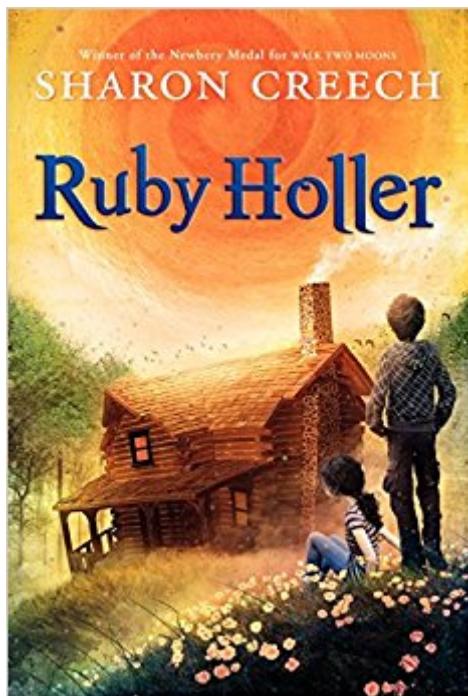


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# Ruby Holler



## **Synopsis**

From Sharon Creech, the Newbery Medal winning author of *Walk Two Moons*, comes a heartwarming adventure about finding family, and a home, when you least expect it. *Ruby Holler* is a Carnegie Medal-winning novel, and with its quirky protagonists and exciting journey, captures the imaginations of readers of all ages. A Brother and sister Dallas and Florida are the "trouble twins." In their short thirteen years, they've passed through countless foster homes, only to return to their dreary orphanage, Boxton Creek Home. Run by the Trepids, a greedy and strict couple, Boxton Creek seems impossible to escape. When Mr. Trepid informs the twins that they'll be helping old Tiller and Sairy Morey go on separate adventures, Dallas and Florida are suspicious. As the twins adjust to the natural beauty of the outdoors, help the Tillers prepare for their adventures, and foil a robbery, their ultimate search for freedom leads them home to *Ruby Holler*.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 660 (What's this?)

Paperback: 310 pages

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

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060560150

ISBN-13: 978-0060560157

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 203 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,767 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes #285 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings #1790 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Having suffered through a string of appalling foster homes (the spitting Cranbepps; scary, toothless Mr. Dreep who locked them in his cellar; and the mean Burgerton boys), 13-year-old orphan Dallas and his twin sister, Florida, have pretty much given up on ever finding a happy home. So when an

eccentric older couple enters their lives, providing such adventures as a river expedition, a treasure hunt (of sorts), and a whole lot of remarkable meals: "beat-the-blues broccoli," "anti-cranky crumpets," and "getting-used-to-kids- again stew," the twins take a while to warm up. Florida's language teems with outrageous, telling negativity--everything is "putrid"--and even dreamy Dallas is inclined to bouts of doubt. But warm up they do, to the continual delight of readers of all ages. Sharon Creech, author of Newbery Medal winner *Walk Two Moons* and Newbery Honor book *The Wanderer*, is in fine form with her hilarious yet poignant novel about downtrodden siblings who refuse to be squished altogether. The perfectly happy ending is somewhat predictable, but readers who have fallen in love with each quirky character won't mind a bit. (Ages 8 to 13) --Emilie Coulter  
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The characters introduced here two abandoned children, their villainous guardians and a kindly country couple might have stepped out of a Dickens novel, but as Creech (*Love that Dog*) probes beneath their facades, the characters grow more complex than classic archetypes. Florida and her brother Dallas, raised in an orphanage run by the cold-hearted Trepids, rely on each other rather than grownups for support. They become suspicious when Mr. Trepid informs them that they are going to a place called Ruby Holler to accompany old Mr. and Mrs. Morey on separate vacations. Florida is to be Mr. Tiller Morey's companion on a canoe trip; Dallas is to help Mrs. Sairy Morey hunt down an elusive bird. Readyng for the trips proves to be a journey in itself as the Moreys, Florida and Dallas make discoveries about one another as well as themselves in a soothing rural environment. This poignant story evokes a feeling as welcoming as fresh-baked bread. The slow evolution of the siblings who are no angels parallels the gradual building of mutual trust for the Moreys. The novel celebrates the healing effects of love and compassion. Although conflicts emerge, readers will have little doubt that all will end well for the children and the grandparently Moreys. Ages 8-12. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There are not words strong enough to express what a wonderful and joyous book this is! "Ruby Holler" is the most rewarding book I've read in ages. In fact, it could be described as a manual for excellent parenting and excellent living. What a great reading experience! I have fairly recently discovered Sharon Creech and her delightful books, including *A Love That Dog* and *A Hate That Cat* [HATE THAT CAT -LIB] [Library Binding]. She was awarded the Newbery Medal for *A Walk Two Moons* (the Newbery is awarded to the best of older children's literature every

year)."Ruby Holler" itself won the Carnegie Medal for Children's Literature. Frankly, I would like to stand outside big chain stores, outlet malls, and the like with boxes and boxes of this book to hand out. If I could put this book into the hands and hearts of every adult with children, maybe we could eliminate emotional and psychological child abuse. It has long been my personal thesis that the ills of a country lie in child abuse and the anger that develops from it. But that's another story for another place."Ruby Holler" is the story of fraternal twins, Dallas and Florida, who live in this horrible orphanage and are taken out from time to time into foster homes by horrible adults who abuse them then return them. Part of the journey of the book is the revelation of the kinds of abuse they experience, from being thrown into a totally black cellar with spiders and rats to the devilish treatment by a couple's larva-from-hell, picture-perfect little girl. The twins' revenge is rewarded with a trip back to the orphanage. Creech wisely keeps the abuse to emotional and a little physical (the stay in the cellar), making her point quite clear without edging into other kinds of noxious abuse. So why the names Dallas and Florida? The twins were left on the doorstep of this emotionally sterile orphanage run by a couple themselves emotionally sterile. The box in which the twins were found was lined with travel brochures, one with Dallas, one with Florida. Their birthdays and last names were manufactured. What is real about the twins is their absolute connection with each other. At thirteen they are requested by an eccentric, older couple to accompany them on separate trips. Of course, these children wonder what is in store--and what is in store is wonder! Through the vicissitudes of daily life and all it entails, Dallas and Florida begin to experience what a loving home can be, how two people can bring wonder and joy and surprise and stability. Oh, how I love this book and the tears of trepidation, the tears of recognition of purity of heart, but ultimately, tears of pure joy that it brings! There are surprise subplots as well. As for Ruby Holler itself, a quiet country backroad where the leaves turn into rubies in the fall--well, back in their younger years, Tiller uses it to woo his Sairy home from New York. His quiet manner and her understanding of his technique is another stirrer of heart emotion. Ruby Holler is also a quiet draw for the parched souls of two young teenagers in desperate need of emotional drink. They find it in Ruby Holler with this eccentric, endearing, and aging Baby Boomer couple who "find" and carve beautiful things out of wood. Please take the journey of the joy found in this remarkable book. As librarian in a PK3-8 school, I've added copies to our collection and ordered all of Sharon Creech's other books. As the book cover states: "You are now entering Ruby Holler....Your lives are never going to be the same--" Oh so true!

I volunteer in a school of last resort. Trying to get a girl, 13, to read, I asked her if she had ever liked a book. She said, "Ruby Holler," without hesitation. I checked it out of the library using my card and

she took it home for vacation. She went from her mom's to her dad's when she was half way through and left it. Then she missed school and didn't return it to me. I told the library, ordered this one, sent her mom a postcard, and she returned the library book the day I took this one in. All I can say is it made a difference in her life. I've read other wonderful books by Creech, but not this one.

One of our favorite authors and stories! Always a treasure! Great for parent-child read sharing!

A fantastic book about orphan twins that are in foster care but find a new family. So many adventures, the story is fantastic. A book I will read again and again. It also has a homey cozy feel to it. I'm 40 and this held my attention! I would recommend this to any child 8 and up. I want to live in Ruby Holler!!! ;)

When I was reading this book I thought some of it was confusing. There were a lot of things that were unpredictable as well. Overall I give it 4 stars because I liked it, I didn't love it.

This is the most heartwarming story....it's my go-to read-aloud for my 5th graders and it proves laugh-out-loud moments, as well as great pauses to discuss compassion! They literally beg me to read it every day.....it's that good.

I might have given this four stars based on my own reading, but my two of kids have each read it at least 3 times (ages 8 and 10). It's a good story of kids overcoming difficulty situations, sticking up for each other, and going on adventures in the outdoors.

Two 13-year-old twins are never going to get adopted, and not without reason. But an old couple from Ruby Holler want to take separate vacations, and temporarily adopt the two to accompany them on their trips. The odds are stacked against the kids and the arrangement. Creech tells the story with humor, warmth, and insight. The cranky, wicked, bumbling couple who run the orphanage reminded me of Roald Dahl's adults. The kids are right out of Karen Cushman's Rodzina. But the wise, down-home, older couple are the characters that steal the show. This book is a gem for children nine and older, as well as for adults who enjoy children's literature. My fifth grade students agree!

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