

Reader Information Guide

Clara Thorn, the witch that was found

Approximate Reading Grade Level

- **Grade Level: 5th – 8th Grade**
- **Rationale:** The prose is accessible, featuring a relatable thirteen-year-old protagonist and a narrative style common in "magic school" middle-grade and young adult (YA) fiction²²². The vocabulary includes some specialized terms related to magic and math (e.g., *synesthesia, equations, mesa*), but the story's emotional core and mystery are straightforward

Recommended Grade Level for Readers

- **Recommendation: Middle Grade to Young Adult (Ages 10–15)**
- **Themes and Content:** The book is highly suitable for middle-schoolers. While it deals with bullying and some peril, it maintains a "flashlight under the blankets" quality—engrossing and adventurous without being overly dark or graphic

Trigger Warnings & Sensitive Content

- **Bullying and Physical Altercations:** The protagonist, Clara, is frequently targeted by bullies at her school. One specific bully, Daria, has physically harmed her in the past, resulting in black eyes and a split lip
- **Adoption and Identity Issues:** Clara discovers she is adopted and that her biological parents had to "leave her" for her safety⁸⁸⁸⁸. This involves themes of feeling "Lost" or like she doesn't belong
- **Peril and Pursuers:** The story involves "paladins" and an "Adversary" who hunt magical beings, which may cause anxiety for sensitive readers
- **Threat of Violence:** In one scene, older students are restrained and threatened with silencing spells or more "offensive" magic during a confrontation

Racy, Adult, or Spicy Content

- **Synopsis:** The novel contains **no racy or adult "spicy" content.**
- **Romance:** The protagonist is thirteen and explicitly states that "thirteen-year-old boys are gross" and "not done yet"¹³. The social interactions are focused on friendship, "found family," and navigating school dynamics rather than romantic or sexual relationships

Themes for Parents of Under-18 Readers

- **Found Family and Sacrifice:** A major theme is the deep love and sacrifice of Clara's adoptive parents, who moved frequently and gave up high-paying careers to keep her safe
- **Feeling Like an Outcast:** Clara struggles with a "weirdo vibe" and the sense that she doesn't fit in with "Ordinary" people, a common experience for adolescents
- **STEM Integration:** The novel uniquely links mathematics with magic (Mathemagic), presenting academic subjects as powerful and "cool"
- **Responsibility and Destiny:** As Clara discovers her heritage, she must accept the responsibility of her powers and the fact that she may be "supposed to fix" things that are wrong in the magical world