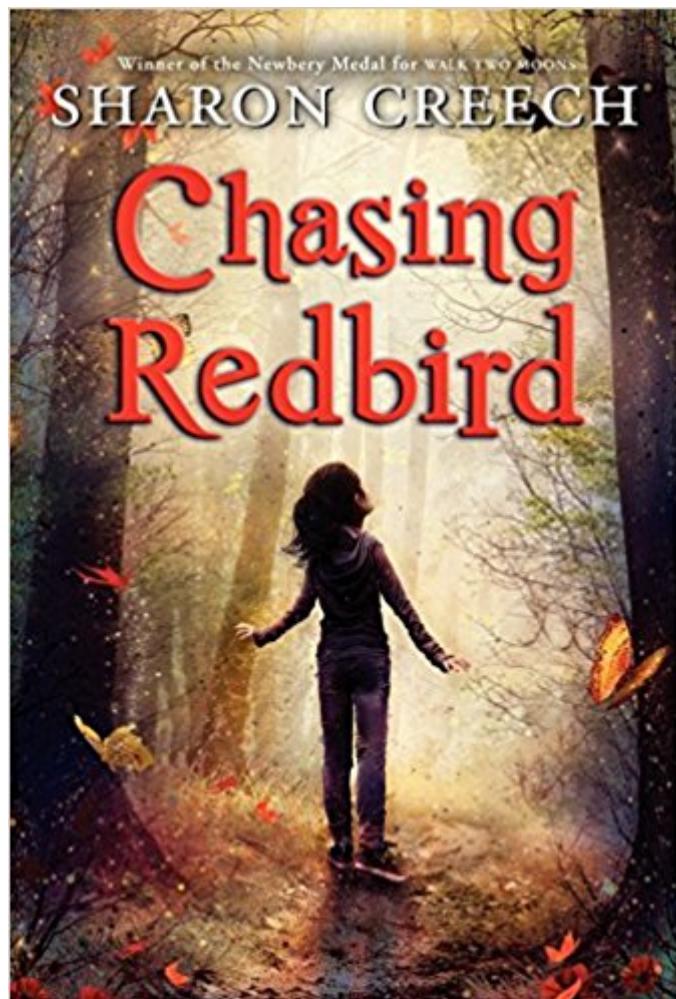


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# Chasing Redbird



## **Synopsis**

Zinny Taylor: ExplorerIt started out as an ordinary summer. But the minute thirteen-year-old Zinny discovered the old, overgrown trail that ran through the woods behind her family's house, she realized that things were about to change.Right from the start, Zinny knew that uncovering the trail would be more than just a summer project. It was her chance to finally make people notice her, and to have a place she could call her very own. But more than that, Zinny knew that the trail somehow held the key to all kinds of questions. And that the only way to understand her family, her Aunt Jessie's death, and herself was to find out where it went.From Newbery Medal-winning author Sharon Creech comes an intricately woven tale of a young girl who sets out in search of her place in the worldâ "and discovers it in her own backyard.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 790 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (April 24, 2012)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 232 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #113,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #141 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #339 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #6125 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Always the quiet (and often forgotten) middle child in a bustling family, Zinnia's life begins to change when she stumbles upon a hidden, overgrown pathway that stretches from the edge of her family's farm into the great unknown. Determined to find where the path leads, Zinnia begins the daunting task of uncovering brambles and weeds along every inch of its length. In powerful, honest, down-home prose, Newbery-winner Sharon Creech delivers a dazzling portrait of a girl who's not

afraid to journey into her family's mysterious past in order to find her own way into adulthood.

Watching Zinnia bloom will warm your heart. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 5-8. Creech returns to Appalachia in this story of 13-year-old Zinny, a middle child struggling to find and accept herself plus look for a way to come to terms with the death of her beloved Aunt Jessie and her feelings of responsibility for that death. The novel revolves around an old overgrown trail that Zinny discovers and proceeds to resurrect. Meanwhile, her admirer, Jake Boone, is persistent about bringing her presents yet fails to convince her he is not really after her sister, May, as so many other boys have been. Uncle Nate seems to be losing touch with reality after his wife's death, and guilt rooted in the past resurfaces to confuse Zinny, who comes to feel that the trail she is uncovering will somehow bring sanity, safety, and a sense of identity to her life. It does, but in ways she could never have predicted. The journey for Zinny and readers is intriguing, delightful, and touching. Reminiscent of many novels about the rural South with wonderfully quirky characters and a focus on the setting of the natural world, this story seems much fresher and tangibly more in the present than most. Not as complex as Creech's *Walk Two Moons* (HarperCollins, 1994), there is still plenty to discuss such as the symbolism of the redbird in the title and the ethical issues surrounding Jake's gifts and Zinny's mistrust of his affection for her. --Carol A. Edwards, Minneapolis Public Library

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I discovered Sharon Creech's writing when referred to it by a friend who is a writing instructor. The book is intended for a teen audience but in my opinion is enjoyable to read at any age. The writing is compelling and descriptive and speaks in the voice of a teen girl in a style that is clear but projects wisdom and empowerment. Creech has a series of books that tell the stories of several people who live and interact in the same small town community. The stories are expressed through the voice and life experience of young teens. Her writing style is rich with the ability to weave emotions, humor and the beauty of life and of nature into stories that can focus upon tough subjects: Abandonment; death and grief; coming of age journeys. I am an avid reader, have taught creative writing and love every book I have read that was written by this author, including this one.

This book was a little easy for me grade level wise and for any other people out there that, like me, doesn't really love to read books that are easy, I'm going to tell you, with this book you won't care. The brilliant job Sharon Creech has done writing this book, will make you overlook the fact that it

might be a little easy. It is very captivating and I really enjoy nature and this book is all about a girl who feels she needs to clear a trail on her farm in Kentucky. Now, Zinny might love nature but that's not the reason why she feels she needs to clear this trail. I'm not going to spoil anything so you will have to find out for yourself! :)

Overall, this book was great. The characters showed who they really were. The lesson was brought to me. The only concern I have about this book was the plot events. Some explanations, for example, the Chasing part, I did not get who he was chasing. I did not get why Ben and Uncle Nate could see Aunt Jessie. The plot events jumped around. Reading it as a class means discussing it and jotting the events down, and hearing different voices about the book. As a person reading this book on my own, I could not get through the first 16 chapters because of the plot events. If you want to read this book, I strongly suggest reading it with another peer to express ideas about the book, or read it with a group, and express ideas to formally get the overall plot events of the book.

I like this book because I like mystery and Zinny's trail is kind of like a mystery. That is why I would recommend this book to a person that likes mystery books. That is why this book deserves a 5 star rating. 

Yesssss. Love this book. I got so attached to it that I ended up finishing it in two days! Really good story and details. I love the way it sort of ties up with Sharon Creech's Walk Two Moons. I also read that one. I would certainly recommend this for a book project or something like that. Sharon Creech = Amazing Writer

This book is great. Chasing redbird is an inspiring novel it makes you want to go and clear a trail. This story is about zinny who blames her self for her aunt and cousins death. She then clears out the trail. When she finishes the trail she doesn't blame her self any more and everything a seems to turn out fine.

This was very interesting, I enjoyed reading it I was full of twist ,and turns always making me fell as if I wanted more.

I bought this book for my daughter, as a Sharon Creech fan this one is by far my favorite, the book itself is in perfect condition.

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