

Theme Book Report on Maniac Magee by Tiana Nguyen, Grade 5

The title of my book is Maniac Magee written by author Jerry Spinelli. It is about a boy who loses his parents, and he runs away instead of living with his aunt and uncle. He must try to survive on his own until he can find a real home for him. The theme of this story is having family to help you when you need it.

The main character, Jeffrey, shows that you need family throughout the story. His greatest challenge is finding a place where he fits in. He doesn't have anywhere to stay, or anyone to take care of him, so Jeffrey struggles to find a real home where he belongs. Through his difficulties, he shows that you need family to help you and love you. Eventually, he finds several temporary homes with people willing to take him in, but he always leaves them because something unfortunate always happens. Each time he finds a new home, he is able to get by in the world.

I mainly disliked this story because it has some adventure, but in my opinion, it was predictable, and not really like reality even though it is supposed to be realistic fiction. I don't like predictable stories that much because I want to be kept waiting at the edge of my seat, but if I can easily predict what happens next, it takes all that excitement away. I do not understand the point of realistic fiction if it is not realistic. For example, when Jeffrey races Mars Bar, I could predict Jeffrey would win because he is really fast. During the entire story, there was no mention of anybody looking for Maniac when he ran away. There is a missing kid and it seems as if it is not such a serious problem. That is not realistic because I know when kids go missing in reality, there is a big and long search.

There are many times I could be in need of help or assistance. When those times happen, I remember how Jeffrey showed that family is important. Then I know I can always count on my family to help me when those times come.

Excellent analysis

5.19.18

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jm' or similar, written in a cursive style.