

Book review

CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS

--Rudyard Kipling

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INTRODUCTION:

- Why did I choose this book?

I selected "Captains Courageous" by Rudyard Kipling because I was interested in a spoiled rich boy finding himself in a harsh environment at sea and I thought it would be full of adventures.

- What were my initial expectations?

I initially thought that it is an adventure novel full of action-packed seafaring adventures, but I was also interested to know how the hero's journey would develop as one of personal development. Considering Kipling's reputation as a master of powerful storytelling, I expected an expertly crafted good descriptions and character recall.

SUMMARY

- Plot & Theme

The story traces the experience of Harvey Cheyne Jr., the indulged son of a rich railroad mogul. During his journey on a sea liner, he falls overboard and is picked up by a fishing schooner, in the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. His early arrogance and conflict with the disciplined and industrious crew, particularly the wise and tolerant Captain Disko Troop and his son, Dan. Aborted on being compelled to earn his keep on the schooner, Harvey slowly develops an appreciation for perseverance, responsibility, and brotherhood. The novel touches on themes of self-discovery, tenacity, and the redemptive power of hard work. Kipling's colorful description of the life at sea and the friendships among the fishermen enrich the novel. Of course the plot is uncomplicated, the emotional path taken by the novel keeps it exciting.

ANALYSIS & OPINIONS

- What worked well in the book?

Perhaps the most powerful element of the book is its development of characters.

Harvey's change from being a spoiled, arrogant boy into a mature and responsible young adult is credible as well as encouraging. The realistic depiction of life at sea is another strong point—Kipling's careful attention to detail makes the reader experience the brutality and beauty of life at sea.

- Did any character stand out? Why?

Captain Disko Troop, with his stern but just command, and Dan, who becomes Harvey's friend and mentor, are especially well-characterized.

one element that may not be effective with contemporary readers is more story in sea which sometimes makes the action drag. Further, some of the supporting characters could have been developed more.

- Discuss any important message or lesson the book conveys.

The novel's overall message is strong. Perhaps the most influential line in the book is when Captain Troop informs Harvey, "A boy ain't fit to own a thousand dollars 'less he knows the worth of a hundred." This is the novel's primary lesson regarding the importance of humility.

PERSONAL CONNECTION

- How did the book impacted me?

Reading Captains Courageous reminded me that hard work and determination build character more than privilege. I am like Harvey sometimes in that I take things for granted, but this book had me thinking about the value of working for what one has in the world.

- Idioms

The novel also “brought out” my respect for teamwork and determination. Harvey was compelled to “step up” and make his contribution, very much like the real world where we are compelled to prove ourselves....!!!!

CONCLUSION

I would definitely suggest “Captains Courageous” to readers who like classic adventure stories with well-developed characters. It is particularly ideal for young readers and people who like stories of individual development.

Anyone seeking a novel that blends action with deep life lessons will enjoy reading Captains Courageous.