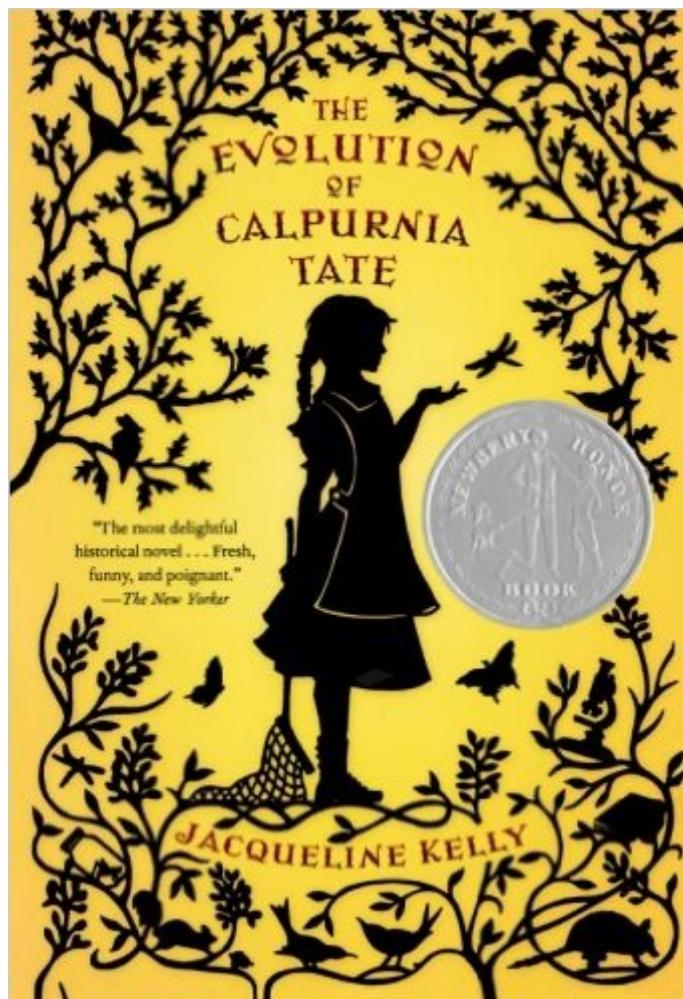


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# The Evolution Of Calpurnia Tate



## **Synopsis**

Calpurnia Virginia Tate is eleven years old in 1899 when she wonders why the yellow grasshoppers in her Texas backyard are so much bigger than the green ones. With a little help from her notoriously cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist, she figures out that the green grasshoppers are easier to see against the yellow grass, so they are eaten before they can get any larger. As Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century. Debut author Jacqueline Kelly deftly brings Callie and her family to life, capturing a year of growing up with unique sensitivity and a wry wit. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* is a 2010 Newbery Honor Book and the winner of the 2010 Bank Street - Josette Frank Award. This title has Common Core connections.

## **Book Information**

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

Series: Calpurnia Tate (Book 1)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (January 4, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031265930X

ISBN-13: 978-0312659301

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 1 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (237 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,798 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #34 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #112 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

The spunky girl heroine. She's an enduring character in our middle grade fiction. From 1928's *The Winged Girl of Knossos* by Erick Berry to *Caddie Woodlawn* and *Roller Skates*, historical fiction and so-called tomboys go together like cereal and milk. It would be tempting then to view *The Evolution*

of Calpurnia Tate as just one more in a long line of spunkified womenfolk. True and not true. Certainly Calpurnia chaffs against the restrictions of her time, but debut novelist Jacqueline Kelly has given us an intriguing, even mesmerizing glimpse into the mind of a girl who has the one thing her era won't allow: ambition. It's 1899 and eleven-year-old Calpurnia Tate is the sole and single girl child in a family full of six brothers. She is generally ignored until one day she asks her grandfather a question: Where did the huge yellow grasshoppers that appeared during the unusually hot summer come from? Grandfather, an imposing figure the children usually avoid, merely says that he's sure she'll figure it out on her own. Only when she does exactly that does he begin to take an interest in her. Before long Calpurnia finds herself a naturalist in the making. Grandfather teaches her about evolution and the natural world, which is wonderful, but it's really not the kind of thing a girl of her age and era would learn.

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