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Review of *The Length of a String* by Elissa Brent Weissman

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The Length of a String
Weissman, Elissa Brent
New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018
9780735229471

Imani's always known she was adopted, and as she's grown older, she's found herself increasingly more interested in finding out more information about her birth family. When her great-grandmother dies, Imani finds an old diary, and suddenly, Imani finds herself interested in learning more about her adoptive family. The diary tells the story of Imani's great-grandmother right after she came to America at the start of World War II. As Imani learns more about her great-grandmother's past, she realizes that she might have more in common with her adopted ancestors than she first believed. The book switches seamlessly between two time periods, and the break in the narrative increases the sense of urgency in the novel and makes the reader want to keep flipping pages. Imani is an incredibly likeable protagonist, and many young children will relate with her feelings of being an outsider and her desire to understand her past. The history presented in the book is easily understood, making this book a perfect companion to history lessons about World War II.

Recommended

Erin Kloosterman