

*Ruby in the Sky* by Jeanne Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo

Review by A. Iyappan

Summary: In the exposition, Ruby just wants to make life the way it was before her dad died. Ruby and her mom move from home to home hoping they will find a “forever home” After moving to Fortin, Vermont, Mr. Chatty claims that Ruby’s mom started a fight with him which means she might get arrested. This was hard to take for Ruby, who is very shy. Furthermore, Ruby’s school has a Wax Museum coming up which involves speaking in front of a large audience while acting as a famous person, which Ruby doesn’t want to attend. But, when Ruby meets Abigail Jacobs, an old lady with a past she is not ready to share and Ahmad, Ruby’s friend from school, Ruby learns what it means to be brave. With help from Abigail and Ahmad, Ruby draws up the courage to do the Wax Museum. On the night of the Wax Museum, Ruby acts as Abigail Jacobs even though she is supposed to be Michel Collins and explains to the whole town what Abigail did to help the astronauts.

Personal Response: I would recommend Ruby in the Sky because it conveys an important lesson, that you can find the courage to do anything, and uses good author’s craft. For example, in the beginning of the text Ruby is portrayed as a shy girl. But, at the end of the story, Ruby finds the courage to reveal Abigail’s story when no one else could. As readers, we are put through a journey of Ruby’s hardships and struggles that eventually lead to her learning the importance of bravery. In addition, the author properly uses first-person perspective to convey Ruby’s feelings throughout the story.