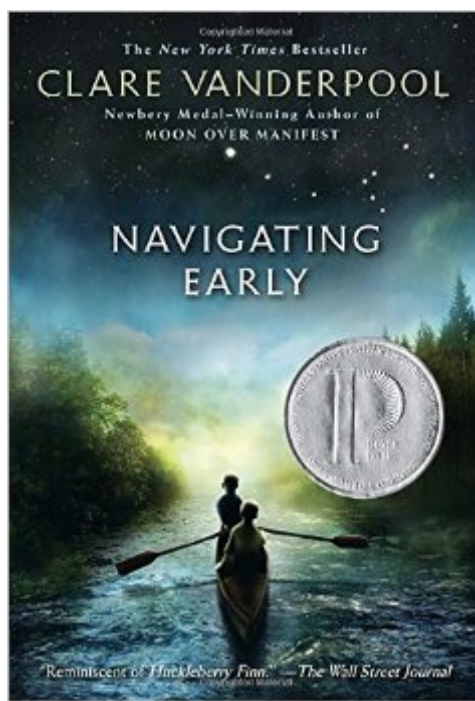


The book was found

# Navigating Early



## Synopsis

“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  
BookA 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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790L (What’s this?)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (December 23, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307930653

ISBN-13: 978-0307930651

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars  
See all reviews (187 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #27,557 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in Books > Children’s™ Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #159 in Books > Children’s™

Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences #1613 in Books >

Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

If you read and loved Vanderpool's heartwarming debut and Newberry Medal Winning *Moon Over Manifest* and are hoping to find the same depth of humanity in her sophomore novel, *Navigating Early*, you are in luck. In fact, my greatest criticism about *Navigating Early* is that it's too thematically similar to *Moon Over Manifest*, so let me get that gripe out of the way before I can dive into why *Navigating Early* is such a wonderful read. Both books involve children who are displaced—they have left what homes they knew to take up residence in a new and strange local. Both must learn to navigate their new environments as the new kid. Both have essentially lost their mothers, and both have a strong and wounding disconnect with their fathers. Both stories rely heavily on the power of coincidence or, as Jack's mother would say, "There are no coincidences. Just miracles by the boatload." Both books utilize the technique of stories within stories in order to tell their tale. In fact, *Moon Over Manifest* and *Navigating Early* were arranged so similarly that it made it impossible for me to be swept away and fall in love with this new book the way that I was when listening to *Moon*. I sincerely wonder if there had been more time in between my reading of the two, or if I had read *Navigating Early* first, which I would prefer. Perhaps Clare Vanderpool will fall into my list of authors who write the same sort of book over and over, but do it so well I love them regardless (this list being headed by John Green, of course). My only final complaint is that those double meaning titles (you know the ones, like *Saving Grace*, *Shattered Glass*, that sort of thing) make me gag instinctively—it's like something I would have named a book for a writing contest in 7th grade knowing the judges would all think "Oh!

Source: Received an e-ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This book was first brought to my attention by some *Waiting on Wednesday* posts and I was captured by the description of young Jack forced to move from Kansas to Maine after the death of his mother and enrolled in a boy's boarding school. There he meets the strange Early Auden and as events transpire, they end up in the forest for some time searching for something. It doesn't seem like a Stephanie book (where are the girls for one thing) but it struck me. I am very pleased to have read this! I liked so many elements of this book. First I loved the main character Jack, struggling in this

new world without his mother and with his distant military father at a distance even when they're in the same room. I also loved Early, who would probably be diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome in our world but not in his. His interests are varied including knowing the number pi to many digits, music beyond the typical kid's interest, and the zoology of Maine, for example. He is also suffering from the death of his idolized older brother who he believes is still alive. It is this quest to find Early's older brother that sends the boys into the woods. Once there, multiple plot threads are opened and then skillfully brought back together at the end. It reminded me of Liesl and Po and thus feels like a characteristic of my favorite middle-grade titles. I felt so satisfied seeing how x fit with y in the context of the larger story. I also loved the themes about family and healing as both Jack and Early end in better places in regards to their family. Just tremendously satisfying! Meanwhile I had mixed feelings about the historical setting.

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