



Navigating Early

By Clare Vanderpool

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“Just the sort of book that saves lives by igniting a passion for reading.”
—James Patterson

“Reminiscent of *Huckleberry Finn*.” —*The Wall Street Journal*

A Michael L. Printz Honor Winner

From the author of Newbery Medal winner *Moon Over Manifest* comes the odyssey-like adventure of two boys’ incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail.

When Jack Baker’s father sends him from his home in Kansas to attend a boys’ boarding school in Maine, Jack doesn’t know what to expect. Certainly not Early Auden, the strangest of boys. Early keeps to himself, reads the number pi as a story, and refuses to accept truths others take for granted. Jack, feeling lonely and out of place, connects with Early, and the two become friends.

During a break from school, the boys set out for the Appalachian Trail on a quest for a great black bear. As Jack and Early travel deeper into the mountains, they meet peculiar and dangerous characters, and they make some shocking discoveries. But their adventure is only just beginning. Will Jack’s and Early’s friendship last the journey? Can the boys make it home alive?

An ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults Selection

An ALA-ALSC Notable Children’s Book

A New York Times Editor’s Choice

A New York Times Bestseller

An Indie Pick

A Bank Street College of Education Best Book of the Year

A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year

A Booklist Books for Youth Editors’ Choice Selection

A BookPage Best Children’s Book

A Texas Lone Star Reading List Selection

A Notable Children’s Book in Language Arts Book

A Down East Magazine Best of Maine Book

A North Carolina Young Adult Book Award Master List Selection

An Iowa Children's Choice Award Finalist

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month January 2013: In her first book since the Newbery Medal winner, *Moon Over Manifest*, Clare Vanderpool delivers another contender in *Navigating Early*. Jack and Early, outsiders at their boarding school in Maine, form a friendship that sets them on an epic quest across land, sea, and the depths of their own hearts looking for Pi—the young seeker whose tale Early reads in the numbers following 3.14, convinced that he is lost. On their adventure they find pirates, a ferocious black bear, and finally, resolution and connection in the aftermath of a haunting loss. Vanderpool works magic in this multilayered novel of two stories—that of the boys, and that of Pi—and they dovetail beautifully throughout, culminating in an incredibly touching and gratifying ending. --Seira Wilson

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-When his mother unexpectedly passes away and his father returns from serving in World War II, Jack Baker's life is turned upside down. He's moved from his home in Kansas to a boy's boarding school in Maine. He meets a unique boy named Early Auden who has an obsession with pi, seeing an unending story in the mathematically significant number. Caught up in their own sorrows, the boys take a chance during a school break to head off on a quest along the Appalachian Trail. Early's telling of the pi story seems to oddly mirror the strange characters and happenings that the boys encounter in their journey. This is a journey of loss, discovery, and deep-rooted friendship and love. Robbie Daymond, the primary reader of Vanderpool's tale (Delacorte, 2013), does an excellent job of capturing the mood of the story—whether it is the youthful joy of two young boys on an adventure or the somber moments of facing real heartache. His pacing and volume are spot-on throughout the telling, keeping listeners fully engaged. When the story transitions to that of young Pi, Mark Bramhall takes over the narration. The first time this occurs it is a little jarring as listeners move from the mesmerizing voice of Daymond to Bramhall's bold theatrical tones. After the first transition, however, listeners will know what to expect and will appreciate the clear distinction between the boy's story and the mythical tale of Pi. Cassandra Campbell narrates a brief but interesting segment at the end of the presentation informing listeners which parts of the story are fact and which are fiction. A winner, especially for older middle schoolers.-Deanna Romriell, Salt Lake City Public Library. UTo(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review When Jack Baker's mother dies, his father deposits him in the Morton Hill Academy for Boys in Maine, far from the only home he has ever known—Kansas. Alone and lonely, Jack befriends Early Auden, a strange, legendary boy who understands all manner of unknowable things, from the necessity of listening to Billie Holiday on rainy days to the secrets embedded in patterns of jelly beans. Most important, Early believes the unwinding digits in the calculation of pi hold a connection to his revered older brother, lost in the war. Jack and Early set out on a mysterious journey, following Pi's story, tracking a great black bear along the Appalachian Trail, and searching for reconciliation neither knows he seeks. Along the way, they encounter a collection of characters, all of them wound up in Early's eerily prescient Pi yarn. Newbery Medal-winning author Vanderpool's sharp, honest narrative, sparkling with the stars of the night sky, pieces together an elaborate, layered plot with precision, weaving multiple threads into a careful, tidy conclusion perfectly suited for those, like Jack and Early, who want to believe. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Vanderpool took home the big Newbery prize for *Moon Over Manifest* (2010), making this publication—which includes a national author tour—a publishing event. Grades 5-8. --Thom Barthelmess

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Novella Tinch:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Navigating Early. Try to make the book Navigating Early as your pal. It means that it can for being your friend when you feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for yourself. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , we should make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Denise Rutledge:

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Lily Tarver:

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Ronald Kleiman:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Navigating Early, it is possible to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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