

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT SAVVY...

Notes from the 2009 John Newbery Award Committee on what makes *Savvy* a special and ideal classroom read

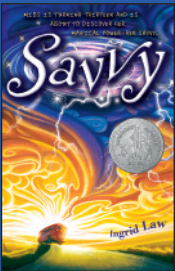
“*Savvy* takes readers on an unexpected ride filled with adventure, a cast of memorable characters, and is just plain fun. This is not your usual tall tale as there are literally and figuratively many twists and turns throughout the book. It stands in a class of its own, and kids of all ages will begin searching for their own savvy.”
—Rose Treviño, chair

“*Savvy* is a fine example of what literature for children can and should be—this delightfully written story offers multiple plot twists and characters that mesmerize. The greatest strength of *Savvy* is Law’s ability to create characters that appear larger than life, yet are quite believable and even delightful. This rollicking tale is rich and satisfying in so many ways—internal and external conflicts are perfectly balanced, and while the story is hopeful, it never feels contrived. Law’s pacing is pitched perfect, so good that readers will likely not want the journey to end.”
—Rose Brock

“I loved *Savvy*. It is a story that made me laugh out loud, cry a bit and think for a long time after reading. Ingrid Law’s telling of the story seems effortless, but with each word so carefully chosen, it brings to life the most unlikely characters, even the pink bus. *Savvy* gives readers not only the gift of understanding uniqueness in people, but also freedom of imagination, wonderment, joy and love.”
—Julie Tomlianovich

“*Savvy* provides important themes for all readers. One is the idea that everyone has a special talent or ability. Another is the message that everyone deserves to be loved. The style of *Savvy* is delightful. Ingrid Law combines words in a way that makes the text bounce along, reflecting the trip of the bus carrying most of the main characters along the highway. Rhythm, rhyme, repetition and onomatopoeia give the text a poetic feel. The words and concepts that Law coins for this story also add to its appeal. In addition, Law uses vivid analogies to make the setting, the characters, and the plot come alive.”
—Betsy Miguez

Mibs is turning thirteen and is about to discover her magical power—her savvy.



Savvy

by Ingrid Law

978-0-8037-3306-0 (HC) • \$16.99

978-14-241433-0 (PB) • \$7.99

Ages 8-12 • Grades 3-7

★ “Wholly engaging and lots of fun”

—Booklist, starred review

★ “A vibrant and cinematic novel”

—Publishers Weekly, starred review

★ “A marvel-laden debut”

—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

• A Newbery Honor Book

• An ALA Notable Children’s Book

• A Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book

• An Oprah’s Book Club Kids Reading List Pick

• An Al Roker’s Book Club Selection

• A New York Times Bestseller

• A San Francisco Chronicle Best Fiction Book for Young Readers

• A Kansas City Star Noteworthy Children’s Book

• A Booklist Top Ten First Novel for Youth

• A Book Links “Lasting Connection”

• A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year

• A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year

• Selected for 13 state award master lists and counting!

Mibs can’t wait to turn thirteen, the age when all Beaumonts discover their supernatural power—their savvy. But when Poppa is hurt in a terrible accident just before her birthday, Mibs needs more than fantastic magic: it will take new friends, strong family, and an extraordinary adventure to set things right again.



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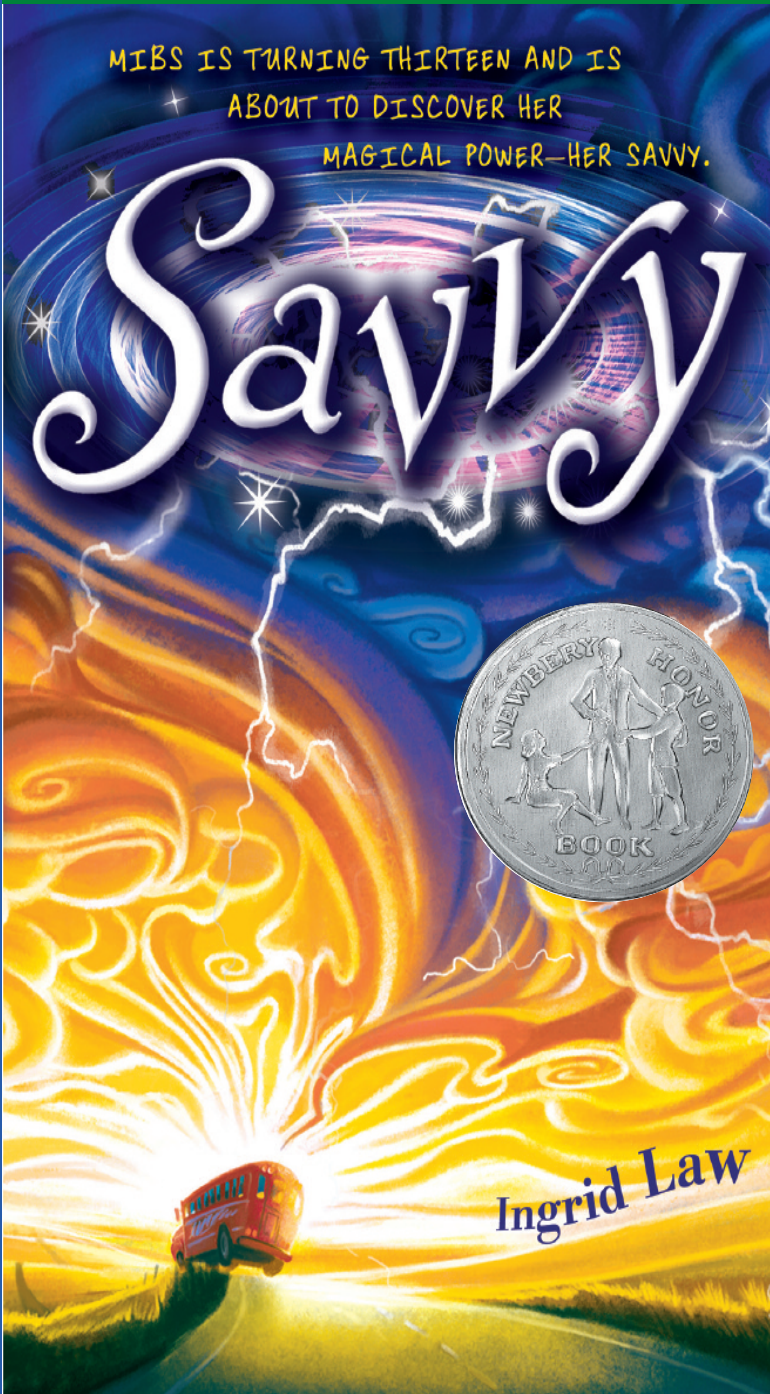
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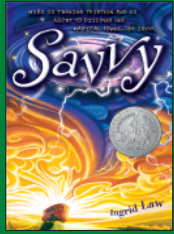
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DISCUSSION GUIDE



ABOUT THE BOOK



For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a secret. They each possess a “savvy”—a special power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, Mibs’s older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity. As if waiting for her savvy to show up wasn’t hard enough, Mibs’s family gets scary news two days before her birthday: Poppa has been in a terrible accident. With the hope that her new power will save Poppa, Mibs sneaks onto a salesman’s bus bound for the hospital...only to find the bus heading in the opposite direction. Suddenly, Mibs finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make sense of growing up—and of other people, who might also have a few secrets hidden just beneath the skin.

COMING SOON!



In Fall 2010, look for *Scumble*, the highly anticipated companion to *Savvy*.

Nine Years after Mibs’s Savvy journey, her cousin Ledge has just turned thirteen . . .

Ledge Kale’s savvy is a total dud—all he does is make little things fall apart. So his parents decide it’s safe to head to Wyoming for a family wedding, where it’s soon revealed that Ledge’s savvy is much more powerful than anyone thought. Worse, his savvy disaster has an out-side witness: Sarah Jane Cabot, reporter wannabe and daughter of the local banker. Just like that, Ledge’s beloved normal life is over. Now, he has to keep Sarah from turning family secrets into headlines, stop her father from foreclosing on Uncle Autry’s ranch, and scumble his savvy into control so that, someday, he can go home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



INGRID LAW is a huge fan of words and stories, of small towns and big ideas. Born in New York, Ingrid moved with her family to Colorado when she was six years old. Now the mother of a teenage daughter, Ingrid still lives in Colorado, where she writes full time. Visit Ingrid at www.ingridlaw.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe Mibs and her unique family. Would you want to be part of the Beaumont clan? Why or why not?
- Describe Mibs’s relationship with her parents and siblings. How is it complicated by their savvies? Do you think the inheritance of a savvy is a curse or a blessing? Why? What have you inherited from your family?
- *Savvy* is told in the first person. How would the story be different if someone besides Mibs were telling it? Do you think changing the point of view would make the story better or worse? Why?
- Why is Lill Kiteley’s arrival such an important one for Lester? In what ways is she able to help him change and grow as a person? Predict what the future will be like for the couple.
- How does Mibs’s relationship with Will and Bobbi change over the course of the adventure? Who do you think changes the most in the story? Why?
- Momma warned Mibs that “you can’t get rid of part of what makes you you and be happy.” What can we infer from Momma’s statement? Do you agree with her? Provide some examples from the story to validate her point.
- Using the phrase, “This is a story about . . .” supply five words to describe Savvy. Explain your choices.
- When Bobbi talks to Mibs about Will’s obvious feelings for her, Mibs realizes that it “made me feel too young and too old at the same time.” Why does she feel this way? Have you ever felt this way? How does Mibs deal with these feelings? How do you?
- Mibs considers, “Maybe it’s like that for everyone. . . . Maybe we all have other people’s voices running higgledy-piggledy through our heads all the time. . . . I began to realize how hard it was to separate out all the voices to hear the single, strong one that came just from me.” What can readers infer about her statement?
- Mibs thinks, “Then I remembered what Lill had said just before falling asleep in the motel the night before. You never can tell when a bad thing might make a good thing happen. I realized that good and bad were always there and always mixed up in a tangle.” In what ways is this statement an indicator of Mibs’s growth

WRITING PROMPTS FOR JOURNALS OR CREATIVE PROJECTS

- The Beaumonts have to keep a pretty big secret about their lives. How difficult would that be for you? Do you think everyone has a secret? Who would you trust with yours?
- Mibs wishes, at least temporarily, that her savvy could “give me the muscle to turn nasty girls into slimy green frogs or to glue their mouths shut tight with a nod of my head.” Have you ever felt this way? Do you think bullying is an experience most kids face at some time or another? What advice would you give Mibs about dealing with Ashley and Emma or other bullies?
- Rosemary Meeks arrives to set the Beaumont house in order. Why? Who would arrive to take care of your family in an emergency? Would you want Rosemary and her kids to land in your space or not?
- Fish and Rocket have a terrible time “scumbling” their savvies. How does this raise a ruckus for the Beaumont clan and others who know them? Have you ever needed to tone down part of yourself to better handle a situation? How important is it to always be yourself completely?
- Of all the savvies described in the novel, which would you choose for yourself if you could? Why? Do you think Momma Beaumont would think you were in possession of an unrecognized savvy or not? Do you think everyone has a special talent? Are people born with talent, or do they create it?
- Many of the characters in *Savvy* take steps toward independence. They slowly learn to trust themselves and their decisions. While each of them has to do things that they find frightening, these actions ultimately lead them to greater independence. Have students answer the following writing prompt:
 - Think of a time in your life when you’ve had to do something new. Maybe the experience was a little frightening or maybe you had to try something on your own for the first time. Create a flip book with a panel for each of the characters and one for yourself. Write the character’s name on the front of each flap and one for yourself. On the underside of each panel, write one full paragraph detailing what that character did in the book to gain independence and have more self-confidence. Go back to the novel and find a quote that supports your statements about each character. Document your quote. On the panel with your name, write in one full paragraph about your experience. Include a quote from you or someone you know about your experience.