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The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict by Trenton Lee Stewart

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Author: Stewart, Trenton Lee

Title: *The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict*

Illustrator: Sudyka, Diana

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company

ISBN: 9780316176194

Number of pages: 496

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate; Young Adult

Keywords: Adventure; Orphanages; Orphans; Narcolepsy; Bullies; Genius; Mystery

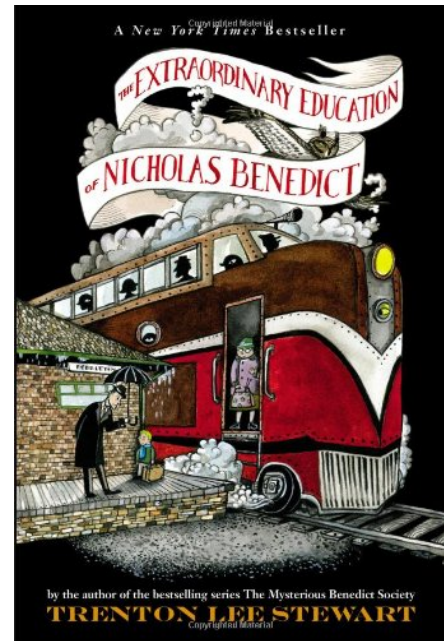
Review:

Because of his extraordinary intelligence and narcolepsy, Nicholas Benedict feels like an outsider, especially at his new orphanage, 'Child's End which was once the manor of millionaires Mr. and Mrs. Rothschild. After his arrival, Nicholas hears rumors about a treasure left behind by Mrs. Rothschild and works with his two new friends, John and Violet, to uncover clues. When John is adopted and the treasure clues end, Nicholas runs away, but he soon realizes that he needs to give the orphanage a second chance. Upon his return Nicholas recognizes the real "treasure" is the library Mrs. Rothschild anonymously built in town and he discovers that Violet's family adopted John and has plans to adopt Nicholas too.

Stewart does it again with this masterfully written prequel to his *Mysterious Benedict Society* series. Stewart explores complex themes in the story: kindness, friendship, and service. Because of his life in orphanages, Nicholas lost faith in adults. When he sees that adults can be good is when the clues clicked together to reveal the philanthropic kindness of the Rothschilds. The story also shows that friendship cannot be a one-sided relationship. Nicholas only wanted the treasure so he could escape his life at the orphanage. He didn't see the sufferings of his friends or the other orphans. Once he sees those things, Nicholas finds happiness and purpose to his life by helping others. A beautifully written story that is sure to become a classic in children's literature.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

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Smart kids, lessons in Mysterious Benedict Society prequel. Read Common Sense Media's The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict review, age rating, and parents guide. The parents' guide to what's in this book. Educational Value. Amateur sleuths will get plenty of insight on how to look for clues and do research as the story goes along. Positive Messages. The importance of facing fears -- and enemies -- instead of hiding from them is a major theme. The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict is the fourth book in the Mysterious Benedict Society series, and a prequel to the other three. Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict has been going from orphanage to orphanage his entire life. As the story opens, Nicholas is arriving at the Pebbleton train station in order to transfer to yet another orphanage, Rothschild's End. He meets the director, Mr. Collum, and they are driven to the orphanage by the quiet, safety-conscious Mr. Pileus. Due to Nicholas's Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict has more problems than most children his age. Not only is he an orphan with an unfortunate nose, but he also has narcolepsy, a condition that gives him terrible nightmares and makes him fall asleep at the worst possible moments. Now he's being sent to a new orphanage, where he will encounter vicious bullies, selfish adults, strange circumsta Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict has more problems than most children his age. OK, and that concludes my review of 'The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict'. I would recommend this book to humans ages 10 and up. It was a little long, but me being a speed reader I read it in about two hours straight! ...more.