heartbreak of losing the boy, sets a good example for readers as to how they can help the unwanted children of the world as they mend their own broken hearts. The shelf of shoes was my favorite part. This is a book I will never forget and the author should be very proud of, it is marvelous. Thank you, Sharon, for this heartwarming look into these characters' lives. Terrific book!!!

When Jacob shows up on John and Marta's porch, neither one knows what to think. They welcome him to their home, feed him and clothe him and try in general to do right by him. But the boy doesn't

talk and so they have no idea where he came from or who he really is. Despite all the questions they quickly grow to love the boy who has quite the talent for art and music and who enjoys riding the cow and playing with the dog. Well aware that the boy's family may be back for him, John and Marta try to find out his origins. Just as they are getting used to the idea of having him around permanently, disaster strikes. But John and Marta are forever changed and it leads to them making a surprising decision. Strengths: As is to be expected from Sharon Creech, the writing is beautiful and spare. She manages to convey strong emotions in a surprisingly few words. And she's a master of the show don't tell mantra. I had no trouble connecting to John and Marta and Jacob. The theme of the story is masterfully presented. I loved the book. Weaknesses: Who on earth is this book aimed at? The length and spare prose suggest the book is aimed at young readers. However the story is told from the adult point of view, which I find a bit odd for a children's book. I am really not sure who I would recommend the book to other than adults. This is a book that I would want to try out with kids before buying for my library, just to get a reaction. Sigh, which is too bad since it is a wonderful book. The other issue I had with the book was time period. I really don't have any idea what time period this is supposed to take place in and that threw me off a little bit not knowing what the legalities would be for keeping an abandoned child.

This was such a sweet and interesting story. I read it aloud to my family as we were traveling. It was a quick read, and my boys didn't want me to even stop and take a drink. I was a bit surprised by the ending, and wished that there was an epilogue explaining what happened before and after Jacob came. I LOVED what John and Marge ended up doing in the years after Jacob, and what they had in their bedroom. Classic Creech storytelling. I don't think I realized until now that Sharon Creech and Eve Bunting have the same amazing gift of telling a story that is deep and insightful and stays with you long after you read the final page of the book. Well worth the read!

A captivating story about a young (silent) boy who is left on a stranger's porch. Well-crafted, beautifully worded, and highly recommended for children and adults. A phenomenal introduction on adoption and foster children. My son's, ages 7 & 9, read the book and loved it.

I love Sharon Creech books and this is no exception. It was a wonderful, heartfelt story and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you!

This was a book purchased for my eight-year-old granddaughter and, as always, I like to pre-read

them so we can have good conversation as she reads. I advised her mother that this would be a wonderful book for them to share and discuss as they read along together. It was so inviting that it became not only a mom and daughter read, but her dad didn't want to miss out on the story and conversation so he joined in. As they completed the book, my granddaughter asked her mom if she knew if Sharon Creech had written other books. Needless to say they are into the second of her books. You won't want to put it down!

My nine-year old granddaughter loved this book. She couldn't put it down and enjoyed it so much she read it in one evening.

It came very quickly. Can't wait to read it. Love the hardback copy.

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