

the unfinished angel by sharon creech

the unfinished angel by sharon creech is a captivating novel that blends elements of fantasy, poetry, and coming-of-age themes to create a unique literary experience. Sharon Creech, an acclaimed author known for her ability to weave emotional depth with imaginative storytelling, invites readers into a world where an angel's journey to wholeness mirrors the struggles of human growth and self-discovery. This book stands out for its poetic narrative style and thought-provoking exploration of themes such as identity, creativity, and the search for purpose. Throughout this article, the significance of the novel's title, its narrative structure, and the symbolic meaning behind the characters will be discussed in detail. Additionally, the impact of the unfinished angel by sharon creech on young adult literature and its reception among readers and critics will be explored. The following sections provide an in-depth analysis of the novel's plot, themes, characters, and literary style.

- Overview of the Unfinished Angel by Sharon Creech
- Plot Summary and Narrative Structure
- Main Characters and Their Significance
- Thematic Elements in the Novel
- Literary Style and Poetic Elements
- Impact and Reception

Overview of the Unfinished Angel by Sharon Creech

The unfinished angel by sharon creech is a novel that defies conventional genre boundaries, combining fantasy with poetic prose to deliver a profound message about growth and transformation. The story centers on an angel who has not yet completed her wings, symbolizing the universal process of becoming and the challenges faced along the way. Sharon Creech's approach to storytelling in this book is both lyrical and accessible, making it a compelling read for young adults and adults alike. The novel's blend of mysticism and relatable human emotions creates a rich tapestry that invites readers to reflect on their own journeys.

Author Background

Sharon Creech is an award-winning author renowned for her contributions to children's and young adult literature. Her works often explore themes of family, identity, and self-discovery, and she is praised for her ability to write with emotional honesty and imaginative flair. The unfinished angel represents a continuation of her interest in using poetic language and fantasy elements to engage readers on multiple levels.

Significance of the Title

The title, "the unfinished angel," encapsulates the core metaphor of the novel: an angel in the process of becoming complete. This unfinished state reflects the imperfections and struggles inherent in life's journey, emphasizing that growth is ongoing and that beauty lies in the process as much as in the outcome.

Plot Summary and Narrative Structure

The narrative of the unfinished angel by Sharon Creech unfolds through a blend of poetic reflections and episodic storytelling. The plot follows the angel as she navigates the challenges of completing her wings while learning valuable lessons about compassion, courage, and self-acceptance. The story's structure allows readers to experience both the external adventures and the internal transformations of the protagonist.

Key Plot Points

- The angel's struggle with incomplete wings and feelings of inadequacy
- Encounters with various characters who influence her understanding of the world
- Moments of self-realization and creative inspiration
- The gradual acceptance of imperfection as part of growth
- The eventual emergence of a more confident and whole angel

Narrative Techniques

The novel employs a poetic and sometimes fragmented narrative style that mirrors the angel's unfinished state. This technique creates an immersive atmosphere and encourages readers to engage deeply with the text's emotional and symbolic layers. Creech's use of first-person perspective further enhances the intimacy of the story.

Main Characters and Their Significance

The unfinished angel by Sharon Creech features a small but impactful cast of characters, each contributing to the protagonist's development and the novel's thematic richness. The angel herself is the central figure, representing both vulnerability and potential.

The Angel

The angel is a symbol of incomplete growth and the universal quest for identity and purpose. Her journey from uncertainty to self-acceptance reflects the challenges many face during adolescence and beyond. Her interactions with others serve as catalysts for her transformation.

Supporting Characters

Various characters encountered by the angel represent different aspects of life's lessons, including kindness, creativity, and resilience. These figures help the angel understand the complexities of existence and the importance of embracing imperfection.

- The Wise Elder who offers guidance
- The Playful Child who embodies innocence and joy
- The Artist who inspires creativity and expression
- The Skeptic who challenges the angel's beliefs

Thematic Elements in the Novel

The unfinished angel by Sharon Creech explores numerous themes that resonate with readers of various ages, particularly those navigating personal growth and self-discovery. The novel's themes are intricately woven into the narrative, enriching the reading experience.

Identity and Self-Acceptance

A central theme is the exploration of identity, focusing on the struggles and triumphs involved in accepting oneself despite imperfections. The angel's unfinished wings serve as a metaphor for the ongoing process of becoming whole.

Creativity and Inspiration

The novel highlights the role of creativity as a means of understanding and expressing one's inner world. Through encounters with artistic characters, the angel learns to embrace imagination and self-expression as vital tools for growth.

Compassion and Connection

Interpersonal relationships and empathy are emphasized as critical components of the angel's journey. The story illustrates how compassion fosters personal and communal healing.

Literary Style and Poetic Elements

Sharon Creech's distinctive literary style in *The Unfinished Angel* by Sharon Creech combines poetic language with vivid imagery, creating a lyrical and evocative reading experience. The author's use of symbolism and metaphor enhances the novel's depth.

Poetry and Prose Blending

The narrative often shifts between prose and poetic verses, reflecting the fluidity of the angel's emotional states and the ethereal nature of the story's themes. This blending enriches the text by providing multiple layers of meaning.

Symbolism and Imagery

The novel is rich in symbolism, with the angel's wings serving as the primary metaphor for growth and imperfection. Other images, such as light, flight, and transformation, underscore the spiritual and psychological journey of the protagonist.

Impact and Reception

The Unfinished Angel by Sharon Creech has been well-received for its originality and emotional resonance. It holds a distinctive place in young adult literature due to its fusion of fantasy and poetic storytelling, appealing to readers seeking both imaginative narratives and meaningful themes.

Critical Acclaim

Critics have praised the novel for its lyrical style, thoughtful themes, and the depth of its protagonist's journey. It is often highlighted as a work that transcends typical genre boundaries and offers profound insights into the human condition.

Reader Engagement

The book resonates particularly with young readers experiencing transitions, such as adolescence or personal challenges. Its message of embracing imperfection and valuing creativity has inspired many to reflect on their own paths.

- Encourages introspection and self-discovery
- Enhances appreciation for poetic literature
- Supports discussions about identity and growth in educational settings
- Offers a unique blend of fantasy and realism

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'The Unfinished Angel' by Sharon Creech?

'The Unfinished Angel' explores themes of friendship, self-discovery, and the importance of kindness, as the protagonist embarks on a journey to complete a special task.

Who is the main character in 'The Unfinished Angel'?

The main character is an angel named Pluto, who is tasked with an important mission that teaches valuable life lessons along the way.

What age group is 'The Unfinished Angel' suitable for?

'The Unfinished Angel' is primarily aimed at middle-grade readers, typically ages 8 to 12, but its messages resonate with readers of all ages.

How does Sharon Creech's writing style in 'The Unfinished Angel' engage readers?

Sharon Creech uses a poetic and accessible style that combines humor, warmth, and imagination, making the story engaging and relatable for young readers.

What lessons can readers learn from 'The Unfinished Angel'?

Readers learn about perseverance, the value of empathy, and the significance of completing what one starts, emphasizing personal growth and understanding.

Is 'The Unfinished Angel' based on any folklore or traditional angel stories?

While 'The Unfinished Angel' draws inspiration from common angelic themes, Sharon Creech creates a unique narrative that blends fantasy with real-life emotions and challenges.

Additional Resources

1. *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

This novel follows a young girl named Salamanca Tree Hiddle as she embarks on a road trip with her grandparents to find her missing mother. Along the journey, Salamanca shares stories about her friend Phoebe Winterbottom, revealing themes of loss, identity, and forgiveness. Like **The Unfinished Angel**, it beautifully explores the complexities of family and healing.

2. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

A coming-of-age story told through vignettes, this book centers on Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago. The novel captures her dreams of a better life and her struggles with cultural identity and belonging. Similar to **The Unfinished Angel**, it highlights personal growth and resilience in the face of hardship.

3. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson

This poignant story follows Jesse Aarons and Leslie Burke, two friends who create an imaginary kingdom called Terabithia. The book deals with themes of friendship, imagination, and coping with loss. It resonates with **The Unfinished Angel** through its exploration of hope and healing after tragedy.

4. *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

When Opal adopts a stray dog, Winn-Dixie, her life in a small Florida town changes in unexpected ways. The novel explores themes of loneliness, community, and forgiveness, much like **The Unfinished Angel**. It's a heartwarming tale about finding connection and understanding through compassion.

5. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a porcelain rabbit, embarks on an extraordinary journey that teaches him about love, loss, and redemption. The story's magical realism and emotional depth echo the spiritual and transformative themes present in **The Unfinished Angel**. It's a touching narrative about the power of love to heal.

6. *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

This classic science fantasy novel follows Meg Murry and her friends as they travel through space and time to rescue her father. It combines adventure with themes of courage, love, and the battle between good and evil. Like **The Unfinished Angel**, it weaves in elements of hope and the supernatural.

7. *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

Set during World War II, this historical novel tells the story of Annemarie Johansen, a young Danish girl who helps her Jewish friend escape the Nazis. The book explores bravery, friendship, and moral choices in difficult times. Its profound emotional insights and themes of protection and sacrifice relate closely to those in **The Unfinished Angel**.

8. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

This novel centers on Lily Owens, a young girl who escapes her troubled past by seeking refuge with three beekeeping sisters in South Carolina. The story delves into themes of maternal love, race, and forgiveness. Like **The Unfinished Angel**, it is a deeply emotional tale about healing and finding family in unexpected places.

9. *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt

This thought-provoking novel explores the consequences of immortality through the story of Winnie Foster and the Tuck family. It raises questions about life, death, and the natural order, paralleling the spiritual reflections found in **The Unfinished Angel**. The book invites readers to consider the value of life's fleeting moments.

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