

Bobby L3

Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children Series by Ransom Riggs

Genre: Fantasy

This fantasy series embedded in real life is fantastic for children above 13 years old. The series of five books so far follows the lives and adventures of Jacob Portman and his peculiar friends.

Jacob believes he is normal and pretty insignificant at that until his grandfather dies. The last thing his grandfather told Jacob to do was to find his childhood friends. With this in his mind, Jacob travels to Wales where he stumbles upon a time loop concealing his grandfather's old friends and their Headmistress, Miss Peregrine. Each has an extraordinary power they call a peculiarity. The story takes a turn for the worst when Miss Peregrine is kidnapped by the villainous Wights, a secretive organisation searching for power. It becomes Jacob and his friends' job to save Miss Peregrine and ultimately the world from the Wights.

The main characters consist of Jacob's band of peculiar friends and himself. Other than Jacob and Miss Peregrine, the main characters are as follows: Emma, who can cast fire from her hands; Enoch, who can reanimate the dead; Horace, who has prophetic dreams; Hugh, who has bees living inside him; Fiona, who can control plants; Olive who is lighter than air and Claire who has a second mouth on the back of her head. Other characters do come into significance later in the story such as Noor another peculiar who appears in the fourth book. And other characters beside the band of adventurers have recurring importance in the story.

Personally, I prefer the invisible boy Millard, another one of the main group of friends. He has a really decisive and often blunt personality and due to his invisibility, is frequently annoying the other characters.

I really like this book for a number of reasons. Firstly, it has a fantastic plot that had me turning the page like a hypnotist and waiting impatiently for the next book. Secondly, all the characters are really well developed. I hate nothing more than to be asking questions about what happened to a character to make them how they are; this series facilitates that. Thirdly, the books have a really fantastic lore. Over the series, you gradually become aware of the peculiar culture and really get involved in the peculiar world.

My one criticism would be that the whole book is story. There isn't a situation where the story decides to go get a cuppa or a snooze, it's always got the burners on!

Overall rating: 9 out of 10

