

Lilian L7

Hetty Feather by Jaqueline Wilson

Genre: Drama

I like Hetty Feather by Jaqueline Wilson because it's making a story out of something that really happened. The foundling hospital was a real place and there were such things as foundlings like Hetty Feather (a made-up character).

My favourite character is either Hetty or Harriet. Hetty, because she's fierce, loud and passionate about writing, like me. Harriet because I can relate to her a lot, she cares for Hetty in her early years at the hospital and is like a mother figure to her.

My least favourite character was "Matron pig-face Peters". She is mean, rude, and disrespectful. She hates children when they don't abide by her rules. The things that she makes the children do are very bleak house chores, they have no time to play and she locks them in cellars and takes privileges away from them.

When I first read the book, I didn't know what a foundling hospital was, so I looked it up. I found out that it was a real institution for abandoned children, which was common in those times. Hetty Feather was set in the late 1800s, but the foundling hospital was built in the early 1700s.

I had great interest in the foundling hospital and found out some more interesting facts about it. I found out that when the foundlings are accepted their names are changed and they are given numbers to identify them. Some of the names were made up on the spot e.g. Elisabeth Africa, Thomas Asia. Their mothers had to have good reasons why they couldn't look after them, most likely they were going to the workhouse or simply couldn't cater for them.

Quite recently the BBC have made a drama show about it and that is very interesting too, although I do wish that they had kept some characters or scenes.

I would give this book a 10/10 rating.

Age range; age 9 and above.

