

Memory Boy
By Will Weaver

Characters:

Miles Arthur Newell - Main character, almost 16. He was 5'6", 136 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, blue eyes and buzzed hair.

Sarah Newell - Miles' sister, age 12 going on 13.

Natalie Newell - Miles' mom. AKA "Nat." Small and intense.

Arthur Newell - Miles' dad, a jazz drummer.

Mr. Worthing - Math teacher.

Nathan Dale Schmidt - Kid from school

Mr. Litzke - Social studies teacher.

Audrey Guilfoile - Science teacher.

Montroy Jones - School counselor. Huge black guy. Spent time in prison, but then born again. Lots of bad tattoos.

Dara Jamison - Girl from science class. Very weird, always dressed in black and purple.

Hans Kurz - Miles' oral history "buddy" from the convalescent home, age 90. Had eyebrows as thick as squirrel tails.

The Hofmeyers - The nearest neighbors to the Newells.

Chris Long - Boy who hit Miles in the head with a baseball bat after striking out.

Sherri - Cashier at McDonald's.

Dave - Assistant Manager at McDonald's.

Ethan Farrell - One of Miles' friends.

Dante Billings - One of Miles' friends.

Rick and Ruth Kleinke - Squatters who had been at the Newell's cabin for about a year. Had 3 kids. From Chicago.

Danny and Sheila Tolber - Squatters at the Newell's cabin.

Setting - July 3, 2008. West suburban Minneapolis. And various places about 200 miles north of Minneapolis.

Questions:

- What fell from the sky for over 2 years? (Volcanic ash)
- What was Miles' supreme invention? ("Ali Princess")
- What was the name of Mr. Newell's old boat? ("Tonka Miss")
- What was the name of Mr. Newell's jazz band? (Shawnee Kingston Jazz Band)
- When did Mt. Rainier explode? (February 10, 2006)
- Who were some of the news anchors covering the explosion? (Peter Jennings, Joie Chen, Wolf Blitzer, Nancy Rodriguez and Dan Rather)
- How big was Mt. Rainier? (2.65 miles high and a base radius of 6 miles)
- How did Miles get the name "Memory Boy?" (As a child he was very good at a matching card game called Memory)

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- Where did Mr. Litzke's social studies class start their oral history projects? (Buena Vista Convalescent Home)
- What was Mr. Newell's job before the ash? (High school music teacher)
- What was Mrs. Newell's "vest?" (Backpack sewn under a smock that contained their money, papers. It made Mrs. Newell look pregnant.)
- How much did the Newells' breakfast cost at McDonald's? (\$92.50)
- Where was the log cabin? (Birch Bay on Gull Lake, about 140 miles north of Minneapolis. Had belonged to Miles' grandparents)
- How did Mr. Kurz almost die when he was younger? (Fell through ice while trapping beaver) What was the temperature that day? (30 degrees below zero)
- Why did they make ice picks ("Stabbers") from wood? (If you dropped them in the water, they would float)
- What did Miles dream of getting for graduation? (220-amp Sears welder with hood)
- What was Sarah's favorite stuffed animal? (White rabbit named Knuckles)
- What was the name of the National Guard camp they passed on their way north? (Camp Ripley)
- What was the water tower in the town of Rock Lake painted like? (A fishing bobber)
- How much did 4 sundaes at Dairy Queen cost? (\$32)
- What bad thing happened to the Newell family after they visited Dairy Queen? (They got hijacked by 6 thugs. But a sheriff in a green humvee scared them away)
- What did Mr. Kurz help Miles repair? (Skateboards)
- Where did Mr. Kurz fight in WWII? (Italy, France and Germany)
- Where did Mr. Kurz live for over 50 years? (By himself in a cabin on the Mississippi near Itasca Park) Why did he leave his cabin? (For his sister's funeral)
- What was the last thing Miles got from Mr. Kurz? (His ashes)
- What did Danny give to Miles? (Four ten shotgun)
- What did Sheila give to Sarah? (A goat named Emily)
- How much did it cost to stay at the Norway Beach Campground for one night? (\$100)
- What did Miles name the raft he made? (*Princess River Queen*)
- What was the sign that told Miles to go ashore and look for Mr. Kurz's cabin? (High bush cranberries)

- How did they get to Mr. Kurz's cabin? (Cable car suspended in air)
- What did Miles do with Mr. Kurz's ashes? (Spread them in the Mississippi)
- What were the shingles of Mr. Kurz's cabin made from? (White cedar)
- What was the last animal that Miles had to chase out of Mr. Kurz's place? (A porcupine)

In What Book...

Did someone say "Poke a stick up my nose, where it stops, nobody knows."

