



**Title:** This Would Make a Good Story Someday  
**Author:** Dana Alison Levy  
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**Age Range\*:** 9-12 years  
**Grade Range:** Gr 5-8

## BOOK RESUME: THIS WOULD MAKE A GOOD STORY SOMEDAY

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

In this journal-structured narrative, twelve-year old Sara Johnston-Fischer chronicles her cross-country train trip with her two mothers, high-energy six-year old sister who carries around a Spartan gladiator figure as her stuffed animal, her rally-obsessed twenty-year old sister, Laurel, and Laurel's environmentally friendly boyfriend, Root. On the way they encounter a new family of friends and hilarity, embarrassments, laughs and heartache. Bringing home the term: family is where the heart is.

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Sara has a truly unique tween voice, with her concerns about big-picture issues never diminishing the importance of her need for a new hair look or a burgeoning friendship with a fellow traveler...its engaging main character makes it a truly memorable read." —*Booklist*, starred review

"This story is never preachy; it ranges from laugh-out-loud funny to incredibly moving, and the voices are true. Ignore the title: this is a good story already." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Twelve-year-old aspiring writer Sara is less than thrilled when Mimi, one of her two mothers, wins a writing fellowship that comes with a cross-country train trip for the family. Sara would much rather spend the summer with her friends at home instead of serving as fodder for Mimi's writing and enduring forced togetherness with their New Train Friends (or NTFs), the family of the other fellowship winner. She rebels in true precocious-kid fashion, by writing in her journal for much of the trip rather than being sociable, and the novel is presented in the form of her diary entries plus notes from other characters. Levy (*The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher*, rev. 9/14, and sequel) once again tells a mostly light middle-grade story about a diverse family, and though the text can get a little preachy as Sara (spoiler alert) comes to appreciate the trip, the occasional discussion of what life is like in a two-mom family feels natural. A loss among the NTFs adds emotional depth, as does a conflict between the moms and Sara's earnest, sometimes over-the-top activist sister and her boyfriend, both of whom are traveling with the family. Overall, though, this is an amusing romp across the country, full of commonly relatable family quirks: stubbornness, in particular, plays a believable starring role." —*Horn Book Magazine*

"During the summer before seventh grade, Sara's writer mom wins a monthlong cross-country train trip for the family, the purpose of which is to take notes for a new book. Sara, who had planned to spend her summer break with her friends, is

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furious. But she has no choice. Sara, older sister Laurel, 20; Laurel's boyfriend Root; younger sister Li, six; and both of Sara's mothers are off to see America. In retaliation, the tween decides not to share her thoughts about the places they visit (she doesn't want to be in the book; her mom's parenting blog is embarrassing enough) or be nice to anyone. The family members are soon joined by the other winner of the trip, an author from Texas; his son, Travis, who is the same age as Sara; and Travis's great-aunt and her friend. Sara escapes by writing in her journal. The story is by turns funny and sad, with a lot of life lessons. The plot drags in the middle as Sara's sulking quickly gets old. Also included are notes and postcards from various characters. Some of the ephemera are confusing; it's not always clear which character is the author of which notes. VERDICT Moody tweens will identify with prickly Sara. Purchase where the author's previous books are popular and for middle school collections in need of fiction featuring realistic family drama." —*School Library Journal*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- Junior Library Guild Selections

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [Mr. Schu Reads Blog](#)

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