“Something is unusual about the river. Something is wrong about Jessica’s feelings toward the river.”

Jess likes swimming; it’s her thing, which makes her peaceful and calm. This is why she started to swim in the mysterious river in the first place. Jess had lots of anxiety about her grandpa who was very ill and weak and swimming cleared up her mind about it. Jess loved the feeling of the river’s current and water splashing but as time flew by, Jess knew she was not alone. She felt someone near the river, it was impossible. There was nobody for miles except her family (mother, father, grandpa) and Alfred (grandpa’s friend). Even though Jess knew there couldn’t be anybody there, she felt the River Boy was very close. Where would that be?

The suspense in the book was the best thing I liked about it. It made me want to read more and more, making it hard to put the book down. The detailed written descriptions pull you into the book while your head imagines all the scenes in the book thoroughly.

River Boy reminded me of the book called “Tuck Everlasting” because this book is also about life. Tuck Everlasting is written in a very descriptive writing style and, so was “River Boy”. The way Natalie Babbitt describes life is written very detailedy just like Tim Bowler describes about the river. In both books, the main character is a girl and she has some sort of problem with their family too. In River Boy, Jess has a problem with her grandpa. She helps him finish his painting because he can’t use his hands properly. Jessica gets lots of stress about her grandpa’s health and his desire to finish his painting. While in Tuck Everlasting, Winnie wants to run away from her family who wants to keep her in the house. Winnie has no freedom and has to obey the rules which gives her stress.
She runs away from home, into the woods and meets the Tuck Family. This is where the problems and the decision making starts.

I believe the theme of this book was about grief (handling the challenges of someone you love dying and overcoming obstacles) and the risks Jessica took. She went swimming long distances pushing herself and being brave enough to discover things about the mysterious boy near the river. Overall, I would definitely recommend this book to all ages. I hope others read and enjoy it as much as I did.

Review By

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