

## Sense of love towards nature and children in the short stories of Ruskin Bond

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### Abstract:

The portrayal of child characters in the hilly areas of Dehradun by the writer Ruskin Bond has become his trade mark. He describes childhood along with the nature in such a beautiful way that the readers become mesmerized with his writings. He talks about nature, about life and the difficulties which are faced by the people in the mountainous villages. There is lack of opportunity for the youth and they are bound to live in a limited means without any development. People have to migrate to outside cities for their livelihood leaving behind their childhood and their families alone. The emotional distance which is created by the separation of working members and the children of the family is very painful. Ruskin Bond raises this kind of issues with the help of his stories and novels. His words are very simple as well as harsh in certain situations. He deals with his plots in such a way that the output situations are felt favorable to the readers and does justice to his characters. He has never let his child and youth characters down as they are being carried away by the influence of others. He sees throughout the story that his characters win over their ill situations and lead a happy life in the future. The love for Ruskin Bond towards children is seen in most of his novels. Most of the senior writers don't give much emphasis to characters of children. But, Ruskin Bond gives a special importance to children and thoroughly explains their character and their thought process which is very innocent. All petty activities related to children like jumping in shallow water on the road, climbing a tree to pluck a mango, wandering in the streets and observing others and nature etc. are described in detail. This tickles the funny bone of the readers who have had similarly thoughts in their childhood. The feeling of childhood helps people to hold themselves from the effects of ill post-modernism. The nature of children is universal all over the world. Ruskin Bond has shown the habits of children that are equal in every part of the world.

**Keywords:** *mesmerized, innocent, wandering, emphasis*

**Introduction:** Ruskin Bond is one of the most popular recent Indian writers in English. Ruskin Bond is true love of nature. Nature and ecology is one of the dominant themes in his works. One finds Wordsworth's pantheistic philosophy in Ruskin Bond that is presence of life or spirit in every object of nature like trees, plants, rivers. He lives in Mussoorie, at the foothills of the Himalaya. The region is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty, flora and fauna. Bond is worried about destruction of the natural environment in the name of development. His deep concern is depicted in his short stories. Writing with love, his pure, innocent characters represent his love for nature. They interact with animals, trees and flowers; they reflect his concern and his effort to preserve the environment through tree plantation. The stories highlight the duty and responsibility to the environment. The aim of this paper is to highlight how Ruskin Bond has expressed his concern for nature which has been exploited by human beings in the name of urbanisation and modernisation and how the harmful effects of humans' exploitation of nature directly affect human life and living space.

Ruskin Bond shows exceptional talent in writing about nature and children. His enchanting stories are woven with splendid Himalayas as the background against which human activities depict themselves. He writes about ordinary people living in small towns of Himalayas and his stories deal with simple things in life. His description of Indian bazaars of the early post independent period is a mirror reflecting the social setting, culture and traditions of the people of small towns. The child protagonists and other prominent child characters are woven around these settings and locales in a semi-humorous and compassionate manner to form a rich fabric of fascinating stories like the Adventures of Rusty and his friends in the novel *Room on the Roof* (1956) and *The Young*

