

BOOK REVIEW

The Mystery of the Vanished Prince

- Enid Blyton

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Introduction:

The mystery of the vanished prince is a part of The five find outers by Enid Blyton, The series covers stories of mystery and adventure of the five kids - Bets, Pips, Larry, Daisy and Fatty. The mystery of the vanished prince covers the events and incidents of these five kids playing the role of detectives and trying to solve the mystery of how a prince who visited the village got disappeared. The book has elements of childish humor, mystery, adventure and playfulness.

Why did you choose this book?

As I am currently transitioning into adulthood, I miss the simplicity, fun and playfulness I had as a kid. Our lives start to become so busy and hectic that the child inside us slowly fades away. The book is a children's mystery & adventure book and since it covers elements of such fun and mystery of childhood I really wanted to experience that childish fun and simplicity so that I can take a break from this busy life and have glimpses of childhood.

What were your initial expectations?

My initial expectations from this book was that it would be very engaging since it's a mystery story, easy to read since it's a book for children and would have elements of childish humor as the kids interact with each other, playfulness when the kids would use silly tricks or acts in the story. I expected suspense and mystery along with a very engaging storyline built around the vanishing of the prince and adventure of solving the mystery.

Summary

The story begins with Pips and Bets {who is fond of Fatty} waiting for their friends Larry, Daisy and Fatty, they also have a dog named buster, and a local policeman called Mr. Goon who always lectures the children and is not very fond of them, Mr. Goon also has a nephew Ern who also joins these kids on their adventure and solving the mystery of the vanishing of the prince. The prince was Bongawah of Tetarua who was staying in a nearby camp near Peterswood(the place where the story's incidents are based). The prince suddenly disappears and the story begins with the children trying to solve the mystery. Initially the children dressed up as prince and the relatives to play and act like the prince Bongawah's relatives, they pretend to be foreign royals speaking a made-up language to trick Ern along with his two companions Sid and Perce. Fatty is the main character who leads the

investigation of the disappearance. The disguise of children as the prince's relatives twists the investigation a bit and causes difficulty for Mr. Goon who is also trying to figure out and find the prince who disappeared all of a sudden.

Analysis & Opinion

The Mystery of the vanishing Prince is an exciting, engaging and adventurous book in my opinion. **What worked well** was the children's adventure and team work along with the playful disguises, playful tricks and the storyline that revolves around the prince's disappearance and finding him.

In my opinion **Fatty** is the character who stands out the most since he leads the investigation and mystery solving among the children, Fatty also fooled Mr. Goon in the story once. Fatty seems to be very confident, genius and funny as he along with other kids try to solve the mystery. **What didn't work out well** was the predictability of a few incidents of the story, some chapters of the story were not too engaging and were not that appealing to me. After some point the story line seems to be boring and doesn't bring the feel, since after some point the childish humor becomes predictable and doesn't bring the joy in reading.

There are two messages I can arrive at that the book conveys. Looks can be deceiving: In the chapters the kid so easily disguise as the prince's relatives and fool Ern and even Mr. Goon. This applies also to our daily lives that we should not judge anyone by his/her looks. Leadership makes a person stand out from others: Fatty who takes the lead in solving the mystery stands out from the other kids, he shows qualities like intelligence and confidence.

Direct-Indirect speech:

Direct: "Yes—but only because Mother said you were to," said Bets

Indirect: Bets said that it was only because her mother had told them to.

Personal Connect:

I usually read books **once in a blue moon** and prefer to watch movies or videos related to that book like a **mouse potato** to absorb its contents without reading it .Reading this book daily acted as a bit of stress relief by reading and imagining the childish behaviour of the five kids **impacted** me positively and helped me have glimpses of childhood fun and friendship. It helped me immerse myself in the childhood based theme. The story line built around mystery and adventure makes it interesting.

It did change my perspective about Leadership since usually I used to believe that leadership is serious but in the story I observed that Fatty acts like a leader while being a bit funny. Normally no one would take a funny person seriously but I realised that if leadership also consisted of elements of fun it can help in better coordination with the team. The next time I act as a team leader or a leader in general I would definitely interact with my teammates in a very funny and friendly manner.

Idioms that I used are Once in a blue moon which means very rarely and Mouse potato which means a person who spends most of his time working in front of a computer.

Conclusion:

I really enjoyed reading this book and I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to take a break from their busy lives and have glimpses of their childhood. Children would definitely enjoy it the most. Anyone who prefers to read something

simple, easy to read, filled with childish humor and playfulness and mysterious & adventure would love and enjoy reading this book.