***Three Times Lucky***

**Grades 3-5**

By Sheila Turnage

### Annotation

* Found washed ashore during a hurricane by the Colonel (a cafe owner with a mysterious past of his own), Mo lives in the small Southern town of Tupelo Landing, NC. Colorful characters bring this humorous mystery to life and Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, are right in the middle of it all. As she searches for her "upstream mother," Mo learns the true meaning of family.

**Book Talk**

* From Scholastic: Ever since she washed ashore as a baby during a hurricane, Mo LoBeau has made her home in Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, with the Colonel, a café owner with a forgotten past of his own, and Miss Lana, the café's glamorous hostess. Mo hopes to someday find her "upstream mother," but until then, she's happy helping the Colonel and Lana run the Tupelo Café, and going on adventures with her best friend, Dale.

Then a lawman comes to Tupelo Landing to investigate a murder. When it seems like Mo's loved ones might be implicated in the crime, she and Dale decide to use their own detective skills to solve the case. Soon the friends are investigating another murder, a long-ago bank robbery, a kidnapping, and the mystery of the night that Mo washed up on shore. Can the Desperado Detectives uncover the truth, before someone else gets hurt? Find out in this wonderful and engaging novel that's full of small-town heart.

**Book Trailers**

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRI3UfZz1-g&noredirect=1>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgLnpaxqaDQ>

### Author on the Internet

* Author’s Website: <http://www.sheilaturnage.com/SheilaTurnage/Sheila_Turnage,_Author.html>
* Author’s Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SheilaTurnage.Author>
* Author’s Email: [shelia@sheliaturnage.com](mailto:shelia@sheliaturnage.com)

### Realia/Display Items

* Model rowboat, p. 68
* Sign: No Lawyers, p. 15, 79
* Corked bottle with note inside, p. 310

### Food

* Peanut butter and jelly on Wonder bread, p. 8
* Mountain Dew, p. 8
* M & Ms, p. 57
* Iced tea, p. 74

**Book Charm**

* Shamrock: <http://www.fitnessfinders.net/SearchResults.asp?Search=shamrock&Submit=Search>



**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

From <http://ireadtorelax.blogspot.com/2013/02/february-bookworms-meeting-three-times.html>:

* What really makes up a family?
* How did living in a small town affect Mo's life?
* If you had a friend with an abusive parent (or other adult) in their life, what would you do?

**What to Read Next**

* *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing* by Sheila Turnage. AR 4.2, Lexile 550.

**Additional Resources**

* Lesson Plan: <http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/ThreeTimesLucky_lessonplans_14.pdf>
* Interview with the author: <http://www.kidsreads.com/authors/sheila-turnage/news/interview-102512>
* Interview with the author: <http://authorturf.com/author-interview-with-sheila-turnage/authorinterviews>
* Tupelo Landing series website: <http://www.penguin.com/static/packages/us/yreaders/tupelolanding/index.php>
* Map of Tupelo Landing: <http://www.penguin.com/static/packages/us/yreaders/tupelolanding/downloads/map_3timeslucky.jpg>
* The Desperado Detectives Training Manual: <http://www.penguin.com/static/packages/us/yreaders/tupelolanding/downloads/activitybook_ghoststupelo.pdf>