ELED 3113  
Fall 2018  
Hayley Nowlin

The Penderwicks

Author: Jeanne Birdsall

Genre: Realistic fiction

Guided reading level: T

Awards: National Book Award Winner

Multicultural: no

Protagonists: The four Penderwick sisters- they are all round and dynamic characters

Antagonists: Mrs. Tifton- she is also a round and dynamic character

Settings: Cameron, Massachusetts, in the 1990’s.

Themes: Friendship, determination, and being true to oneself

Point of view: The book shifts between third person limited, first person, and third person omniscient.

Conflict: Man vs. man ( Jeffrey against his mother who wants him to go to military school)

* Exposition: The main characters of this story are Rosalind Penderwick, Skye Penderwick, Jane Penderwick, Batty Penderwick, and Jeffrey Tifton. This book takes place in a rented cottage on the beautiful estate Arundel.
* Rising action: Skye meets Jeffrey and tells him bad stuff about this women named Mrs. Tifton then later finds out that she is his mother. Inciting Incident Skye starts to hate Jeffrey. Her and her sisters get invited by Jeffery's friend (churchie) to his birthday party. Mrs. Tifton starts to despise the girls at the party.
* Climax: Jeffery's mom and step father leave town for a while Skye decides to invite herself over to hang out with Jeffery. His mom comes in early and finds them together she kicks her out of the house, and the next day Skye finds out that Jeffery's mother set an interview for Jeffery at the military school. He decides to run away and he stays at the Penderwicks cottage for the night. His mother came in looking for him and she found him.
* Falling action: Jeffery explains to her how he doesn't want to go to military school. He tells her he wants to play the piano. His mother also relizes that the Penderwicks aren’t that bad as she thought they were.
* Resolution: She lets him take piano lessons at the New England Music Conservatory. The Penderwicks go back home but keep in touch with Jeffery.

Personal reflection

I really enjoyed reading this book because it’s just one of those stories that you fall in love with. It’s the very first book written by Jeanne Birdsall and it is the first in the Penderwicks’ series of books. This is one of the stories that make you love reading, as well. I believe that this book could be good for boys and girls to both read. This book could also be one used for a whole class read aloud, say reading a couple of chapters a day or so.

Activity

There are lots of great characters in this book that we come to know as we read it. The students will choose one character from this story, and they will create a character analysis of that character. They will describe their physical features, their personality traits, and what all they accomplish in the story. They will explain why they chose the character, and if they can make any connections with the character they will need to list them. This activity will allow students to really make connections with the characters in a story.

Source: Teacher made