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The Railway Children



Synopsis

Roberta, Peter, and Phyllis lead an ordinary suburban life with Mother and Father and trips to the zoo and the pantomime. But when Father is mysteriously taken away one night, everything changes. The children must move to the country, to a little white cottage near the railway line, where eventually they find that there are plenty of adventures to be had and friends to be made—including Perks the Porter and the Station Master himself. But the mystery remains—what has happened to Father, and will he come back? The story of Roberta, Peter, and Phyllis and their life in the country has never been out of print since it was first published in 1906. Charming, sentimental, and unforgettable, the novel retains all its enchantment and enduring appeal in this BBC Radio full-cast dramatization. 2 CDs. 1 hr 45 mins.

Book Information

Audio CD: 1 pages

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Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

Customer Reviews

I just finished reading this book with ten rising fifth graders. It was a "stretch read" for most of the children because the text is heavily colored by the time period, language, and general style. BUT! This was a very worthy read. Each chapter reads similarly to a short story in that there is an adventure, resolution, and moral to the story. The students responded positively to the daily challenge of the chapter length, the sophisticated language, and the romanticism of the setting. This was a very good choice for us. As a mother and a teacher--I recommed this novel enthusiastically!

I love this story and have it on video. But because it a Kindle version the lists the children made were missing. Also missing from the book were the words on the signs they made. I am sure this is because they are pictures and no pictures were downloaded, but I wished I was reading a print version of the book. Usually I never miss a print version, but when things are missing - I do.

It would be tempting these days to dismiss Nesbit's Edwardian chestnut as sappy and sentimental; however, upon rereading it, I find this is simply not the case. Sure, there is innocent charm aplenty in this tale of three children whose father is mysteriously called away. The family (Roberta, the eldest girl and main character, Peter, and Phyllis) go with their mother to live in the country, and while mother tries to make ends meet by writing stories, the children explore the area, make friends with people at the train station and on the passing train, and involve themselves in a couple of daring rescues. Each chapter is like its own little adventure, but always there lingers the question of where has father gone, and how will the family pull through its crisis. Sunny the author's outlook may be, but it is not sentimental, as evidenced when the children throw a surprise party for Perks the porter and he is angered rather than glad, fearing they do it out of charity. The children fight amongst themselves, and worry, and fret, like real children of that or any era might. Throughout the story, the reader comes to enjoy this country town and its cast of ordinary but amusing characters. The story's ending is actually very moving in its simple way. A classic.

I give this book 100 sets of five stars. It is a classic, it is refreshingly innocent, imaginative, constant in it's expression of human nature, and absolutely delightful. I recommend this book to children of reading age who need to see how wonderful the simple life can be. And for adults who need a corner of a soft chair, a warm fire, and a cup of hot tea, and a reminder of the sweetness of innocence and heroism and love of family.

This is an exceptional book about 3 children who live near a railroad and thoroughly enjoy it.. They live and let live until one day their relatively ordinary lives come to a screeching halt as it did when their father went away. They are friendly with an old man who helps them find out the mystery of their father's abrupt disappearance. They finally get the family back together and the live happily ever after etc. etc. etc. Though this may seem common and uninteresting, there is some other force that made me sit up late into the night to finish the book. You may understand why I did that when you read the book. It is very enjoyable, (but that may be because I am a child) and I thoroughly recommend it to children . Enjoy! Cheers!!!!!!!!!! :)

This a story of a family who move to the country during the absence of the husband and father. The children are left to their own devices as Mother writes stories to support them. The children are fascinated by a nearby railway line and station and through these make interesting friends and have exciting adventures. A most satisfying read!

Three English children in turn-of-the-century London are suddenly obliged to leave their home and take up rural residence at Three Chimneys cottage. They are additionally confused by the unexplained disappearance of their father, who was falsely accused of espionage and wrongfully incarcerated. The kids seek solace in their new life by becoming familiar with unexplored means of transportation: the canal and the railroad. Their plucky mother undertakes to write novels while she homeschools her inquisitive offspring: 12-year-old Roberta (Bobbie), 10-year-old Peter, and 7-year-old Phyllis. These children quarrel and squabble, play and dream like normal kids, while secretly harboring fears about their absent father. Could he be dead, since no one was allowed to inform them of the painful truth? Would their calm, loving mother permit them to live a lie? During the next 6 months these decent kids gradually carve out a niche for themselves in the lives (and ultimately the hearts) of the local citizens--particularly railway personnel. As they expand their social horizons, they increase their knowledge of the ways and quirks of the iron horse. They even learn lessons in tasteful charity and Christian compassion, as they exist in a kind of emotional limbo--just waiting for some unknown event. Despite Nesbit's admittedly quaint literary style (with many asides addressed to the reader, and obvious predilection for one of her characters), *THE RAILWAY CHILDREN* will transport readers back to a much simpler time--an era of true family values and homespun social virtues. Don't expect the fantasy elements of *THE PHOENIX AND THE CARPET* in this gentle story; just relax and enjoy a journey into the past, when children were taught to wait and hope. This is a book for children of all ages, inscribed on the tablets of Home and Hearth. And who is the mysterious but kindly old gentleman on their beloved Green Dragon?

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