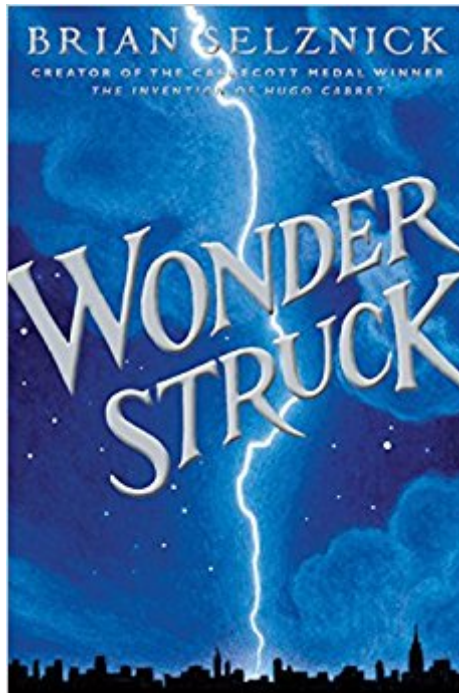


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# Wonderstruck (Schneider Family Book Award - Middle School Winner)



## Synopsis

In this groundbreaking tour de force, Caldecott Medalist and bookmaking pioneer Brian Selznick sails into uncharted territory and takes readers on an awe-inspiring journey. Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing. Set fifty years apart, these two independent stories--Ben's told in words, Rose's in pictures--weave back and forth with mesmerizing symmetry. How they unfold and ultimately intertwine will surprise you, challenge you, and leave you breathless with wonder. Rich, complex, affecting, and beautiful--with over 460 pages of original artwork--Wonderstruck is a stunning achievement from a gifted artist and visionary.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)

Series: Schneider Family Book Award - Middle School Winner

Hardcover: 640 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; 1st edition (September 13, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545027896

ISBN-13: 978-0545027892

Product Dimensions: 2 x 5.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 307 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,416 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Books](#) #32 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs](#) #41 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, September 2011: In a return to the eye-popping style of his Caldecott-award winner, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian Selznick's latest masterpiece, *Wonderstruck*, is a vision of imagination and storytelling. In the first of two alternating stories, Ben is

struck deaf moments after discovering a clue to his father's identity, but undaunted, he follows the clue's trail to the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City. Flash to Rose's story, told simultaneously through pictures, who has also followed the trail of a loved one to the museum--only 50 years before Ben. Selznick's beautifully detailed illustrations draw the reader inside the museum's myriad curiosities and wonders, following Ben and Rose in their search for connection. Ultimately, their lives collide in a surprising and inspired twist that is breathtaking and life-affirming. --Seira Wilson

Awards and Praise for *Wonderstruck*: #1 New York Times Bestseller New York Times Notable Children's Book ALA Notable Children's Book Parents' Choice Gold Winner Publishers Weekly Best Book "Engrossing, intelligent, beautifully engineered and expertly told in word and image." -- The New York Times Book Review "Moving and ingenious . . ." -- The Wall Street Journal "Brian Selznick proves to be that rare creator capable of following one masterpiece--*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*--with another even more brilliantly executed." -- Washington Post "Another entrancing, exquisitely illustrated novel . . . Older kids and adults alike will be mesmerized by the interlocking stories. A verbal and visual marvel." -- Family Circle \* "A gift for the eye, mind, and heart." -- Booklist, starred review \* "Visually stunning, completely compelling." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review \* "Innovative . . . has the makings of a classic." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review \* "A thing of wonder to behold . . . an emotional experience that neither the words nor the illustrations could achieve on their own." -- School Library Journal, starred review

When I contacted my son-in-law to ask if he recalled the title of the book that the boy had taken out of the library several times, we discovered he had it out yet again. I ordered this immediately figuring that any book an 8 year-old boy gets out of the library 4-5 times is one he'd like to own. Well chosen! As a former college instructor in children's literature, I loved this book the first time I saw it, and I can see why my grandson kept being drawn to it. Highly recommend this for helping kids develop both textual and visual literacies. There is a great deal of interaction possible with young people enjoying this book such as making up stories for various pictures, even stories not related to *Wonderstruck* and do a "your turn" type of shared story looking at the marvelously rich black-and-white drawings and building a story together using the images. LOVE, love, love this book! If and when I ever teach children's or adolescent lit again, this one will be included in the

curriculum.Wonderstruck (Schneider Family Book Award - Middle School Winner)

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick is a powerful book on many levels. First, let's talk about the use of images. Selznick tells two stories that merge into one for a climatic ending. One is told through text and the others images. This exciting approach works perfectly with the narrative of the story. Second, let's talk about time periods. The historical nature of the book was fascinating. Often books with dual stories take place in the past and the present. I like the way the book focused on two time periods in the past. It was also interesting that the book wasn't centered on well-known events. Instead the narrative used time periods that reflects the story, the characters, and the topics. Third, let's talk about the themes. From interesting topics such as museums and adventure to serious issues related to deafness and family, the book did an outstanding job delving into these engaging subjects. I'm not much of a crier but I'll admit to lots of tears as the two stories came together! Selznick's awards are already stacked high. This will make his mountain of award-winning works even higher. I can't wait for this next title using this text/image dual story approach. Wow! Can I give this book 6 stars?

Brian Selznick is both a great writer and a highly talented illustrator. You may be more familiar with one of his earlier books, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, which was made into a great movie by Martin Scorsese. *Wonder Struck's* primary market may well be young people, but I happened to buy this for myself--I'm 44--and I enjoyed it tremendously for its brilliant visuals, expert pacing, and inspiring story. It's a gorgeous book, with wonderful black and white illustrations that tell a one part of the story line, plus prose segments that tell a different story line. Eventually, as you would expect, the two story lines merge. It's a great book to read with a child, and talk about what's happening on each illustration page. It unfolds almost cinematically, and there's a fun kind of mystery to it. Although it's a thick volume at over 600 pages, it's a quick read since most of the pages are illustrations. But you'll want to linger on many of those pages.

From the first page, my daughter (8 years old) and I liked this book. She is very critical and wouldn't have committed to such a thick book unless the very first page was AWESOME! -And it was. She is a very independent reader and I already have a mountain of books in line for my next readings, but I took this opportunity to bond with my babe and squeeze in a little fiction already. It will be the first of many memories for us to curl up with a great book and read together now that the trust in my taste of books for her is sowed and reaped. It never failed to entertain us and finally, we stayed up till

11:PM reading for 2 hours straight to finish it because we just couldn't put it down w/out knowing the whole story! This was her first foray in to suspense and it tickled me to watch her nervous excited anticipation. This book is BRILLIANTLY put together and built to grab on to you and NOT let go. I look forward to when we both want to pick it up and read it all over again. Thank you Brian Selznick for helping make this cherished memory and paving the way to even more. I don't know if I could have done it w/out Wonderstruck!

Wonderstruck is a heart-warming story that makes a complex story that becomes clear as day in the end. Like Hugo, the other book Brain Selznick wrote, this one also has picture between each chapter. Unlike Hugo's illustrations showing only images from the chapter Wonderstruck's pictures tell a different story than the one being told by writing. Personally loving Hugo and Wonderstruck I thought this story was enjoyable to read and very immersive. This book from a personal experience made me want to read it again because I now knew what was the meaning behind the illustrations meant. It was not the same not having the surprise but still was enjoyable to read. I would high suggest this book to anyone who likes story like Hugo.

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