

Walking Across Egypt

Mattie Rigsbee, from *Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton, is an extremely unique person. She is very bonafide, a true Christian, but still likes to gossip every once in a while. Her uniqueness shows in many ways: she is the best cook in Listre, North Carolina, she has the compulsion to help others that have less than she, and she is seventy-eight years old and is just now starting to "run down."

She is a very compassionate woman, she cares for others. She is always pestering her children about getting married and having kids, or she is always trying to feed people like Lamar and Wesley. Her cooking is the best around, and somebody is at her house eating at any of the three meals per day she cooks. While caring for everybody, she still likes to gossip with her friends. Like when she fell through the chair, she just had to tell all her friends about her experience.

Even though Mattie is seventy-eight, and running down, she sets a standard of responsibility for people of any age. Her love for her children is shown throughout the novel. When she cooks for her children or pesters them about getting married so she can have some grandchildren proves that she cares about their well-being very much. The love she radiates is extended to more than her children, like at the end of the novel when she finally decides to take Wesley on as a foster child so he can have a nice home and so he can go to church every Sunday.

Through the whole book, Mattie has proven beyond a shadow-of-a-doubt that she is one of the most wholesome,

good, and lovable characters in books today. Her overall uniqueness is a special thing that not too many people can or will ever hope to have. As she and Wesley grow older, she should realize what a special thing she provides to the friends and family that she spends her time with.