



## **Book Review**

*By Cathy Burks*

### **Run, Jeremiah, Run! by Mable Elizabeth Singletary**

This is a book filled with the faith, determination, and dreams of Jeremiah Jones. Jeremiah loves to run and is an exceptionally talented artist! Just as the birds are made to fly, Jeremiah knows that he was made to run. After the death of his grandmother, Jeremiah finds himself bouncing from one foster home to another. His love for running is the only thing that he takes from place to place, as he has grown accustomed to taking off in stride when difficult situations arise. He knows that he bears the label “different” because he is a foster child. His fear is confirmed when the adults who are fed up with his behavior talk about him as if he is not in the room, even though he is. Jeremiah has become so accustomed to rejection that he can recognize the “look” on his foster parents’ faces when they have given up on him and are about to return him to Children’s Services.

Jeremiah’s uncontrollable urge to run away when times get tough finally lands him back at Children’s Services where he is taken home for the weekend (until placement can be found) by his social worker, Mrs. Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy, her husband, and her son P.J. are all familiar with Jeremiah and they have enjoyed his company in their home on previous occasions. Armed with a piece of paper containing some mustard seeds given to him by his grandmother, Jeremiah is certain that planting them in the Kennedy’s back yard will yield favorable results for him. He is not sure what will happen, but he knows that it has to be something good!

As the weekend progresses, Jeremiah finds himself trying to be as perfectly behaved as possible so that he can retain the affection of the Kennedy’s. He knows in his heart that this is the family that he desires to belong to. The Kennedy’s warmly welcome Jeremiah into their home and he joins them in their family activities of the weekend, to include P.J.’s track meet and church. Jeremiah holds fast to the words of encouragement that his grandmother used to comfort him with and he prays that God will allow him to remain with the Kennedy family.

Will Jeremiah’s prayer be answered? Will the mustard seeds planted in the Kennedy’s back yard produce the results he seeks? Will Jeremiah ever be able to turn his motivations for running into something that he can do with positive purpose? Most importantly, will Jeremiah ever find the family that his heart desires? To find out this and more, you will have to read the book! This light-hearted and inspirational story is an enjoyable read for youth ages 8 to 12. A child that has been in the foster care system will be able to identify with Jeremiah and may feel as though they are looking into a mirror. The greatest benefit any foster or adopted child can gain from this book is the hope that one day they too will find a family who loves, accepts, nurtures, and encourages them to succeed in life. It is also a great reminder for those children who have found their permanent homes to be thankful for their families.