

Solstice

Jan Adkins

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The story *Solstice*, by Jan Adkins, is a holiday tale about a boy and his father who, accidentally, meets a family who helps them become closer. The boy, Charlie, and his father, Al, go on a boat trip five days before Christmas. Charlie's mother was still in their home of Boston, but Al left because of misunderstandings. While on the boat, their motor died, and they were forced to go against the tides and pull themselves to land, on an isolated island in Maine. Luckily, they met an old man who welcomed them into his home. 'He was a small man attached to a huge pair of hands, tan and yellow with groves of white hair on the backs up to their knuckles'.

The old man, Vern, taught Charlie how to make a bootjack and told him about the winter solstice. Time flew and Al and Charlie ended up staying for Christmas dinner. And with Christmas dinner came Vern's family. With all the laughter and good feelings within Vern's family, Al came to remember what love he had for Charlie's mother. *Solstice* shows that even when things feel like they are ruined and will never change, in time something or *someone* will show that love is forever. However, once Al and Charlie leave, they soon come to see they can never go back.

I liked *Solstice* because the delightful characters brought to life the morals of the story. Initially, the story appears to appeal a younger age group, but with the high vocabulary and intricate dialogue this story should be targeted toward the pre-teen age group. This story would be a great holiday gift because it is about Christmas and bringing together the family, no matter how small, at the holiday time of year. Nevertheless, this story is an easy read for one who desires a classic tale of friendship and tranquility. Overall, I thought this was a new, fresh, and enjoyable story.