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Where does far from the tree take place

"Starred Review. Writing in a shifting third-person narrative that is both nonjudgmental and deeply empathetic, Benway (Emmy & Oliver) delves into the souls of these characters as they wrestle to overcome feelings of inadequacy, abandonment, and betrayal, gradually coming to understand themselves and each other." - Publishers Weekly "Starred Review. From the first page to the last, this compassionate, funny, moving, compulsively readable novel about what makes a family gets it right." - Kirkus "Benway fearlessly examines the effects of loss and return from every perspective... Hope, confusion, frustration, and love coexist without shame as teens and parents come to grips with the realization that nothing stays the same no matter how desperately we want it to." - Booklist "With a well-imagined cast of secondary characters who add angst, humor, and depth, Benway adeptly leads readers through a tale of love, loss, and self-discovery. Expect to cry real tears at this one. Grades 8 and up." - School Library Journal "Emmy's narration is smart and sassy, and the romance plot is satisfying... An unusual blend of a soulmate story, a melodramatic plot, and a realistic book about adjustment, growth, and change, this will please romance fans as well as pragmatic souls with a sentimental streak." - Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "Far from the Tree is the kind of book that strikes close to a reader's heart. I had to know what happened to Grace, Maya, and Joaquin, and I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. Beautiful." - Ally Condie, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author of The Matched Trilogy "Far From the Tree is a touching story about the strength and love of unconventional families, and the unbreakable bond of siblings near and far. Robin Benway's characters are authentically crafted, full of heart, hurt, and hope." - Brandy Colbert, author of Pointe and Little & Lion This information about Far from the Tree shown above was first featured in "The BookBrowse Review" - BookBrowse's membership magazine, and in our weekly "Publishing This Week" newsletter. In most cases, the reviews are necessarily limited to those that were available to us ahead of publication. If you are the publisher or author and feel that the reviews shown do not properly reflect the range of media opinion now available, please send us a message with the mainstream media reviews that you would like to see added. Any "Author Information" displayed below reflects the author's biography at the time this particular book was published. Write your own review Meruim Nice Eh, pretty good. The plot and character structure and development are nice. The resolution is pretty good. The book didn't leave me sobbing like an uncontrollable infant who doesn't know that people need their sleep, which is what I want to get out of in a bittersweet book that I decide to read. Overall, nice. Robin Benway This Study Guide consists of approximately 61 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of Far From the Tree. This section contains 1,079 words (approx. 3 pages at 400 words per page) Maya lives in a modest mansion that Grace's parents remark looks like a mausoleum inside. Along her staircase are displayed family pictures of Maya and her sister Lauren. The pictures by the staircase are a center of anxiety for Maya and Joaquin. Maya thinks that her dark hair makes her look like she does not fit in to her family of redheads. The pictures serve as a reminder that she does not belong. The pictures make Joaquin consider that no one ever took or kept baby pictures of him; he thinks no one care enough to want to keep his memories safe. Grace and Maya first meet during a dinner party in her house. Grace's dad thinks that he is not dressed formally enough for the occasion and Maya's father is wearing a suit. Grace's dad thinks that it looks like a place out of Architectural Digest... (read more) This section contains 1,079 words (approx. 3 pages at 400 words per page) Copyrights Far From the Tree from BookRags. (c)2022 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved. Photo Courtesy: Dan Kilwood/Getty Images A Christmas tree adorned with twinkling lights and ornaments is an essential holiday decoration. It uplifts the spirits of people during the winter and carries the refreshing scents of pine cones and spruce. However, where did this tradition of bringing giant trees into our homes and decorating them come from? Long before Christmas trees became an American custom, ancient societies worldwide brought evergreens into their homes because of their beliefs about harsh winters. Over time, these practices transformed into the extravagant tradition that we know today — but it wasn't well-received by everyone. So, how did Christmas trees become a vital part of celebrating one of winter's biggest holidays? From evergreen boughs to huge annual ceremonies, this is how the tradition of Christmas trees started. What Is the Meaning Behind Evergreen Trees and Plants? Ancient cultures believed that the sun was a god who became sick every winter. Using evergreen boughs, these early societies decorated their homes to mark the start of the sun's recovery and winter's decline during the solstice. Plants and trees that remained green were reminders of the sun's power to create warm weather and healthy life. Egyptian Sun God Ra, Photo Courtesy: DEA/G. DAGLI ORTI/Contributor/Getty Images The early Egyptians had similar views regarding their sun god, Ra, who weakened as the temperatures dropped. During the solstice, the Egyptians placed green palm rushes in their homes to symbolize Ra's triumph over death. Another civilization with the same belief, the ancient Romans, celebrated the solstice with greenery and a feast called Saturnalia, which honored Saturn — the god of agriculture. The solstice marked the return of bountiful fruits and vegetables, and the evergreen boughs the Romans displayed represented healthy crops that would soon start growing. Even the Vikings thought evergreen boughs were meaningful to their sun god, Balder, and, the Celts believed evergreens signified everlasting life. Placing greenery in homes and at celebrations continued in this way for centuries until the Christmas custom as we know it began taking shape in Germany. How Did Germany Shape the Tradition of Christmas Trees? Germany is often credited with starting the custom of decorating Christmas trees. In the 16th century, devout Christians adorned trees with apples and nuts in their homes to represent the story of Adam and Eve. Some built Christmas pyramids made of wood, adding evergreens instead of fruits and nuts when times were tough. As Christianity expanded across Europe, Christmas trees became a common feature in households. Photo Courtesy: Archive Photos/Stringer/Getty Images The practice of adding lights to trees is commonly attributed to protestant reformer Martin Luther. As he walked home one winter night, Luther was amazed by the stars twinkling amidst the evergreens. When he got home, he recreated the scene with a tree and candles for his family. Despite the tradition's widespread presence, many people didn't welcome the idea of Christmas trees. When Did Christmas Trees Become Popular Among Americans? In the 1840s, many Americans saw the European practice of decorating trees as a threat to the sanctity of Christmas when Germans immigrated to the U.S. As a result, New England Puritans banned the hanging of decorations, calling them unacceptable pagan symbols. People who decorated in any way were punished. Photo Courtesy: Hulton Archive/Stringer/Hulton Royals Collection/Getty Images However, the Puritan view of holiday decorations slowly changed as many German immigrants moved to the U.S. and spread the tradition of Christmas trees. More Americans embraced the custom after England's Queen Victoria and her family put up a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. The event was depicted in a popular publication, The Illustrated London News, in 1848, compelling Americans to believe that Christmas trees were holiday essentials. In the 1890s, Christmas decorating in the U.S. exploded. Initially, Germany shipped ornaments to the U.S., but by the 20th century, Americans had begun decorating trees with homemade ornaments, such as popcorn and cookies. Trees made of synthetic materials also became popular. When electricity gave rise to Christmas lights, lit trees were soon erected in public spaces across the country. The custom made its way into the White House in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The celebratory ritual is now held every year on the north lawn of the White House. Aside from the White House Christmas custom, another notable ceremony is the Rockefeller Center tree lighting in New York City, which started with a simple tree in 1931. Two years later, the city added lights to the tree. Today, more than 25,000 Christmas lights adorn the Norway spruce every year. Putting up Christmas trees at home and in public areas ultimately became an invaluable American tradition for those who celebrate the holiday. 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