

surviving the applewhites

surviving the applewhites is a captivating story that explores the journey of self-discovery, resilience, and transformation. Centered around the unique and eccentric Applewhite family, the narrative delves into the challenges faced by a troubled teenager, Jake, as he navigates the unconventional environment of the Applewhite household. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of surviving the applewhites, examining its themes, characters, and literary significance. Readers will discover insights into character development, the dynamics of the Applewhite family, and the lessons embedded in the plot. Whether you're a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this guide offers a thorough exploration of surviving the applewhites, enhancing your understanding and appreciation of the novel's impact. Continue reading for a detailed breakdown of key aspects, thematic elements, and practical takeaways from surviving the applewhites.

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Overview of Surviving the Applewhites

Surviving the Applewhites is a novel written by Stephanie S. Tolan, first published in 2002. The story centers on Jake, a rebellious teenager sent to live with the Applewhite family after being expelled from multiple schools. The Applewhites are an unconventional, artistic family residing in rural North Carolina, known for their creativity and free-spirited approach to life. The novel follows Jake's journey as he adapts to the chaotic yet nurturing environment, learning valuable lessons about acceptance, perseverance, and the importance of family.

The book has gained recognition for its engaging storytelling and relatable characters, making it a popular choice in middle-grade and young adult literature. Surviving the Applewhites is often used in classrooms to discuss themes of individuality, creativity, and redemption. Its blend of humor, drama, and heartfelt moments offers readers a unique perspective on overcoming adversity and finding one's place in the world.

Main Characters and Their Roles

Jake Semple

Jake is the protagonist of surviving the applewhites. He is a tough, misunderstood teenager struggling with behavioral issues and a troubled past. Jake's journey is central to the narrative, as he learns to adapt to the Applewhite family and discovers his own strengths and talents.

The Applewhite Family

The Applewhite family is a vibrant group of artists, each with distinct personalities and passions. Their

open-mindedness and unconventional lifestyle challenge Jake to rethink his outlook on life.

- **Randolph Applewhite:** The patriarch, a theatrical director known for his flamboyant demeanor.
- **Lucille Applewhite:** The matriarch, a poet and gardener who provides wisdom and support.
- **E.D. Applewhite:** The practical, organized daughter who often feels out of place among her artistic relatives.
- **Hal Applewhite:** An introverted artist who prefers solitude and painting.
- **Cordelia Applewhite:** A talented dancer with a bold, outgoing personality.
- **Destiny Applewhite:** The youngest, known for his curiosity and innocence.

Supporting Characters

Other characters, such as school officials and community members, play minor but important roles in shaping Jake's experience and highlighting the contrast between traditional and nontraditional approaches to education and personal growth.

Major Themes Explored in the Story

Individuality and Self-Discovery

A core theme in surviving the applewhites is the celebration of individuality. Each member of the Applewhite family expresses themselves through art, literature, or performance, encouraging Jake to embrace his own identity. The novel illustrates how self-discovery is often a journey, shaped by

supportive environments and diverse experiences.

Resilience and Adaptation

Jake's ability to survive and thrive in the Applewhite household demonstrates the importance of resilience. As he faces challenges and confronts his fears, Jake learns to adapt, ultimately transforming his outlook and behavior. The story emphasizes that change is possible, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Family and Acceptance

The Applewhites exemplify unconditional acceptance, welcoming Jake despite his troubled past. Their willingness to support and guide him underscores the novel's message about the significance of family, both biological and chosen. The theme of acceptance extends to embracing differences and fostering an inclusive environment.

Creativity and the Arts

Artistic expression is woven throughout surviving the applewhites. The family's dedication to creativity serves as a catalyst for change and healing. The narrative explores how the arts can inspire growth, build confidence, and create connections between people with diverse backgrounds.

The Applewhite Family Dynamic

Unconventional Education and Homeschooling

The Applewhites operate a self-directed, home-based educational system that prioritizes creativity and hands-on learning. Jake's introduction to this unconventional approach challenges his perceptions of

school and learning. The family's dynamic provides a safe space for personal exploration and intellectual growth.

Conflict and Collaboration

While the Applewhites are united by their artistic passions, they frequently clash due to differing opinions and personalities. The novel uses these conflicts to illustrate the importance of communication, compromise, and teamwork. Through collaboration, the family overcomes obstacles and supports one another.

Influence on Jake's Development

The Applewhite family's dynamic plays a crucial role in Jake's transformation. Their encouragement and acceptance help him build self-esteem and discover hidden talents. By participating in family projects and artistic endeavors, Jake learns valuable life skills and develops a sense of belonging.

Jake's Transformation and Growth

Initial Challenges and Resistance

At the beginning of surviving the applewhites, Jake is resistant to change and skeptical of the Applewhite family's unconventional methods. His rebellious attitude and mistrust create tension and obstacles within the household. These initial challenges set the stage for his eventual growth.

Turning Points in the Story

Key turning points in the narrative occur when Jake begins to connect with family members and participate in their creative projects. His involvement in staging a production of "The Sound of Music"

marks a significant moment in his journey, revealing his potential and willingness to contribute.

Positive Changes and Self-Acceptance

As the story progresses, Jake embraces the Applewhites' values and develops a sense of self-acceptance. He learns to trust others, form meaningful relationships, and channel his energy into productive outlets. This transformation highlights the power of supportive communities and personal determination.

Literary Techniques and Style

Point of View and Narrative Structure

Surviving the applewhites employs alternating points of view, primarily following Jake and E.D. Applewhite. This narrative structure provides insight into both characters' thoughts and experiences, enhancing readers' understanding of their development and perspectives.

Use of Humor and Dialogue

Stephanie S. Tolan's writing style incorporates humor and dynamic dialogue to engage readers. The witty exchanges between characters and comedic situations add depth and relatability to the story, balancing serious themes with lighthearted moments.

Symbolism and Motifs

Symbolism is used throughout surviving the applewhites to reinforce key messages. Artistic projects, gardens, and family rituals serve as motifs representing growth, creativity, and unity. These elements enrich the narrative and provide layers of meaning for readers to explore.

Lessons and Takeaways from Surviving the Applewhites

Importance of Embracing Differences

Surviving the applewhites teaches that embracing differences leads to stronger, more resilient communities. The Applewhite family's acceptance of Jake and his distinct background demonstrates the value of inclusivity and open-mindedness.

Value of Creative Expression

The novel highlights the transformative power of art and creativity. Engaging in creative endeavors helps individuals overcome challenges, build confidence, and foster meaningful connections.

Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Jake's story is a testament to the importance of resilience. His ability to adapt and grow despite past hardships serves as inspiration for readers facing their own obstacles.

Supportive Family Environments

A nurturing and supportive environment can have a profound impact on personal growth. Surviving the applewhites emphasizes the role of family and community in helping individuals realize their potential.

1. Embrace individuality and celebrate differences.
2. Foster creativity through art and expression.

3. Support others during times of struggle.
4. Value resilience and adaptability.
5. Communicate openly and collaborate effectively.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main message of surviving the applewhites?

A: The main message is the importance of accepting individuality, fostering creativity, and building resilience in the face of adversity. The novel encourages readers to embrace differences and recognize the value of supportive family and community environments.

Q: Who are the central characters in surviving the applewhites?

A: The central characters include Jake Semple, the troubled protagonist, and members of the Applewhite family—Randolph, Lucille, E.D., Hal, Cordelia, and Destiny—each contributing unique perspectives and talents.

Q: How does Jake change throughout the story?

A: Jake undergoes significant transformation, moving from resistance and defiance to acceptance and personal growth. He learns to trust others, embrace his creative side, and become a valued member of the Applewhite family.

Q: What role does creativity play in the novel?

A: Creativity is a central theme, serving as a means of self-expression, healing, and connection. The Applewhite family's artistic pursuits help Jake discover his own talents and facilitate his journey of self-discovery.

Q: Why is surviving the applewhites considered a valuable book for young readers?

A: The novel addresses real-life issues such as family, acceptance, and overcoming obstacles in an engaging and relatable manner. Its themes and characters resonate with young readers, promoting empathy, resilience, and open-mindedness.

Q: How does the Applewhite family's dynamic influence Jake?

A: The Applewhite family's supportive and unconventional approach creates a nurturing environment that helps Jake develop self-esteem and resilience, ultimately fostering his growth and transformation.

Q: What literary techniques are used in surviving the applewhites?

A: The author uses alternating points of view, humor, dynamic dialogue, and symbolism to enhance the narrative and provide depth to the characters and themes.

Q: What are some major conflicts in surviving the applewhites?

A: Major conflicts include Jake's struggle to adapt, clashes among family members, and the challenge of producing "The Sound of Music" as a community project. These conflicts drive character development and highlight the value of teamwork.

Q: What lessons can readers learn from surviving the applewhites?

A: Readers learn the importance of embracing individuality, fostering creativity, building resilience, and supporting one another through challenges.

Q: Is surviving the applewhites suitable for classroom discussion?

A: Yes, the novel is widely used in educational settings due to its meaningful themes, relatable characters, and opportunities for discussion about family, creativity, and personal growth.

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Surviving the Applewhites: A Deep Dive into the Novel's Themes and Impact

Are you ready to delve into the quirky, heartwarming, and sometimes unsettling world of the Applewhites? This comprehensive guide explores the captivating novel, *Surviving the Applewhites*, offering a detailed analysis of its key themes, memorable characters, and lasting impact. We'll uncover the hidden meanings, explore the author's skillful storytelling, and help you appreciate the enduring power of this unique coming-of-age story. Prepare to revisit (or discover for the first time) the unforgettable characters and profound lessons within these pages.

Understanding the Core Narrative: What Makes Surviving the Applewhites Unique?

Surviving the Applewhites, by Stephanie S. Tolan, isn't just another young adult novel. It's a poignant exploration of family, identity, and the power of embracing individuality in the face of societal expectations. The story centers around Jacob, a young boy thrust into the unconventional Applewhite family after a troubled past. His journey involves confronting his own insecurities,

navigating complex familial relationships, and ultimately discovering self-acceptance. What sets this novel apart is its unflinching portrayal of a truly unusual family, showcasing their eccentricities not as flaws, but as integral parts of their unique and loving dynamic.

Exploring Key Themes: Family, Identity, and Acceptance

H2: The Unconventional Applewhite Family Dynamics:

The Applewhites are anything but ordinary. Their unconventional lifestyle, filled with eccentric characters and unpredictable events, challenges Jacob's preconceived notions of family. This chaotic yet loving environment allows him to explore different facets of himself he may not have otherwise considered. The novel masterfully showcases the diverse forms a family can take, highlighting the importance of love, support, and acceptance above strict adherence to societal norms.

H2: Jacob's Journey of Self-Discovery:

Jacob's personal growth is at the heart of the narrative. He arrives at the Applewhites' home carrying emotional baggage and a deep-seated fear of vulnerability. Through his interactions with the various Applewhite family members, he gradually sheds his inhibitions, confronts his past traumas, and embraces his own unique identity. This journey of self-discovery is a powerful and relatable experience for readers of all ages.

H2: The Importance of Individuality in a Conformist World:

The novel subtly critiques societal pressures to conform. The Applewhites' overt rejection of societal norms serves as a counterpoint to the rigid expectations Jacob previously faced. Their embrace of individuality empowers Jacob to embrace his own quirks and strengths, showing readers that uniqueness is a strength, not a weakness. This theme resonates deeply with young readers grappling with their own identities in a often judgmental world.

H2: The Power of Found Family:

While Jacob's biological family is largely absent, the Applewhites provide a surrogate family. This emphasizes that family isn't defined by blood relations but by love, support, and mutual respect. The novel powerfully illustrates the strength and resilience of a found family, offering a beacon of hope and demonstrating the profound impact of chosen relationships.

Memorable Characters and Their Influence on Jacob's Transformation

Each Applewhite family member plays a crucial role in Jacob's journey. From the eccentric matriarch to the quirky siblings, each character adds a unique layer to the narrative. Their individual eccentricities, while initially daunting, ultimately become a source of comfort and acceptance for

Jacob. The author masterfully weaves their personalities into the narrative, creating a richly diverse and unforgettable cast.

The Enduring Legacy of Surviving the Applewhites

Surviving the Applewhites leaves a lasting impression on readers long after the final page is turned. Its nuanced exploration of complex themes, coupled with its unforgettable characters, makes it a must-read for young adults and adults alike. The novel's enduring power lies in its ability to resonate with readers on a personal level, promoting self-acceptance, empathy, and the importance of embracing individuality. The book's timeless message continues to inspire and challenge readers, making it a significant work in contemporary young adult literature.

Conclusion

Surviving the Applewhites is more than just a coming-of-age story; it's a celebration of the unconventional, a testament to the power of found family, and a profound exploration of self-discovery. It's a book that stays with you, prompting reflection and encouraging a deeper understanding of the complexities of human relationships and the importance of embracing one's true self.

FAQs

Q1: What age group is Surviving the Applewhites best suited for?

A1: While technically young adult fiction, the themes explored within Surviving the Applewhites resonate with readers of all ages. Its themes of family, identity, and self-acceptance are universal and timeless.

Q2: Is the novel suitable for sensitive readers?

A2: While the novel deals with themes of trauma and family dysfunction, it does so with sensitivity and ultimately offers a message of hope and healing. Parental guidance may be advisable for younger or particularly sensitive readers.

Q3: What makes Surviving the Applewhites different from other young adult novels?

A3: Surviving the Applewhites distinguishes itself through its unique portrayal of a truly unconventional family, its unflinching exploration of difficult themes, and its ultimately uplifting message of self-acceptance and the power of found family.

Q4: Are there any sequels to *Surviving the Applewhites*?

A4: No, *Surviving the Applewhites* is a standalone novel. However, the richness of the characters and the lasting impact of the story makes it a truly satisfying and complete reading experience.

Q5: What are some other books similar to *Surviving the Applewhites*?

A5: Readers who enjoy *Surviving the Applewhites* might also appreciate novels that explore themes of found family, unconventional families, and self-discovery, such as *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros or *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

surviving the applewhites: *Surviving the Applewhites* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2012-04-24 The side-splittingly funny Newbery Honor Book about a rebellious boy who is sent to a home-schooling program run by one family—the creative, kooky, loud, and loving Applewhites! Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he managed to get kicked out of every school in Rhode Island, and actually burned the last one down to the ground. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists: poet Lucille, theater director Randolph, dancer Cordelia, and dreamy Destiny. The only one who doesn't fit the Applewhite mold is E.D.—a smart, sensible girl who immediately clashes with the defiant Jake. Jake thinks surviving this new school will be a breeze . . . but is he really as tough or as bad as he seems?

surviving the applewhites: *Surviving the Applewhites* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2003-12-23 Will anyone take on Jake Semple? Jake Semple is notorious. Rumor has it he burned down his old school and got kicked out of every school in his home state. Only one place will take him now, and that's a home school run by the Applewhites, a chaotic and hilarious family of artists. The only one who doesn't fit the Applewhite mold is E.D.—a smart, sensible girl who immediately clashes with the unruly Jake. Jake thinks surviving this one will be a breeze . . . but is he really as tough or as bad as he seems?

surviving the applewhites: *Surviving the Applewhites* HarperCollins Canada, Limited, HarperCollins Publishers,

surviving the applewhites: *Applewhites at Wit's End* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2012-05-08 Jack Semple and E.D. Applewhite are back, in this middle-grade sequel to Stephanie S. Tolan's Newbery Honor Book *Surviving the Applewhites*. Teenager E.D., the not so artistic, not at all eccentric member of the unconventional Applewhite clan, can't believe the plan her father has hatched to save the family from financial disaster. He's decided to transform their rural North Carolina farm into a summer camp for creative children. Soon the farm is packed with temperamental artists, out-of-control campers, and an even more out-of-control goat. It's all a little too much for structure-loving E.D., even before threatening notes begin appearing in the family mailbox. Together with Jake Semple--the boy who survived his first year in the Applewhites' home school--she's determined to save the camp and the family from disaster. Like Carl Hiaassan's *Chomp*, *Applewhites at Wit's End* combines outrageous humor and the frustrations and joys of being part of a family.

surviving the applewhites: *Applewhites Coast to Coast* Stephanie S. Tolan, R. J. Tolan, 2017-10-17 This third story about the madcap family introduced in Stephanie Tolan's Newbery Honor Book *Surviving the Applewhites* features even more outlandish adventures and will appeal to fans of the Applewhites and those meeting them for the first time. E.D. and Jake are doing their best to forget their bewildering kiss—after all, they're practically family—and get back to “normal” life with the decidedly abnormal, highly creative Applewhites. When the family's biggest fan, Jeremy Bernstein, pulls up to Wit's End in an “Art Bus,” he brings with him a proposal for an Education Expedition: a cross-country road trip, educational quest, and video-documented competition for a big cash prize. Jeremy also drags along his troubled but beautiful niece, Melody. She'll be joining the expedition with her own rebellious flair, much to Jake's delight . . . and E.D.'s exasperation. With

characteristic Applewhite enthusiasm, the artists face disastrous performances, fainting goats, and some very bad ideas—but can they make it through the road trip in one piece?

surviving the applewhites: *Survival Strategies of the Almost Brave* Jen White, 2015-06-09
Survival Strategy #50: If You Can, Be Brave It's easy to be brave when your eight-year-old sister, Billie, looks up to you as her protector. Twelve-year-old Liberty feels it's her job to look after Billie once they are sent to live with their father, whom they haven't seen since they were very young. Dad is unpredictable on his best days, but when he abandons the girls at a gas station in the middle of nowhere, Liberty's courage is truly put to the test. As she and Billie struggle to make it home on their own, they encounter a cast of both helpful and not-so-helpful characters, including a man with caterpillar eyebrows, a lady dressed entirely in lavender, a tattooed trucker with a soft spot for cats, a kid who is a little too obsessed with Star Wars, and a woman who lives with a houseful of nontraditional pets. Along the way, they learn that sometimes you have to get a little bit lost to be found.

surviving the applewhites: *Listen!* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2012-04-24 Charley knows a lot about pain. She endures it when she walks on her newly shattered leg, she sees it when her father buries himself in an eighty-hour work week, and she runs from it when she sees photographs her mother took before her death. Then one day, Charley meets a wild, abused dog that knows as much about pain as she does, and, despite herself, she feels an immediate connection and vows to help him. But how will one heartbroken girl help mend the battered spirit of an untamable dog?

surviving the applewhites: *Wishworks, Inc.* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2011-06-01 The best dog story you could wish for! Max is handling his parents' divorce, his new home and school, and a big bully named Nick the only way he knows how: by running away in his head. Through his imagination, he and his wonderful dog King have thrilling adventures; they conquer aliens and slay dragons; they embarrass Nick so he never comes near Max again. If only King were real . . . Then Max happens upon a store called Wishworks, Inc., which promises his wish will come true in real life, guaranteed. He wishes for a real dog like King to fulfill all his dreams. And then a real dog named Goldie appears on his doorstep . . . but she may be a little more real than Max expects!

surviving the applewhites: *The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic* Jennifer Trafton, 2010-12-02 Ten-year-old Persimmony Smudge lives a boring life on the Island in the Middle of Everything, but she longs for adventure. And she soon gets it when she overhears a life-altering secret and suddenly finds herself in the middle of an amazing journey. It turns out that Mount Majestic, the rising and falling mountain in the center of the island, is not really a mountain - it's the belly of a sleeping giant! It's up to Persimmony and her friend Worvil to convince the island's quarreling inhabitants that a giant is sleeping in their midst and must not be awakened. The question is, will she be able to do it?

surviving the applewhites: *Grandma's Car* Mike Legg, 2020-05-09 This is a captivating children's book of humorous rhyming verse, introducing a real grandmother. You'll discover grandma Win, who relies on her wonderful little blue car to bring joy and laughter, gratitude and fun to her large family of grandchildren and all her friends. Every day is another busy adventure for this much loved granny. Captured with full colour photographs, there is a lot to talk about as you share this book with your little ones.

surviving the applewhites: *Flight to Freedom* Ana Veciana-Suarez, 2002 First Person Fiction is dedicated to the immigrant experience in modern America. *Flight to Freedom* is closely based on Suarez's own story of leaving Cuba during the Freedom Flights of the 1960s. Yara Garcia and her family live a middle-class life in Havana, Cuba. But in 1967, as Communist ruler Fidel Castro tightens his hold on Cuba, the Garcias, who do not share the political beliefs of the Communist Party, are forced to flee to Miami, Florida. There, Yara encounters a strange land with foreign customs. She knows very little English, and she finds that the other students in her new school have much more freedom than she and her sisters. Tension develops between her parents, as Mami grows more independent and Papi joins a militant anti-Castro organization.

surviving the applewhites: *Summer of My German Soldier* Bette Greene, 1994-12-01 When

the train pulls into the station in Jenkensville, Arkansas, Patty Bergen senses something exciting is going to happen. German prisoners of war have arrived to make their new home in the prison camp. To the rest of the town these prisoners are only Nazis, but to Patty, a young Jewish girl with a turbulent home life, one of the young soldiers becomes an unlikely friend. Anton understands her in a way her parents never could and Patty is willing to lose her own family, friends and even freedom for a boy who becomes the most important part of her life.

surviving the applewhites: *Pancakes for Supper!* Anne Isaacs, 2006 When the family wagon hits a bump Toby is launched deep into the forest where she must defend herself from ferocious beasts. Cleverly she trades pieces of her clothing for her safety. Then as the animals begin to chase each other around a tree they melt into a puddle of maple syrup.

surviving the applewhites: *The Face in the Mirror* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2000 After joining his father in a professional production of a Shakespearean play, Jared must cope with acting insecurities, his obnoxious half brother, and a theatre ghost.

surviving the applewhites: *Keeping Safe the Stars* Sheila O'Connor, 2012-10-11 When crisis hits, a young girl becomes the only one left to take care of her family Pride, Nightingale and Baby are the Stars. Orphaned and living with their grandfather, Old Finn, in rural Minnesota, the children, like their grandfather, are wary of outsiders. They believe, as Old Finn taught them, in self-reliance. But then Old Finn falls seriously ill and is taken to the hospital all the way in Duluth, leaving the children to fend for themselves. Pride, as oldest, assumes the lead. Though she makes mistakes, she keeps them afloat; they even earn money for the bus trip to Duluth. But when they finally see Old Finn, he can't walk or even say his own name, and Pride knows her days of keeping safe the Stars are drawing to a close. Self-reliance can't make Old Finn well again. But maybe, just maybe, a secret from Old Finn's past might make a way for them to stay together after all. A poignant story about family and love, Sheila O'Connor has delivered another extraordinary and mesmerizing tale.

surviving the applewhites: *Welcome to the Ark* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2000-05-31 In a disturbingly violent world, four brilliant misfits are thrown together in a group home for troubled youth. Miranda, Doug, Taryn, and Elijah discover their minds have powers they could never have imagined. Drawn together by their deep concern for the future, they embark on a mission to stop the violence engulfing the world.

surviving the applewhites: *Plague Year* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2008-12-09 Bran Slocum stands out from the moment he arrives at Ridgewood High, with his oddly unfocused eye and his unusual mode of dress. The immediate target of bullies, he seems strangely aloof and untouched. Sixteen year old Molly Pepper, herself an outsider, is intrigued by his attitude and sets out to befriend him, persuading her best friend David to join her in reaching out to him. Molly and David begin to see that Bran is hiding some sort of secret, but they have no idea how shocking the secret is until the truth hits Ridgewood's headlines that put Bran and his new friends in terrible danger, as the whole town turns against them. Events spin out of control and fear spreads like a deadly contagion. Their friendship deepening as they face the plague of hatred together, Bran, Molly and David can only hope they will be able to stand against it.

surviving the applewhites: *Red Fox and His Canoe* Nathaniel Benchley, 1985-05 I Can Read Series Level 1: Beginning Reading.

surviving the applewhites: *Everything on a Waffle* Polly Horvath, 2004-09 Forced to live with her uncle after her mother and father are lost at sea, Primrose's only source of friendship and support comes from the owner of a local restaurant who always provides her with practical advice with a dash of comfort on the side.

surviving the applewhites: *Unsinkable* Gordon Korman, 2011 Stories of four young children who traveled on the Titanic and experienced all of the danger.

surviving the applewhites: *Ordinary Miracles* Stephanie S. Tolan, 2002-02-05 That's what Mark Filkins has always believed. But it seems as if he's also gotten a lot he hasn't asked for, like feeling that he's a slightly faded copy of his twin brother, or his parents' plan that both boys will grow up to be preachers. When he meets Dr. Colin Hendrick, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist whose

research Mark's family disapproves of, Mark realizes that he can -- and should -- make choices for himself. But when Colin reveals a terrible secret, Mark knows the time has come to ask for the most important thing of all...and put his own faith on the line.

surviving the applewhites: Just a Girl Lia Levi, 2022-03-22 WINNER OF THE MILDRED L. BATCHELDER AWARD! In this award-winning memoir translated from Italian to English, a Jewish girl grows up during a difficult time of racial discrimination and war, and discovers light in unexpected places. This classic, powerful story from Lia Levi is adapted for young readers, with beautiful black-and-white illustrations, a family photo album, and a powerful author's note to readers. 1938, Italy. Six-year-old Lia loves to build sandcastles at the beach and her biggest problem is her shyness and quiet, birdlike voice—until prime minister Mussolini joins forces with Hitler in World War II, and everything changes. Now there are laws saying Jewish children can't go to school, Jews can't work, or go on vacation. It's difficult for Lia to understand why this is happening to her family. When her father loses his job, they must give up their home and move from city to city. As war comes closer, it becomes too dangerous to stay together, and Lia and her sisters are sent to hide at a convent. Will she ever be "just a girl" again? The memoir is full of poignant moments of friendship and loss, dreaded tests at school, told in Lia's captivating voice, as she grows into a young teen. Just a Girl is an important addition to the WWII Jewish canon.

surviving the applewhites: A Single Shard Linda Park, 2003-02 Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

surviving the applewhites: *Scorpions* Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 The Scorpions are a gun-toting Harlem gang, and Jamal Hicks is about to become tragically involved with them in this authentic tale of the sacrifice of innocence and the struggle to steer clear of violence. This Newbery Honor Book will challenge young men to consider their own decisions as they come of age in a complex and often frustrating society. Pushed by a bully to fight and nagged by his principal, Jamal is having a difficult time staying in school. His home life is not much better, with his mother working her fingers to the bone to try to earn the money for an appeal for Jamal's jailed older brother, Randy. Jamal wants to do the right thing and help earn the money to free his brother by working, but he's afraid to go against the Scorpions. Jamal eventually pulls free of the gang's bad influence, but only through the narrowest of escapes. Walter Dean Myers, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, sensitively explores the loyalty and love between friends faced with hard choices. *Scorpions* is 25 years old, but the issues of poverty and violence make it a timeless powerful read—sadly as relevant as ever.

surviving the applewhites: The Swish of the Curtain Pamela Brown, 2019-03-12 The classic story of seven children with a longing to be on stage: the inspiration for actors from Maggie Smith to Eileen Atkins In the town of Fenchester, seven resourceful children are yearning to be famous. One day, they come across a disused chapel, and an idea is formed. With a lick of paint and the addition of a beautiful curtain (which, however much they try, won't swish as stage curtains ought), the chapel becomes a theatre - and The Blue Door Theatre Company is formed. The children go from strength to strength, writing, directing and acting in their own plays. But their schooldays are numbered, and their parents want them to pack it in and train for sensible jobs. It seems that The Blue Door Theatre Company will have to go the way of all childhood dreams. But with a bit of luck, and the help of some influential friends, perhaps this is not the end, but only the beginning of their adventures in show business...

surviving the applewhites: *A Good Courage* Stephanie S. Tolan, 1999-08-31 Having been dragged by his mother from one commune to another, as she searches for a place to belong, fourteen-year-old Ty finds conditions at the new place, the Kingdom, intolerable, even while realizing that for some, such as his mother, this way of life is a haven.

surviving the applewhites: Shoot-Out Mike Lupica, 2018-05-08 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Heat* and *Travel Team*! What happens when a star player ends up on the worst team? He either learns to lose or he stops playing the game he loves. These are the choices facing

Jake, who has gone from champion to last place, testing his sportsmanship every time his soccer team gets waxed. But it's his teammate Kevin who shows Jake that being a good captain means scoring and assisting off the field as much as being the star player on it.

surviving the applewhites: The Bark of the Bog Owl Jonathan Rogers, 2004 In this fantasy/allegory, Rogers retells the life of biblical character King David.

surviving the applewhites: Ruby Holler Sharon Creech, 2014-05-28 Tiller and Sairy live a quiet life in Ruby Holler; their children have long since left home and things are peaceful. But when they decide to adopt two children from the local orphanage to take on a giant adventure, they form an unlikely foursome. And Tiller and Sairy have to deal with some pretty unconventional behaviour on the part of the children, who don't believe they could ever be 'wanted'. A wonderful, magical story that combines quirky action and adventure with family, loyalty and learning to belong. Winner of the Carnegie Medal.

surviving the applewhites: A Monster Calls Patrick Ness, Siobhan Dowd, 2021 Conor is dealing with more than an ordinary teenager should have to: his mum is seriously ill, his dad lives far away with a new family, he has terrifying nightmares every night - and now he's being visited by an ancient, elemental monster. But through his encounters with the monster, Conor slowly learns to come to terms with what is happening.

surviving the applewhites: Flight of the Raven Stephanie S. Tolan, 2009-08-11 Devastated by the dismantling of the group home where the âArk Kidsâ discovered their extraordinary mental powers, and overwhelmed by the violence of an eco-terrorist bombing, Elijah has fled into the Adirondack wilderness, intending to leave a world he cannot save. But he is found by the terrorists and taken to their hidden compound, where a raven, like the one he becomes in his dreams, urges him to survive. Sharing a house with Amber and Kenny, the children of the terrorist leader, and their American Indian stepmother, he retreats into what he calls âdreamtime.â But he cannot deny his growing mental connection with Amber. Could she, too, be an Ark Kid? She has been taught that to save the planet from technological development, there must be ânecessary losses,â like the deaths in the recent bombing. But faced with the reality of her fatherâs planned apocalypse, Amber at last begins to question her upbringing. Can the ravenâs flight save her, Elijah and the world?

surviving the applewhites: A Visit to William Blake's Inn Nancy Willard, 2014-08-26 Inspired by William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience, this delightful collection of poetry for children brings to life Blake's imaginary inn and its unusual guests.

surviving the applewhites: Unbroken Laura Hillenbrand, 2014-07-29 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE • Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. Appearing in paperback for the first time—with twenty arresting new photos and an extensive Q&A with the author—Unbroken is an unforgettable testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit, brought vividly to life by Seabiscuit author Laura Hillenbrand. Hailed as the top nonfiction book of the year by Time magazine • Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for biography and the Indies Choice Adult Nonfiction Book of the Year award "Extraordinarily moving . . . a powerfully drawn survival epic."—The Wall Street Journal "[A] one-in-a-billion story . . . designed to wrench from self-respecting critics all the blurby adjectives we normally try to avoid: It is amazing, unforgettable, gripping, harrowing, chilling, and inspiring."—New York "Staggering . . . mesmerizing . . . Hillenbrand's writing is so ferociously

cinematic, the events she describes so incredible, you don't dare take your eyes off the page."—People "A meticulous, soaring and beautifully written account of an extraordinary life."—The Washington Post "Ambitious and powerful . . . a startling narrative and an inspirational book."—The New York Times Book Review "Magnificent . . . incredible . . . [Hillenbrand] has crafted another masterful blend of sports, history and overcoming terrific odds; this is biography taken to the nth degree, a chronicle of a remarkable life lived through extraordinary times."—The Dallas Morning News "An astonishing testament to the superhuman power of tenacity."—Entertainment Weekly "A tale of triumph and redemption . . . astonishingly detailed."—O: The Oprah Magazine "[A] masterfully told true story . . . nothing less than a marvel."—Washingtonian "[Hillenbrand tells this] story with cool elegance but at a thrilling sprinter's pace."—Time "Hillenbrand [is] one of our best writers of narrative history. You don't have to be a sports fan or a war-history buff to devour this book—you just have to love great storytelling."—Rebecca Skloot, author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

surviving the applewhites: Maniac Magee (Newbery Medal Winner) Jerry Spinelli, 2014-01-28 A Newbery Medal winning modern classic about a racially divided small town and a boy who runs. Jeffrey Lionel Maniac Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

surviving the applewhites: The Reading Promise Alice Ozma, 2012-05-15 When Alice Ozma was in 4th grade, she and her father decided to see if he could read aloud to her for 100 consecutive nights. On the hundreth night, they shared pancakes to celebrate, but it soon became evident that neither wanted to let go of their storytelling ritual. So they decided to continue what they called The Streak. Alice's father read aloud to her every night without fail until the day she left for college. Alice approaches her book as a series of vignettes about her relationship with her father and the life lessons learned from the books he read to her. Books included in the Streak were: *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, the *Oz* books by L. Frank Baum, *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, and Shakespeare's plays.

surviving the applewhites: Making Great Kids Greater Dorothy A. Sisk, 2008-08-15 Dorothy Sisk is a venerable giant in the field of gifted education. Teachers will find this volume a gold mine of effective classroom strategies to develop the affective domain. Anyone interested in the emotional development of the gifted will be delighted by this book.--From the Foreword by Linda Silverman Seamlessly weaves together research studies with personal narrative to illuminate the complex inner world of gifted students. The book explores not only the unique sensitivities and social-emotional challenges of the gifted, but also their deep empathy, intuitiveness, and keen awareness of the moral and spiritual realm.--Joan Franklin Smutny, DirectorThe Center for Gifted, National-Louis University Empower gifted students by helping them understand and value their gifts! Gifted students often develop faster intellectually than socially and emotionally, resulting in feelings of isolation or inadequacy. This book provides educators with a window into the world of the gifted child, discusses how to develop the talents of gifted children with consideration for their unique needs, and suggests ways to help great kids become greater. Written by gifted education expert Dorothy A. Sisk, this practical resource offers techniques, strategies, and lessons to help gifted students bridge the gap between their cognitive and social-emotional development. Showing how to support learners who may experience difficulties associated with excitabilities identified by psychologist Kazimierz Dabrowski, this resource: Presents real stories of gifted students Includes teacher voices and vignettes Integrates research into each chapter to build a foundation for the suggested activities and strategies Provides recommended reading lists and Web sites for further exploration *Making Great Kids Greater* helps parents, teachers, and counselors of gifted children ensure students' emotional well-being and enable them to reach their full potential.

surviving the applewhites: Angus, Thongs and Full-frontal Snogging Louise Rennison, 2005 The delightful story told by British teen Georgia Nicholson through her journals--a Michael L.

surviving the applewhites: *A Long Way From Chicago* Richard Peck, 2000 A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

surviving the applewhites: Disobedience Jane Hamilton, 2002-03-05 Winner of the 1989 PEN/Hemingway Foundation Award for best first novel, this exquisite book confronts real-life issues of alienation and violence from which the author creates a stunning testament to the human capacity for mercy, compassion and love.

surviving the applewhites: Karen's Haircut (Baby-Sitters Little Sister #8) Ann M. Martin, 2016-03-29 From the bestselling author of the generation-defining series *The Baby-sitters Club* comes a series for a new generation! The New Karen Karen feels like an ugly duckling. Her baby teeth are all falling out, and she has to wear glasses, too! Karen needs a new haircut to make her look glamorous. But the beauty parlor lady cuts Karen's hair all wrong. Now she's uglier than ever! What will all the kids at school say?

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