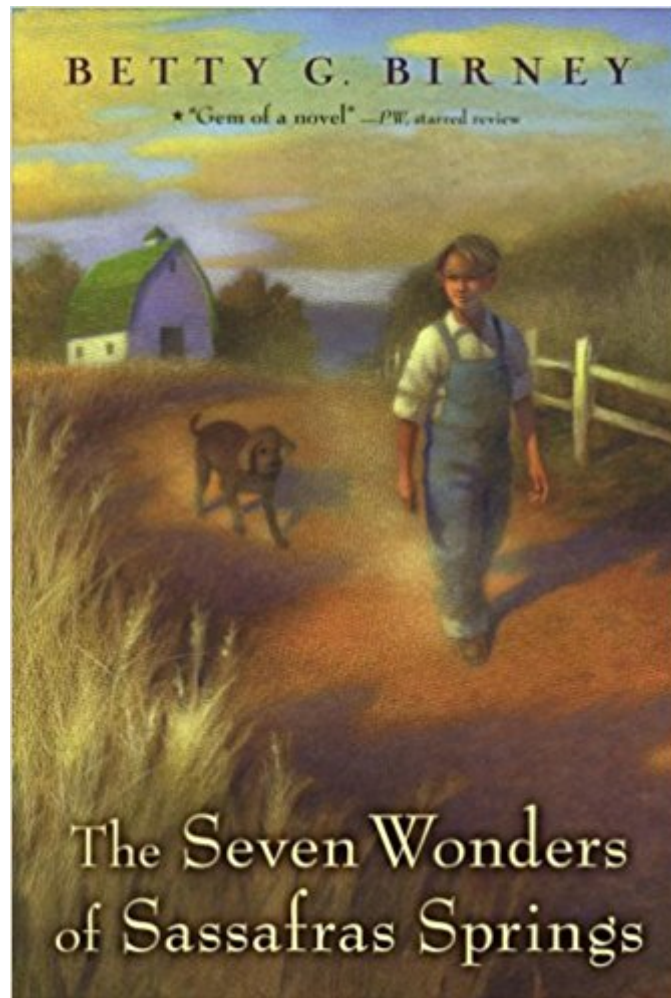




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# The Seven Wonders Of Sassafras Springs



## Synopsis

Life in Sassafras Springs has always been predictable, boring even, but one afternoon that changes when Eben McAllister's pa challenges him to find Seven Wonders in Sassafras that rival the real Seven Wonders of the World. The reward? An adventure that Eben's been craving -- a trip to Colorado. Even doesn't think he'll have any luck -- he can't think of one single thing that could be considered wondrous in Sassafras -- but he's willing to try. Little does he know that the Wonders he'll discover among his neighbors, friends, relatives, and family will give him the adventure of a lifetime...without ever leaving his home.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (February 27, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416934898

ISBN-13: 978-1416934899

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #103,476 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #284 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) #368 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7  
A literary folk story blending down-home narrative and characters with a sprinkling of magical realism. It is a tale of transformation, of finding the extraordinary in the ordinary, of the wonderful things that can happen anywhere to anyone. In Sassafras Springs, MO, in the summer of 1923, Eben McAllister, 11, is fascinated by the Seven Wonders of the World. Pa assures him that there are marvels right under his nose. In fact, the man challenges him to find Seven Wonders in seven days in Sassafras Springs. If Eben can do so, his father will buy him a ticket to visit his cousins in Colorado where he'll be able to see a mountain. On the first day, Eben

hears the story of his Sunday school teacher's applehead doll, which saved the woman's life when she was very sick as a child. Then there's the wonder of an old saw that, when played, allows Calvin Smiley to grow more food than anyone around. Cully Pone's bookcase used to belong to a rainmaker who was seeking revenge when he ended a drought but didn't get paid by the town; it has saved a man's life, held the secrets of the universe, and now holds up Cully's house. Most certainly this is a wonder. Eben completes his quest in this old-fashioned tale that could have been set in Bill Brittain's Coven Tree (The Wish Giver [HarperCollins, 1983]). Black-and-white sketches enhance the text and its folksy character. Perfect for reading aloud. — Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Gr. 3-6. "I was only looking for big things . . . but a small thing can be a prize too." That's the transparent theme of Eben McAllister's search for local wonders. The year is 1923, and Eben, who lives on a farm in Missouri, longs for marvels like those in his Seven Wonders of the World book. His father challenges him to find local wonders to rival the famous ones. If Eben can gather seven wonders in seven days, his will earn a train ride to visit relatives in the Colorado mountains. He ekes out time from daily chores to visit the neighbors, each of whom shares a wonder and tells a story. The tall tales are a bit heavy on message and cliché (the mayor, who was a naughty child, "saw the light" and learned that he should use his energy to help folks), but the magical realism of the episodic wonders--an outhouse flying in a cyclone, a musical saw that fends off crop-eating locusts--and Eben's empathetic father and aunt provide grist for a solid read-aloud. Phelan's black-and-white illustrations are a charming accompaniment. Cindy Dobrez Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

This was a wonderful, uplifting story. I read it to my elderly Mom while she was sick in the hospital and she looked so forward to reading each day. It had humor and also, some very touching moments. Mom and I got teary several times. I look forward to reading it to my grandsons as well.

I have been reading this to my 3rd Grade class and they are staying engaged. It really brings up a lot of discussions about what life was like near a century ago.

fantastic, wonderful book, my 8 yr old boy was captivated by this book, and so was I , we could not wait for bedtime each night to read another chapter, my only complaint would be that we wished the book was longer.

A wonderful book from an equally wonderful author. Loved for her wildly popular Humphrey series, we were sure we wouldn't be disappointed in this novel, and we weren't! A very creative plot with interesting points throughout and it certainly grabbed my 11 yr old sons attention to the point where he was sad to see it come to a close. A real gem!

### Good Book

The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs is a great book for all ages. It left me thinking about the wonders in my own hometown. Our adult book club read the book and everyone enjoyed it. (That doesn't often happen!) I consider it a classic.

I read this book with my students every year & every year, the students say it is the best book they have ever read! WE do a lot of projects while reading the story, too. My favorite project is the web chat with the author, Betty Birney. Betty is one of the friendliest & best authors to work with children that I have encountered!

My grandchildren really enjoyed this book as much as I enjoyed reading it to them.

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