
Ruskin Bond and Indian School Children

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Article History

Received: 1 April 2018
Received in revised form:
10 May 2018
Accepted: 15 May 2018

KEY WORDS:

Child Labour,
bonded child labour,
Slave Trade

ABSTRACT

Catch them young is the motto of Ruskin Bond. He wants revolution from the grassroots. Love for Nature and Animals is being inculcated in his young readers at the early stages of their lives. They are inspired and motivated to look after our ecosystem for the future generations. The study revolves around the child friendly style of his writings.

INTRODUCTION

Ruskin Bond, the famous Indian English writer who was born in Himachal Pradesh, and grew up in New Delhi and Shimla could spend four years in the Channel Island and London in his youth. He has written nearly fifteen novels, more than five hundred short stories, essays and poems. Ruskin Bond's fiction is alive with anecdotes, humour and acute observations, and his poetry reveals a deeply sensitive mind.

Aim of the Study

This article aims to study the works of Ruskin Bond, as a children's story writer. Children are encouraged to cultivate a habit of reading at the very young age. The study revolves around the child friendly style of his writings.

Child Friendly Stories of Ruskin Bond

Ruskin Bond's stories are included as a part of school curriculum all over India. He is known as children's writer in India. His style of writing is very simple. His style is in fact deceptively simple, for no two sentences are really alike. It is clarity that Bond aims at not simplicity alone. Clarity of thoughts is Bond's main concern. Many writers' literature is very difficult for school going children to read and digest. They make their readers to toil and sweat to understand their ideas and views. But Bond's works are easy and conversational.

Ruskin Bond's novels, "The Room on the Roof", his first novel was written when he was 17 years old. "Vagrants in the Valley" and "A Flight of Pigeons" are very interesting novels to read and follow. All novels written by Bond are not very long or difficult like foreign writers. Many of novels are set up with Indian contest and the characters are picked up from Indian societies.

The stories like "The Eyes Have It", "The Night Train at Deoli", "My first Love", "The Kite maker", "The Funeral" provoke readers mood and sympathy towards the characters. Readers are inspired to read still the end at one sitting because of the characters Conversational style.

“I did not see you either, “I said. “But I heard you come in”

The girl said,” I’m getting off at Saharapur. My aunt is meeting me there.”

“Then I had better not get too familiar”, I replied. “Aunts are usually formidable creatures.”

“Where are you going?” she asked. “To Dehra, and then to Mussoorie”

“Oh, how lucky you are. I wish I were going to Mussoorie. I love the hills Especially in October.”

“Yes, this is the best time”, I said.....”

This is the style that Bond uses in almost all his stories and novels. First person and second person narrations are found in Bond’s stories.

The stories like, “A Pret in the House,” ” A Haunted Hill” creates a belief in the supernatural creatures, among the young readers. Bond’s idea is not to create a belief in Ghosts or supernatural beings. He himself doesn’t believe in such creatures. But he employs such characters in his stories for fun and entertainments. In the story, “A Pret in House”, the Grandmother always blames’ the Pret which is in spirit form in the house, for all the troubles at home. The Pret also takes an interest in people who are very lazy and un-adjustable with other family members. When the troubles multiplied at home the whole family had to vacate to another house which was not nearby.

Many readers get confirm in the existence of Ghost as they read such stories. But Bond uses ghostly elements only for entertainment and to attract his readers ‘attention.

The stories like, “My first Love,” The Funeral, evoke readers sentimental feelings towards the characters. Bond picks up characters from the locality, very simple and ordinary characters, to high light social culture and traditions.

Most of his readers are school going children in India. His purpose of writing is not to criticize the adult class rather to educate the young minds of India.

In order to have ecological balance our environment should be preserved and protected. . Man has to stop reckless cutting of trees and merciless killing of animals. The values of a forestation and love for animals are taught through his stories. The stories like , “My Father’s Trees in Dehra’, The Leopard, Owls in the Family ”reveal the authors love for animals and trees.

The stories like “Would Astley return?”

“From small Beginnings,” shows more naturally. They give us an impression as if the characters are from the real life situations.

Bond’s second novel “Vagrants in the Valley”, portraits the real picture of Indian towns. The young children mainly boys of some age are found looking for job in the towns. Social and family situations and economic conditions compelled them to leave their own homes to find shelter in the towns for economic security. This novel is liked by young children in India. They find one way or other the characters in the novel are very much associated with their own social set up and economic status especially who are from the middle class families.

The poems written by Bond are very simple with a message. Readers can easily understand the underlying message of his poem. In the poem, it isn't time that's not passing' Bond gives a philosophical and lasting message.

“It isn't time that's passing by,
It is you and I.”

The poem contains only ten lines. But the message is so deep and strong. It puts us in deep thoughts and we realize the reality of our transcend and fleeting life.

Ruskin Bond the children writer in India is a living legend. He is rightly known as the Charles Dicken of India. Indian contest and Indian characters who are from the Indian villages and towns, are deployed in almost all his stories and novels. His readers get an idea as if they are in the villages of Himachal Pradesh or in one of towns of North East.

Conclusion

We can't achieve certain goals by force. It is very easy to mould young minds. They are the future of our country. Therefore to attain certain purposes we need to inculcate the good values in our youngsters. Ruskin Bond has succeeded to certain extent to inculcate these values in our youngsters. He teaches children through his works. He is a lover of nature.

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