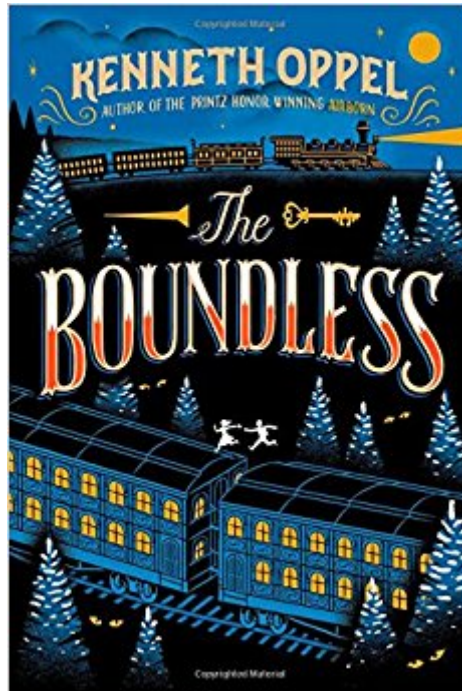




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# The Boundless



## Synopsis

All aboard for an action-packed escapade from the internationally bestselling author of *Airborne* and the *Silverwing* trilogy. *The Boundless*, the greatest train ever built, is on its maiden voyage across the country, and first-class passenger Will Everett is about to embark on the adventure of his life! When Will ends up in possession of the key to a train car containing priceless treasures, he becomes the target of sinister figures from his past. In order to survive, Will must join a traveling circus, enlisting the aid of Mr. Dorian, the ringmaster and leader of the troupe, and Maren, a girl his age who is an expert escape artist. With villains fast on their heels, can Will and Maren reach Will's father and save *The Boundless* before someone winds up dead?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0730 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (April 22, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 144247288X

ISBN-13: 978-1442472884

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #365,131 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in *Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada* #264 in *Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains* #5083 in *Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship*

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

An *Best Children's Book of the Month*, April 2014: Mirroring a slice of actual railway history, *The Boundless* is a train of epic proportion, an eccentric visionary's dream made real by the sweat and lives of many. The book's protagonist, Will Everett, is a young man who yearns for adventure, finding it first when he participates in securing the final spike of the *Boundless* tracks and years later on her inaugural voyage. By the time the train leaves the station, Will's family has literally gone from rags to riches, and he finds himself responsible

for keeping a special boxcar's treasures safe from thieves who will stop at nothing—even murder. Along with his friend Maren, an escape artist with the traveling circus onboard, Will realizes untapped bravery, loyalty, and friendship that help him face a multitude of dangers. The Boundless successfully mixes history, folklore, and imagination into a sweeping adventure story that is a delight to read.---Seira Wilson

Gr 5 • All aboard for an exciting tale of steam-powered automatons, a bloodthirsty sasquatch, colorful circuses, and magical paintings. Aspiring artist Will Everett knows he's not cut out to follow in the footsteps of his railroad manager father, but his pampered life leaves little opportunity for adventure. Then he boards The Boundless, the world's largest and most luxurious train. After acquiring the key to the railway owner's funeral car, Will is running for his life, pursued by deadly enemies who will do anything to possess the car's valuable contents. He is rescued by Mr. Dorian, ringmaster of the famed Zircus Dante, and an escape artist called The Miraculous Maren. These two performers, however, have their own secret agenda for helping Will. As The Boundless thunders toward its destination, Will must decide who to trust, if anyone. Along the way, Will is on the adventure of a lifetime. With its imaginative plot, cast of colorful, well-rounded characters, and nonstop action, Oppel's latest is a delight to read from the first page right through the satisfying conclusion. Take note: This book will be popular! •Alissa J. Bach, Oxford Public Library, MI

The publisher's target audience is on the young side--as a middle school librarian, I'd say The Boundless is appropriate for well-adjusted, grounded-in-reality, middle schoolers, not eight-year-olds. It has themes of fairness, independence and courage, all of which I encourage in children. There have been reviews that say the book had sex in it. Not that I remember. There's blushing and bare shoulders, both of which are appropriate for middle school students. Did I miss something? I recall the main characters don't have anything more going on than a crush---again appropriate for middle school children. There was a review that mentioned the word fecking. Fecking is considered a mild swear word in Ireland. It's a minced oath, much like dang or heck. Yes, it is a minced oath for "the f-word," but this provides parents a good opportunity to have a meaningful discussion with their middle school child about \*their\* family values--what is appropriate for them to say---and the difference between what you read and what you say or do. Now--looking at the book for children aged 11-13----- by the time kids get into middle school, many use words like hell---even if their parents don't know about it. And even if they don't use the words themselves, books that do not use appropriately authentic language are largely left unread. Children can spot phony a mile

away. "Golly, Gee Willikers!" (Just to show how language evolves, gee was a minced oath at one time) But once again, in my opinion the publisher set the target audience too young. The book is a well written middle school book, incorporating Canadian history and folklore into a train adventure that both boys and girls can enjoy.

This book is AWESOME! Oppel takes us back into his wonderful world of steampunk and this time it's not about giant airships, but the other greatest way to travel; a giant train! What a fantastic story this is. Full of suspense and mystery and adventure, Oppel manages to include everything one could want in a train adventure. This book has great description and makes the reader wish he or she was also aboard the Boundless, surely the coolest train in literature. Also, it's written in present tense, an interesting style and a nice change from most books that write only in preterit. William Everett is a very relatable character, genuine and courageous, as well as compassionate and heroic, similar to Matt Cruse (Airborn) with a started-from-the-bottom attitude that allows him to relate to others. It's a must-read, and I've told friends to read it, and even if you don't like steampunk or (God forbid) don't like trains, it's a wonderful story and you won't want to stop reading.

From the time I picked up this book to the time I finished was a week. I don't get a lot of time to read but I read when I can. I became a fan of Kenneth Oppel when *This Dark Endeavor*. That book will probably always be one of my favorites by him, but this book is a really close second. Kenneth Oppel has a way of writing that draws you in and keeps you hooked. I am so glad that I read this book. I could easily see this turned into a movie. I highly recommend this book.

Great story about a boy, a girl, loads of villains, sasquatches, stilt walkers, golden spikes, avalanches, magic, elephants, trains, and even a little romance. Because of the desirous looks of the protagonist and a subtle referral to a corseted lady who takes a gentleman to her room (and who thereby makes our protagonist blush), I would recommend this for mature kids of 12+, maybe even reluctant readers of older ages.

First, I am an Oppel fan and I did enjoy *the Boundless*, but even with its great characters and exciting plot, it just didn't quite measure up to his other works. But will I recommend it? Yes. I love the way Oppel "bends" historical fact -- so you often don't know if you are reading historical fiction or science fiction -- great technique.

Excellent! Ordered this for my 9 year old grandson. He loved it. The book has a lexile reading level of 730L. It's difficult to find books at my grandson's reading level (840L) that are also age appropriate; however, he thought the book was exciting and fun.

I liked this book it was a bit scary and disturbing but it turned out it was a awesome bookP.S. If your above the age 11 your fine (But not below 8.

Well-written, fast-paced tale. Interesting characters and a satisfying conclusion.My nine-year old boy and I read this as our bedtime book and both enjoyed it.

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