

## *Love, Ruby Lavender*

by Deborah Wiles

### Characters:

Ruby Lavender – age 9; her story  
Miss Eula – Ruby’s grandmother and best friend  
Miss Mattie – Ruby’s great-aunt  
Melba Jane – Ruby’s arch-enemy  
Leila Latham – Melba’s mother  
Evelyn Lavender – Ruby’s mother  
Mr. Ishee/Uncle Tater – the new 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in town  
Aunt Tot – Mr. Ishee’s wife  
Dove – the Ishees’ niece

What is the color of Ruby’s hair? – red

What is the name of Ruby’s town? – Halleluia

Where is Ruby and Miss Eula’s secret mailbox?      in the knothole of a silver maple tree

What is Miss Mattie’s business? – she owns the general store

In the beginning of the story, Ruby and Miss Eula rescued: 3 chickens from the egg ranch

What was Ruby’s grandfather’s name? – Garnet

What is Ruby’s favorite expression? – Good garden of peas!

What is the name of Miss Eula’s house? – the Pink Palace

Where does Miss Eula travel in the book? – Hawaii

Who is Miss Eula visiting in Hawaii? – her son Johnson, wife Annette and their new baby

How do Ruby and Miss Eula communicate while Eula is in Hawaii? – they write LOTS of letters

Who works as the County Extension Agent for Home and Garden Affairs? – Ruby’s mother

What vegetable does Ruby's mother create recipes for? – zucchini

What are the names of Ruby's three hens? – Ivy, Bemmie and Bess

Which hen laid three eggs? – Ivy

What item of clothing does Johnson send to Miss Eula? – muumuus

Who else died in the car accident that killed Grandpa Garnet? – Melba's father

What was the probable cause of the accident? – Garnet fell asleep while driving

Where did the accident occur? – the car went off the Lake Jasper bridge into the water

Why does Melba hate Ruby? – she thinks Ruby is responsible for talking Grandpa Garnet into coming home late at night, to take Ruby fishing first thing the next morning. Melba and Ruby both think that this is why Garnet fell asleep at the wheel (therefore resulting in Melba's father's death)

Who bought Peterson's Egg Ranch? – the Ishees

Who is expecting a baby soon? – Aunt Tot

Where does Dove come from? – Memphis

What is Dove's nickname for Ruby? – Peas

Who is both a bad cook and a bad artist (painter)? – Aunt Tot

Who auditions for the leading child role in the operetta every year? – Melba Jane

What happened to Melba at the audition? – she was chased by Bemmie the hen, and got covered with blue paint when she knocked over a ladder

What did her mother do to Melba's blue hair? – cut it all off

Who slept with the chickens one night? – Ruby and Dove

Why did they sleep with the chickens? – they wanted to see Ivy's eggs hatch

What did Melba do that night? – threw rocks at the chicken house, causing the upset of Ivy's nest, which resulted in two broken eggs

What did Ruby do as a remembrance for Grandpa Garnet? – threw black-eyed Susans from the bridge into Lake Jasper

What did Dove tell Ruby at the bridge? - that Miss Mattie thought Garnet would have driven home the night of the accident, even if Ruby had not begged him to

Who did Ruby meet on the bridge that day? – Melba

What did Melba say to Ruby on the bridge? – she tried to apologize for throwing rocks

What happened to Melba Jane onstage during the operetta? her wig got caught in the scenery and came off her head

What did Ruby do when Melba lost her wig? – she joined Melba on stage, and recited the firefly poem, then gave Melba her hat

What did the audience do? – joined Ruby and Melba Jane in catching imaginary fireflies

Who hid in the shadows to watch the operetta in secret? – Miss Eula

Where does Ruby go after leaving the operetta? – to the Pink Palace, to see Miss Eula



Ruby's usual outfit is:

- A) **overalls**
- B) sundress
- C) shorts and t-shirt
- D) Hawaiian shirt and sandals

Johnson and Annette name their baby:

- A) Hortense
- B) Pearl
- C) **Leilani**
- D) Lorelei

Melba Jane's mother, Leila, runs a:

- A) restaurant
- B) shoe store
- C) garden shop
- D) **beauty shop**

Who arrived at the Ishees' house for root beer floats without an invitation?

- A) **Melba Jane**
- B) Dove
- C) Miss Mattie
- D) Ruby

What does Ruby do to put the hens to sleep?

- A) sing lullabies
- B) recite poetry
- C) **read the dictionary to them**
- D) do math problems out loud

What does Dove want to become someday?

- A) a detective
- B) **an anthropologist**
- C) a famous painter
- D) an actress

In Halleluia, the big summer activity is the:

- A) county fair
- B) garden show
- C) Fourth of July celebration
- D) **town operetta**

What was the name of Ivy's surviving chick?

- A) **Rosebud**
- B) Dewdrop
- C) Daisy
- D) Firefly

While in Hawaii, Miss Eula did all of the following except:

- A) walk across a volcano
- B) **go surfboarding**
- C) make grass skirts
- D) dance the hula
- E) go to a luau