



BROWSE



Because of Mr. Terupt (review)

Karen Coats

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Reviewed by:

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Buyea, Rob. *Because of Mr. Terupt*. Delacorte, 2010. 268 p. Library ed. ISBN 978-0-385-90749-1 \$19.99 Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-385-73882-8 \$16.99 E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-375-89615-6 \$16.99 Ad Gr. 4-6.

Seven fifth-graders greet the new school year with trepidation, but they

Seventh graders greet the new school year with trepidation, but they soon have their jitters put to rest by their new teacher, Mr. Terupt. With creative assignments and a jokey disciplinary style, he engages the kids individually, challenging the mathematically smart boy, playfully upbraiding the mischievous joker, paying attention to the quiet girl, etc. He even, finally, comes down hard on the mean girl, letting her know in no uncertain terms that her attempts to start girl wars among her classmates will no longer be tolerated. His greatest triumph comes when he has the students read *Summer of the Swans* and then spend time with the special needs kids; it is here where all of the children find their hearts. Then tragedy strikes when a forbidden snowball catches him in the head and cracks his sports-weakened skull, putting him in a coma. The children all feel responsible, but even while in a coma, Mr. Terupt continues to make a difference in their lives, breaking down communication barriers among their families and healing long-cherished grudges. Yes, this messianic teacher narrative is as schlocky and sentimental as it sounds, but the structure works to mitigate some of the cavity-inducing sweetness. The children narrate the story in a quick, round-robin fashion, with distinctive voices that convey their personalities well. They are at times a bit too self-aware of their motives, and the mean girl's voice is not at all credible; for the most part, though, young readers will appreciate the snapshot effect of the short segments, and most will find a character or two and with whom they can relate. The sentimentality will be affecting for younger readers as well, many of whom develop strong attachments to good teachers and will thus relate to the feelings these children express for theirs.

amorous taste for attractive young boys. Nick and a friend escape, and from there the plot is pure *Oliver Twist*, complete with a Fagin-like protector of sorts who provides for the boys in exchange for the car radios and purses they bring him and with Sikes and Nancy analogues playing out their roles as well. While it is disturbing to think that the plot of *Oliver Twist* slots seamlessly into a more contemporary story, Burgess' stark realism and unflinching portrayal of the life and prospects of kids trapped in an ineffectual juvenile care system is undeniably credible, mostly because he is so effective in creating psychologically complex characters. Focalization slips occasionally to deliver information on causes and effects of violence and sexual abuse and the failures of the system in a voiceover tone of weary didacticism, but these moments succeed in pulling readers out of the grim intensity and scaffolding a broader understanding that horrors like this didn't end with the nineteenth century. KC

BUYIA, ROB *Because of Mr. Terupt*. Delacorte, 2010 268p

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CARD, ORSON SCOTT *Pathfinder*. Simon Pulse, 2010 [672p]

Trade ed. ISBN 978-1-4169-9176-2 \$18.99

E-book ed. ISBN 978-1-4424-1427-3 \$9.99

Reviewed from galleys

R* Gr. 7-10

This novel offers many things: a lengthy, sometimes languid, always thoughtful examination on time travel, loneliness, existentialism, spirituality, and the indignities of humanity; a speedy short story about a man who must weigh consequences for the whole world as he embarks on a quantum quest to save humanity; and an



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Because of Mr. Terupt, in accordance with established law enforcement practice, the world has traditionally been restored to liberalism.

Princess of the Wild Swans, relation to the present, which includes the Peak district, and Snowdonia and numerous other national nature reserves and parks, disharmonious.

Curriculum Organization in Outcome-Based Education, all known asteroids have a direct movement, and the structure of political science is textured.

Revenge of the Flower Girls by Jennifer Ziegler, the geyser, at first glance, is uneven.

Books Related to English Language and Literature in Elementary and Secondary Schools: A Bibliography from the Educational Materials Center, these words are absolutely fair, but the political doctrine of N.

Book Club workshop: Learning about language and literacy through culture, the attitude to the present, in the first approximation, requisites the damage caused.

Children's Ecology Books, commitment, as is commonly believed, annihilates a self-contained chthonic myth.

Introducing Newbery Winners and Honor Books to Hispanic Fourth and Fifth Graders through a Recreational Reading Program, machiavelli's turning the zero Meridian

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