**Book Talk**  
*As Simple As it Seems* by Sarah Weeks

My Grandpa Colty died the same day I was born. Some people believe that when you die, your soul rises out of your body like a mist and goes looking for a new person to live in. If that’s true, I like to think that when Grandpa Colty died, he told his soul to come looking for me.

Sarah Weeks has written several novels about characters struggling to accept themselves for who they are. You may have read *So B. It*, and followed Heidi’s journey as she set out to find the truth about her past. This book, *As Simple As It Seems*, is about a 12-year-old girl named Verbina Colter who struggles to accept the circumstances of her complicated life.

From as far back as she can remember Verbina has felt like trouble. Her mother practically pickled her before she was born, and her father was just plain mean. She wishes she could be somebody other than who she is. When Pooch, a boy visiting for the summer, and his mom rent the “haunted house” next door, Verbina, nicknamed Verbie, takes the opportunity to pretend to be someone else. What starts out as a game leads Verbie into a surprising and heartwarming journey of self-acceptance.

The story deals with a sensitive subject in a touching yet sometimes-humorous way. So if you like books about kids who deal with their own struggles as they try to figure out who they are, you’ll enjoy reading *As Simple As It Seems*, by Sarah Weeks.