

the sign of the beaver pdf

the sign of the beaver pdf has become an increasingly sought-after resource for educators, students, and literary enthusiasts interested in Elizabeth George Speare's acclaimed historical novel. This article delves into the significance and utility of the sign of the beaver pdf format, highlighting its accessibility and convenience for various readers. The sign of the beaver, a novel set in the American frontier, offers rich themes of survival, friendship, and cultural exchange, which makes the availability of the sign of the beaver pdf essential for educational purposes and literary analysis. Throughout this article, readers will discover detailed insights into the novel's content, the advantages of the pdf format, and practical guidance on how to make the most of this digital resource. Whether for classroom study, book clubs, or personal enrichment, understanding the benefits and features of the sign of the beaver pdf can enhance the overall engagement with this timeless story. The following sections will cover the novel's overview, benefits of the pdf format, key themes, and recommended uses.

- Overview of The Sign of the Beaver
- Benefits of Using the Sign of the Beaver PDF
- Key Themes and Literary Elements
- Educational Applications and Study Tips
- Accessing and Utilizing the PDF Effectively

Overview of The Sign of the Beaver

Background and Author

The Sign of the Beaver is a historical fiction novel written by Elizabeth George Speare, first published in 1983. Set in the 18th-century American frontier, the story follows a young boy named Matt who is left to fend for himself while his family awaits settlement in the wilderness. Speare's work is well-regarded for its vivid portrayal of early American life and its respectful depiction of Native American culture, particularly through Matt's interactions with a Native American boy named Attean.

Plot Summary

The novel narrates Matt's coming-of-age journey as he learns to survive in the wilderness. He faces challenges such as building shelter, hunting, and protecting himself from dangers. With the help of Attean and his tribe, Matt gains valuable survival skills and cultural

understanding. The story highlights themes of friendship, trust, and intercultural respect, making it a compelling read for young audiences and adults alike.

Significance in Literature

The Sign of the Beaver is celebrated for its authentic representation of frontier life and Native American culture. It has received several awards and is frequently included in school curricula to promote historical awareness and empathy. The novel's enduring popularity underscores its importance as a literary work that bridges cultural gaps and explores universal human experiences.

Benefits of Using the Sign of the Beaver PDF

Accessibility and Convenience

One of the primary advantages of the sign of the beaver pdf is its accessibility. The pdf format allows readers to access the full text on various digital devices such as smartphones, tablets, and computers. This portability ensures that readers can study or enjoy the novel anytime and anywhere without the need for a physical copy.

Enhanced Study Features

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Preservation and Durability

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Cost-Effectiveness

In many cases, the sign of the beaver pdf can be obtained at a lower cost compared to printed editions. Some versions may even be freely available through educational platforms or public domain resources, providing an economical option for readers on a budget.

Key Themes and Literary Elements

Survival and Self-Reliance

A central theme in *The Sign of the Beaver* is survival. Matt's journey emphasizes the importance of self-reliance, resilience, and adaptability in the face of adversity. The novel portrays his growth from a dependent boy into a capable and confident young man.

Friendship and Cultural Exchange

The relationship between Matt and Attean serves as a powerful example of friendship transcending cultural barriers. The story explores mutual respect and learning between European settlers and Native Americans, promoting a message of understanding and cooperation.

Coming of Age

The novel is also a classic coming-of-age story, highlighting Matt's emotional and psychological development as he navigates challenges and gains independence. This theme resonates with readers of all ages, making the book a valuable educational tool.

Literary Devices

Elizabeth George Speare employs various literary techniques in *The Sign of the Beaver*, including vivid imagery, symbolism, and character development. The sign of the beaver itself symbolizes friendship and trust, serving as a key motif throughout the narrative.

- Imagery: Descriptions of the wilderness and daily life
- Symbolism: The beaver sign representing alliance and peace
- Characterization: Growth and transformation of main characters
- Dialogue: Reflects cultural differences and learning

Educational Applications and Study Tips

Classroom Integration

The sign of the beaver pdf serves as an excellent resource for classroom instruction. Teachers can incorporate the novel into history, literature, and social studies curricula to facilitate discussions about early American history, Native American culture, and themes of survival and friendship.

Study Strategies

Students utilizing the sign of the beaver pdf can benefit from several study approaches:

- Highlighting key passages and quotes
- Taking notes directly on the pdf using annotation tools
- Creating character maps to understand relationships
- Researching historical context to deepen comprehension
- Engaging in group discussions or book clubs to explore themes

Assessment and Projects

Educators can design various assessments and projects based on the novel, including essay writing, thematic presentations, and creative assignments such as diary entries from Matt's perspective. The pdf format supports these activities by allowing easy access to text and reference material.

Accessing and Utilizing the PDF Effectively

Finding Reliable Sources

Obtaining a legitimate and high-quality sign of the beaver pdf is essential for a productive reading experience. Educational institutions, authorized publishers, and reputable online platforms typically offer authorized versions that respect copyright laws.

Technical Tips for Use

To maximize the benefits of the sign of the beaver pdf, users should consider the following technical tips:

1. Use a pdf reader with annotation capabilities for note-taking.
2. Adjust the display settings for comfortable reading, such as zoom and background color.
3. Utilize text search functions to locate specific content quickly.
4. Save and organize notes separately for review and study.
5. Backup the pdf file to prevent data loss.

Additional Resources

Many versions of the sign of the beaver pdf may come bundled with study guides, vocabulary lists, and comprehension questions. These supplemental materials enhance understanding and provide structured approaches to analyzing the novel.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I download 'The Sign of the Beaver' PDF legally?

You can download 'The Sign of the Beaver' PDF legally from authorized eBook retailers such as Amazon Kindle, Google Books, or your local library's digital collection if they offer it.

Is 'The Sign of the Beaver' available as a free PDF?

Generally, 'The Sign of the Beaver' is not available as a free PDF due to copyright restrictions. However, some educational websites or libraries may provide access through their platforms.

What is 'The Sign of the Beaver' about?

'The Sign of the Beaver' is a historical novel by Elizabeth George Speare about a young boy named Matt who learns survival skills from a Native American boy named Attean while his family is away.

Can I find study guides or summaries of 'The Sign of the Beaver' in PDF format?

Yes, many educational websites offer study guides, summaries, and analyses of 'The Sign of the Beaver' in PDF format to help students understand the book better.

Are there audiobook versions of 'The Sign of the Beaver' available in PDF?

Audiobooks are typically not available in PDF format since PDFs are for text. However, you can find audiobook versions on platforms like Audible or your library's digital collection.

How can teachers use 'The Sign of the Beaver' PDF in the classroom?

Teachers can use the PDF version of 'The Sign of the Beaver' to assign reading, facilitate discussions, and provide accessible copies to students, especially in remote learning environments.

Is 'The Sign of the Beaver' PDF suitable for middle school students?

Yes, 'The Sign of the Beaver' is commonly recommended for middle school students due to its themes of friendship, survival, and cultural understanding.

Are there any illustrated PDF versions of 'The Sign of the Beaver' available?

Illustrated versions of 'The Sign of the Beaver' might be available in print, but illustrated PDFs are less common. You can check with publishers or digital bookstores for special editions.

Additional Resources

1. *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare

This classic historical novel tells the story of a young boy named Matt who is left alone to guard his family's cabin in the wilderness. He befriends a Native American boy named Attean, and together they learn from each other about survival, friendship, and respect for different cultures. The book explores themes of courage and understanding in a frontier setting.

2. *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

In this adventurous tale, a young boy named Sam decides to leave the city and live alone in the Catskill Mountains. The story follows his journey of self-reliance and discovery as he learns to live off the land, encountering wildlife and natural challenges. It highlights themes of independence, nature, and resilience.

3. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

Based on a true story, this novel recounts the life of a Native American girl who survives alone on an island off the California coast for years. Her resourcefulness and courage shine as she faces isolation and danger. The book delves into themes of survival, solitude, and the bond between humans and nature.

4. *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

This heartfelt story follows a boy named Billy and his two hunting dogs as they grow up in the Ozark Mountains. It explores their adventures, challenges, and the deep bond between humans and animals. Themes of loyalty, perseverance, and coming of age are central to the narrative.

5. *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash leaves him stranded in the Canadian wilderness, thirteen-year-old Brian must learn to survive with only a hatchet. The novel focuses on his ingenuity, courage, and growth as he adapts to the wild environment. It is a gripping tale of survival and self-discovery.

6. *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich

This novel tells the story of Omakayas, a young Ojibwe girl living in the 19th century near Lake Superior. Through her eyes, readers experience Native American life, culture, and traditions, as well as the challenges her family faces. The book offers an authentic perspective on indigenous history and resilience.

7. *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink

Set in the mid-1800s, this book follows the spirited Caddie Woodlawn and her adventures growing up on the Wisconsin frontier. It captures the excitement and hardships of pioneer life, along with themes of family, bravery, and cultural encounters. The story emphasizes the importance of community and tradition.

8. *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by Alice Dalgliesh

This historical fiction centers on Sarah Noble, a young girl who travels with her father to build a home in the Connecticut wilderness in the early 1700s. Sarah faces the challenges of frontier life with determination and faith, forming friendships with Native Americans along the way. The book highlights themes of courage, faith, and perseverance.

9. *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George

In this novel, a young Inuit girl named Miyax survives in the Alaskan tundra by living among a pack of wolves. The story explores her deep connection with nature and the struggle to reconcile her traditional culture with the modern world. Themes of survival, identity, and harmony with nature are central to the narrative.

[The Sign Of The Beaver Pdf](#)

The Sign of the Beaver PDF: A Comprehensive Guide to a Classic Coming-of-Age Story

This ebook delves into Elizabeth George Speare's acclaimed novel, "The Sign of the Beaver," exploring its historical context, literary merit, thematic significance, and enduring popularity in contemporary classrooms and beyond. We'll analyze its enduring appeal, examine its pedagogical

applications, and consider its relevance to modern readers.

Ebook Title: Unlocking the Wilderness: A Deep Dive into "The Sign of the Beaver"

Contents Outline:

Introduction: Introducing "The Sign of the Beaver," its author, and its historical setting.

Chapter 1: Historical Context and Accuracy: Examining the historical accuracy of the novel and its portrayal of 18th-century life in colonial New Hampshire.

Chapter 2: Character Development and Relationships: Analyzing the key characters, their motivations, and the evolving relationships between Matt, Attean, and the other members of the Abenaki tribe.

Chapter 3: Themes and Symbolism: Exploring the novel's central themes, including survival, cultural understanding, resilience, friendship, and the impact of colonization. We'll delve into the symbolism present within the narrative, such as the titular "sign of the beaver."

Chapter 4: Literary Style and Techniques: Analyzing Speare's writing style, narrative voice, and use of literary techniques to create suspense, empathy, and understanding.

Chapter 5: Pedagogical Applications and Classroom Use: Discussing the novel's value as a teaching tool across various curricula, including history, language arts, and social studies. We will explore different teaching strategies and activities.

Chapter 6: Critical Reception and Legacy: Examining critical reviews and the lasting impact of "The Sign of the Beaver" on children's literature and popular culture.

Chapter 7: Modern Relevance and Interpretations: Considering contemporary perspectives on the novel and its relevance to discussions about cultural exchange, environmentalism, and indigenous rights.

Conclusion: Summarizing key insights and reflections on the enduring appeal and significance of "The Sign of the Beaver."

Detailed Breakdown of Outline Points:

Introduction: This section will provide a brief overview of the novel, introducing Elizabeth George Speare and establishing the historical backdrop of 18th-century New Hampshire. It will hook the reader and set the stage for a deeper exploration.

Chapter 1: Historical Context and Accuracy: This chapter will meticulously analyze the novel's historical accuracy, comparing Speare's depiction of colonial life, Abenaki culture, and the challenges of frontier survival with historical records and anthropological research. We'll explore the extent to which the novel faithfully reflects the realities of the time.

Chapter 2: Character Development and Relationships: A detailed examination of the central characters—Matt, Attean, and other significant figures—will highlight their motivations, conflicts, and evolving relationships. We'll explore how their interactions drive the plot and reveal deeper meanings.

Chapter 3: Themes and Symbolism: This section will delve into the novel's core themes, such as survival, cultural exchange, resilience, friendship, and the consequences of colonization. The significance of the "sign of the beaver" as a recurring symbol will be thoroughly analyzed.

Chapter 4: Literary Style and Techniques: We will analyze Speare's masterful use of narrative voice,

descriptive language, and other literary techniques to create a compelling and immersive reading experience. We'll explore how these techniques enhance the story's impact.

Chapter 5: Pedagogical Applications and Classroom Use: This chapter will discuss the novel's suitability for various age groups and educational settings. Practical teaching strategies, classroom activities, and discussion prompts will be provided to facilitate engaging lessons.

Chapter 6: Critical Reception and Legacy: We'll review critical analyses of "The Sign of the Beaver," examining its reception upon publication and its enduring place in children's literature. We'll analyze its impact on subsequent works.

Chapter 7: Modern Relevance and Interpretations: This chapter will explore contemporary perspectives on the novel, considering its relevance to current discussions about cultural sensitivity, environmental awareness, and the rights of Indigenous peoples. We'll explore how modern readers might interpret the story differently.

Conclusion: This final section will recap the major themes and insights explored throughout the ebook, reinforcing the lasting significance of "The Sign of the Beaver" as a piece of historical fiction and a valuable learning resource.

Keywords: The Sign of the Beaver, Elizabeth George Speare, New Hampshire, Abenaki, Colonial America, Historical Fiction, Children's Literature, Young Adult Literature, Survival, Cultural Exchange, Friendship, Colonization, Indigenous Peoples, Literary Analysis, Teaching Resources, Classroom Activities, Critical Reception, PDF Download, Ebook

FAQs:

1. Is "The Sign of the Beaver" historically accurate? While fictionalized, the novel draws on historical research to create a plausible depiction of 18th-century life in New Hampshire and interactions with the Abenaki people. However, it's crucial to remember it's a work of fiction, not a historical document.
2. What are the main themes of "The Sign of the Beaver"? Key themes include survival, cultural understanding, friendship across cultural divides, the impact of colonization, and the resilience of the human spirit.
3. What is the significance of the "sign of the beaver"? The beaver's sign acts as a recurring symbol representing communication, resourcefulness, and the interconnectedness of nature and human survival.

4. What age group is "The Sign of the Beaver" appropriate for? It's typically recommended for middle-grade readers (ages 9-12) and young adults, though its themes resonate with older readers as well.
5. Where can I find a PDF of "The Sign of the Beaver"? Legally obtained PDFs might be available through online bookstores or libraries offering ebooks. Check your local library's digital resources. Downloading unauthorized copies is illegal.
6. How can I use "The Sign of the Beaver" in the classroom? It's an excellent resource for history, language arts, and social studies classes. Activities include discussions on themes, character analysis, historical research projects, and creative writing assignments.
7. What are some critical opinions on "The Sign of the Beaver"? The novel has generally received positive reviews for its engaging storytelling, historical accuracy, and exploration of important themes. Some critiques focus on the simplified portrayal of complex historical events.
8. How does "The Sign of the Beaver" relate to modern issues? The novel's themes of cultural understanding and respect for indigenous cultures remain highly relevant in today's world. Discussions around colonization and environmentalism are also timely.
9. Is "The Sign of the Beaver" still popular today? Yes, it remains a widely read and highly regarded book in classrooms and among readers of all ages who appreciate well-written historical fiction with compelling characters and themes.

Related Articles:

1. Elizabeth George Speare's other works: An exploration of Speare's other notable novels and their lasting influence on children's literature.
2. The Abenaki Nation: A historical overview: A deeper look into the Abenaki people, their history, culture, and contemporary life.
3. The History of Colonial New Hampshire: A comprehensive overview of the settlement and development of New Hampshire during the colonial period.
4. Survival Skills in the Wilderness: Practical guides to wilderness survival techniques, drawing parallels to the skills demonstrated in "The Sign of the Beaver."
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the sign of the beaver pdf: The Sign of the Beaver Elizabeth George Speare, 1983-04-27 A 1984 Newbery Honor Book Although he faces responsibility bravely, thirteen-year-old Matt is more than a little apprehensive when his father leaves him alone to guard their new cabin in the wilderness. When a renegade white stranger steals his gun, Matt realizes he has no way to shoot game or to protect himself. When Matt meets Attean, a boy in the Beaver clan, he begins to better understand their way of life and their growing problem in adapting to the white man and the changing frontier. Elizabeth George Speare's Newbery Honor-winning survival story is filled with wonderful detail about living in the wilderness and the relationships that formed between settlers and natives in the 1700s. Now with an introduction by Joseph Bruchac.

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the sign of the beaver pdf: Out of the Dust (Scholastic Gold) Karen Hesse, 2012-09-01 Acclaimed author Karen Hesse's Newbery Medal-winning novel-in-verse explores the life of fourteen-year-old Billie Jo growing up in the dust bowls of Oklahoma. Out of the Dust joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! Dust piles up like snow across the prairie. . . . A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And the one thing that might make her feel better -- playing the piano -- is impossible with her wounded hands. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and all the farms nearby. While others flee from the dust bowl, Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma -- and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.

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the sign of the beaver pdf: The Most Dangerous Game Richard Connell, 2023-02-23 Sanger Rainsford is a big-game hunter, who finds himself washed up on an island owned by the eccentric General Zaroff. Zaroff, a big-game hunter himself, has heard of Rainsford's abilities with a gun and organises a hunt. However, they're not after animals - they're after people. When he protests, Rainsford the hunter becomes Rainsford the hunted. Sharing similarities with The Hunger Games, starring Jennifer Lawrence, this is the story that created the template for pitting man against man. Born in New York, Richard Connell (1893 - 1949) went on to become an acclaimed author, screenwriter, and journalist. He is best remembered for the gripping novel The Most Dangerous Game and for receiving an Oscar nomination for the screenplay Meet John Doe.

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the sign of the beaver pdf: [Touching Spirit Bear](#) Ben Mikaelson, 2010-04-20 In his Nautilus Award-winning classic Touching Spirit Bear, author Ben Mikaelson delivers a powerful coming-of-age story of a boy who must overcome the effects that violence has had on his life. After severely injuring Peter Driscoll in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given another option: attend Circle Justice, an alternative program that sends juvenile offenders to a remote Alaskan Island to focus on changing their ways. Desperate to avoid prison, Cole fakes humility and agrees to go. While there, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and left for dead. Thoughts of his abusive parents, helpless Peter, and his own anger cause him to examine his actions and seek redemption—from the spirit bear that attacked him, from his victims, and, most importantly, from himself. Ben Mikaelson paints a vivid picture of a juvenile offender, examining the roots of his anger without absolving him of responsibility for his actions, and questioning a society in which angry people make victims of their peers and communities. Touching Spirit Bear is a poignant testimonial to the power of a pain that can destroy, or lead to healing. A strong choice for independent reading, sharing in the classroom, homeschooling, and book groups.

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the sign of the beaver pdf: Calico Captive Elizabeth George Speare, 2001-10-29 From a Newbery Medal-winning author, an "exciting novel" about a colonial girl's experience during the French and Indian War (Saturday Review). In the year 1754, the stillness of Charlestown, New Hampshire, is shattered by the terrifying cries of an Indian raid. Young Miriam Willard, on a day that had promised new happiness, finds herself instead a captive on a forest trail, caught up in the ebb and flow of the French and Indian War. It is a harrowing march north. Miriam can only force herself to the next stopping place, the next small portion of food, the next icy stream to be crossed. At the end of the trail waits a life of hard work and, perhaps, even a life of slavery. Mingled with her thoughts of Phineas Whitney, her sweetheart on his way to Harvard, is the crying of her sister's baby, Captive, born on the trail. Miriam and her companions finally reach Montreal, a city of shifting loyalties filled with the intrigue of war, and here, by a sudden twist of fortune, Miriam meets the prominent Du Quesne family, who introduce her to a life she has never imagined. Based on an actual narrative diary published in 1807, Calico Captive skillfully reenacts an absorbing facet of history. "Vital and vivid, this short novel based on the actual captivity of a pre-Revolutionary girl of Charlestown, New Hampshire, presents American history with force and verve." —Kirkus Reviews

the sign of the beaver pdf: The Witch of Blackbird Pond Elizabeth George Speare, 1958 Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty. Elizabeth George Speare won the 1959 Newbery Medal for this portrayal of a heroine whom readers will admire for her unwavering sense of truth as well as her infinite capacity to love.

the sign of the beaver pdf: 120 Days of Sodom Marquis de Sade, 2013-02-18 The 120 Days of Sodom by Marquis de Sade relates the story of four wealthy men who enslave 24 mostly teenaged victims and sexually torture them while listening to stories told by old prostitutes. The book was written while Sade was imprisoned in the Bastille and the manuscript was lost during the storming of the Bastille. Sade wrote that he wept tears of blood over the manuscript's loss. Many consider this to be Sade crowning achievement.

the sign of the beaver pdf: Bright Island Mabel L. Robinson, 2012-10-23 Mabel Robinson's delightful coming-of-age story won a Newbery Honor in 1938 and garnered extraordinary praise from critics and readers alike. Born and raised on Bright Island off the Maine coast, Thankful Curtis is more like her sea captain grandfather than any of her older brothers are. Nothing suits her better than sailing and helping her father with the farm. But when her dreaded sisters-in-law suggest that Thankful get some proper schooling on the mainland, the wind is knocked from her sails. Thankful finds the uncharted waters of school difficult to navigate: there's a rocky reception from her rich roommate, Selina; the breezy behavior of the charming Robert; and stormy Mr. Fletcher, the handsome Latin teacher whose caustic tongue masks a tender heart. And while Thankful works hard to make the best of her new life, Bright Island continues to flash in her thoughts, like the sparkle of the sun on the water. The New York Times raved, One would be hard put to it to find a better contemporary novel than this, and now this evocative tale can be welcomed by a new generation of readers.

the sign of the beaver pdf: The Magic of Thinking Big David J. Schwartz, 2014-12-02 The timeless and practical advice in The Magic of Thinking Big clearly demonstrates how you can: Sell more Manage better Lead fearlessly Earn more Enjoy a happier, more fulfilling life With applicable and easy-to-implement insights, you'll discover: Why believing you can succeed is essential How to

quit making excuses The means to overcoming fear and finding confidence How to develop and use creative thinking and dreaming Why making (and getting) the most of your attitudes is critical How to think right towards others The best ways to make "action" a habit How to find victory in defeat Goals for growth, and How to think like a leader Believe Big," says Schwartz. "The size of your success is determined by the size of your belief. Think little goals and expect little achievements. Think big goals and win big success. Remember this, too! Big ideas and big plans are often easier -- certainly no more difficult - than small ideas and small plans.

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and redemption into a thing of terrible beauty.” —Los Angeles Times Book Review *The Poisonwood Bible*, now celebrating its 25th anniversary, established Barbara Kingsolver as one of the most thoughtful and daring of modern writers. Taking its place alongside the classic works of postcolonial literature, it is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in Africa. The story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it—from garden seeds to Scripture—is calamitously transformed on African soil. The novel is set against one of the most dramatic political chronicles of the twentieth century: the Congo's fight for independence from Belgium, the murder of its first elected prime minister, the CIA coup to install his replacement, and the insidious progress of a world economic order that robs the fledgling African nation of its autonomy. Against this backdrop, Orleana Price reconstructs the story of her evangelist husband's part in the Western assault on Africa, a tale indelibly darkened by her own losses and unanswerable questions about her own culpability. Also narrating the story, by turns, are her four daughters—the teenaged Rachel; adolescent twins Leah and Adah; and Ruth May, a prescient five-year-old. These sharply observant girls, who arrive in the Congo with racial preconceptions forged in 1950s Georgia, will be marked in surprisingly different ways by their father's intractable mission, and by Africa itself. Ultimately each must strike her own separate path to salvation. Their passionately intertwined stories become a compelling exploration of moral risk and personal responsibility.

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develop a new account of focus sensitivity, and show that what has hitherto been regarded as a uniform phenomenon in fact results from three different mechanisms. The book Makes a major contribution to ongoing research in the area of focus sensitivity – a field exploring interactions between sound and meaning, specifically the dependency some words have on the effects of focus, such as she only LIKES me (i.e. nothing deeper) compared to she only likes ME (i.e. nobody else) Discusses the features of the QFC theory (Quasi association, Free association, and Conventional association), a new account of focus implying a tripartite typology of focus-sensitive expressions Presents novel cross-linguistic data on focus and focus sensitivity that will be relevant across a range of linguistic sub-fields: semantics and pragmatics, syntax, and intonational phonology Concludes with a case study of exclusives (like “only”), arguing that the entire existing literature has missed crucial generalizations, and for the first time explaining the focus sensitivity of these expressions in terms of their meaning and discourse function

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