

Depiction of Children in Ruskin Bond's Short Stories

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Abstract

Ruskin bond, an iconic children's author in Indian literature; for his diverse work in literature, he was conferred with Padma Shri Award in 1999. When a little boy was going through a series of events like loneliness and failure of family bonding, writing became his only way of catharsis. Even though life has given him thousands of bitterness, he somehow was able to see the light at the end of a dark tunnel. His optimism towards life has given him the strength amidst his loneliness and isolation. Having been born to Anglo-Indian parents, Bond found a home in the lap of Himalayas, and he also said that his love for India comes from the deep core of his heart. It is the atmosphere of the Himalayas that fulfils his soul and makes him able to give an imaginary vision. The remarkable blending of the literary traditions of Indian and English literature is noticeable feature of Bond's creativity. He is living in Mussoorie for last 5 decades. Since then he has been ceaselessly jotting down with his pen the inexhaustible mysteries of life in a sizeable canon of his creative literature. In his writings, he focuses the individuality of children, their dreams and their adventures like English children's writing. He captures the innocence of children in his fiction like Indian authors.

Key words: Iconic, catharsis, optimism, imaginary, blending, decades

Introduction:

Ruskin Bond, the name is an amalgamation of mountains, nature, rain, people, emotion, Indian customs and rituals, God, and Indian festivals. He paid a visit to every alley to make his work rich for his readers and found hope and life everywhere. We get numerous works where he mentioned about Indian customs and rituals of North India. He has profound knowledge when it comes to Indian culture and community, and he also said the dark side of it as well. We find all the details from the dressing style of Indian women from the pre-independent era to post-independence. His literary work is not devoid of Indian festivals like Holi. In his first novel, 'The Room on the Roof,' he mentioned the north Indian festival Holi. Besides that, he also mentioned festivals like Janmashtami. He even did not step back to saying the Indian Gods while writing. He portrays Indian Gods by mentioning their importance in human lives.

He depicted God with metaphor in many of his writings. While describing the colonial period, he mentioned the presence of Sadhus and snake charmers. Due to his love and knowledge for the country made him no less than any Indian writer. On his journey to literary works, he found simplicity from daily life, his power to see through life enables him to create some magnificent literary works.

Ruskin Bond is considered a pioneer of children literature in India. Ruskin Bond came close to children's literature. Since Ruskin Bond liked his boyhood very much therefore all his children stories whether autobiographical or semi- autobiographical expressed his longing for a happy childhood. Ruskin Bond likes children because they are more frank, open minded and emotional. According to Ruskin Bond two children can become good friends merely by exchanging a piece of marble, a coin, a doll and bangles. Children do not like the restraints put on them by their elders. Ruskin Bond loves children because they are not deceptive. All children love freedom, jumping in pools, climbing on trees, and are always curious to know about their surroundings so Ruskin Bond is

