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The story begins on an ordinary morning as Joe, accompanied by his friends Carlos and Emmalein, stumbles upon a mysterious, sparkling object buried near the railroad track on their way to the first day of middle school. The object—a unique timepiece—immediately raises questions: Why was it buried? Who did it belong to? Was it involved in a crime?

Joe’s journey through time acts as a metaphor for his journey to maturity. Each historical encounter forces him to confront fears, adapt to new situations, and reflect on his values and identity. The challenges he faces in other eras mirror the challenges of entering middle school and growing up. This point mirrors the universal human experience of growing up and finding one’s place in the world. In society, individuals are constantly challenged to adapt, learn, and redefine themselves, especially during periods of transition such as adolescence or major life changes. Literature uses this theme to help readers reflect on their journeys and the societal expectations they face.

The Timepiece is a delightful blend of history, mystery, and personal discovery. Young readers—and adults—will find themselves swept up in Joe’s journey, learning about both the past and the importance of self-understanding. Highly recommended for fans of time travel, historical fiction, and coming-of-age stories.

— Louie Baker, Independent Reviewer

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