



PenChant

Reviews on Books, Movies and More...

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Editor's Note

'The only constant in life is change'; on coming across this quote as a young child in preschool, one would have barely paid any heed to it, but today as one has a copy of the PenChant in one's hands to be read, I know that you will find the quote rather intriguing, as it is so simple yet speaks volumes.

Therefore, this is a toast to our rapidly changing lives, where we have excellent pieces of work like the film "Murder on the Orient Express" or books like "Looking for Alaska" which is absolutely worth a read, but in the meantime, we also shouldn't forget authors of the past and in this issue we have Eric Carle, who, in his style, created history.

You will find all of these masterpieces within this issue and I hope you find it engaging, I present before you the sixth issue of the PenChant.

Dechen Sangay
XII 

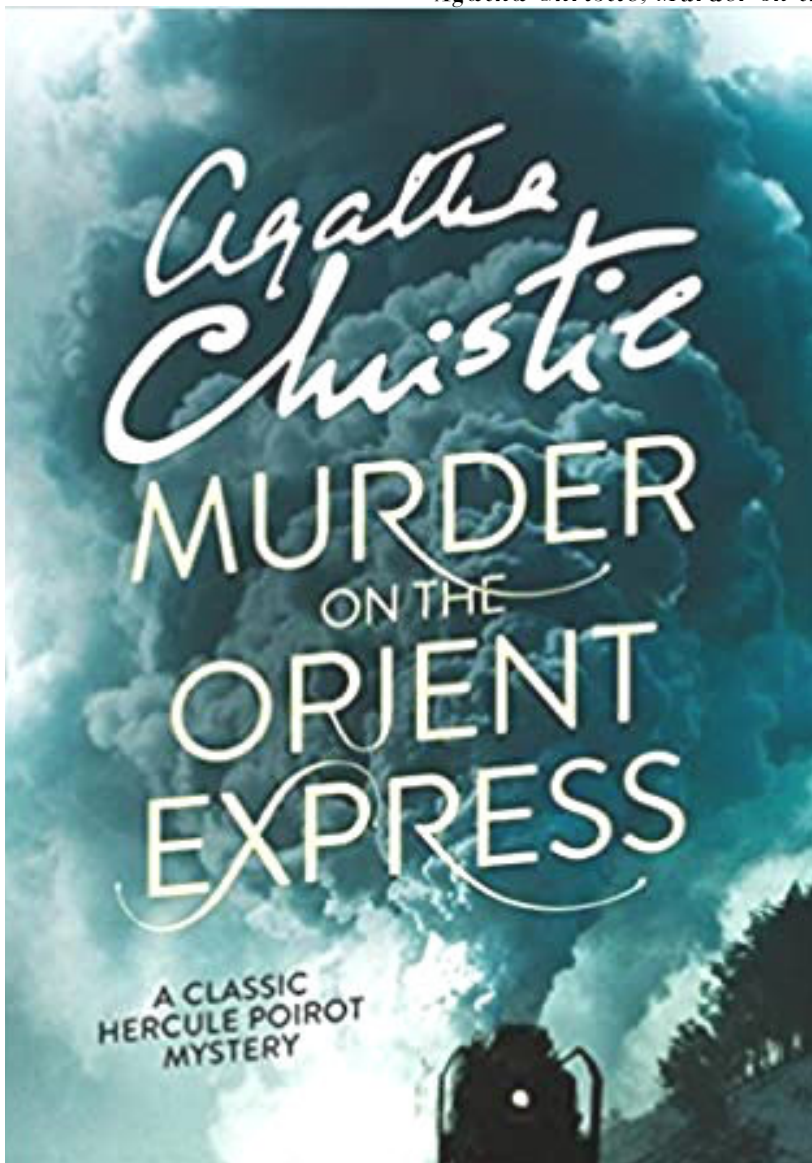
For It Must Be Read...



MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

“But I know human nature, my friend, and I tell you that, suddenly confronted with the possibility of being tried for murder, the most innocent person will lose his head and do the most absurd things.”

— Agatha Christie, *Murder on the Orient Express*



Agatha Christie, also known as the “Queen of Mystery”, has a writing style that is unmistakable to devotees of the genre. Her craftsmanship of her protagonists are unassuming. The book revolves around a murder to which Hercule Poirot, a stout retired officer of the Belgian police is assigned as the detective. When a millionaire is found stabbed on the Orient Express, a conspiracy theory is cooked and Poirot is thrust into it.

He therefore pledges to find out the murderer’s identity among the dozens of the dead man’s enemies.

The suspects aboard the train are colourful and well-developed characters with distinctive personalities. They provide plenty of entertainment for the reader as the narrative paces through. The characters complicate further and continue to puzzle us as Poirot jumps from interview to interview. The insufficiency of law and the morality of murder are brought about very vividly throughout the novel, law looks very ill implemented during the era of the tale as we see alcohol easily smuggled on board the train although it was the years of prohibition in the United States.

The book unfolds and continues to conclude towards a brilliantly imagined plot-ending where the murder is solved with a mind boggling twist, a perfectly satisfying conclusion to a captivating tale as it has been.

This book is a tale of suspense and intrigue that will enthrall readers of all ages. A distinctive detective, superior development of characters and crucial themes applicable even today, *Murder on The Orient Express* is the equivalent of a literary rollercoaster ride. Christie as always never ceases to surprise in ways we again never expected.

Chinmoy Tamuli



Take a look it's in a book....

Looking For Alaska

Looking For Alaska, an amazing teenage demographic novel written by John Green, a book that consists of 297 pages which was published by Dutton's Children's books. It is a must-read young adult fiction novel for teens as it 'Pudge' Halter's whole life has been one big non-event. He heads off to Culver Creek Boarding School where his dad and uncles had completed their schooling. To get rid of his predictable and friendless life, he thought it would be a good idea to join and start a new school life as he was not enjoying much in his previous school. He sought to go and experience a 'Great Perhaps'.

However, he got more than he asked for as he later met Alaska Young, who was possibly his greatest event. She was fun, gorgeous, self-destructive and filled with unpredictability. Her charming personality stole Miles' heart with ease. I am glad I was recommended to read this book by a friend of mine. I found endless interest in this novel but unlike most novels, it did not resort to a 'happily ever after' scenario, which gives the readers an incomplete sense of emotions filled with sadness and a little anger too.

Nabadeep Deka

X



THE NAZI HUNTERS: HOW A TEAM OF SPIES AND SURVIVORS CAPTURED THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS NAZI

NEAL BASCOMB

Just the title and the cover of the book attracts you to read it. The book is an abridged version of *Hunting Eichmann* which was written by the same author, Neal Bascomb. *Hunting Eichmann* was a book solely for adult readers so Bascomb designed *The Nazi Hunters* for younger readers, not going deep into the spy work, keeping it short and straightforward.

Adolf Eichman, a Nazi leader was a man who was responsible for the deaths of numberless Jews. But as World War II came to an end in 1945, this powerful man somehow disappeared, seemingly going unpunished for his part in the Holocaust. The goal was clear: Capture Eichmann and bring him to trial before the world. A group of spies was carefully chosen to carry this mission out, which would shape history... if they survived and succeeded.

Bascomb's writing is spectacular and well researched. Even though the book is full of facts, it is an amazing spy book and keeps you on the edge of your seat till the end. With the addition of archival photos and documents, the book feels less like a textbook and more like a story and helps visualize each thing. The author took his time in describing the many characters in the book with such emotion. He even attempted to describe how inhumane Eichmann was, but I think nothing will ever be able to express that man's cruelty. It was a fast-paced book and there isn't much dressing up. Yet, it is thrilling from the beginning, right to the end. It is as exciting and tense as any spy thriller you might read with one difference - it all happened.



By the end of the book, I felt like I knew each person very closely. This book is recommended for those who do not like reading non-fiction but want to try it. It is suitable for readers above the age of 13. Overall, it was an amazing read and it tells a tale about a time in history that should not be forgotten, and hopefully never repeated.

NORZIN LHAMU

IX



For It Must Be Read...

WAITING FOR NORMAL

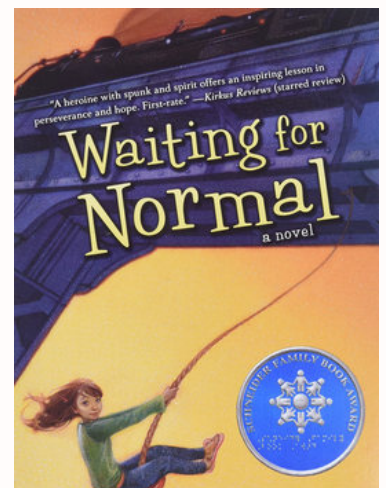
LESLIE CONNOR

leslie
connor



Waiting for Normal written by Leslie Connor was published in 2008 and runs into 290 pages, is a young adult fictional novel. The protagonist of the story is eleven-year-old Addison Schmeeter. Addison also referred to as "Addie", is a girl with spirit and offers an inspiring lesson of perseverance and hope through this story. When an adolescent girl's parents divorce, she sees her family slowly breaking apart. Addie's world comes apart when her stepfather and her half-sisters whom she loved dearly had to move out. Disappointed and alone, Addie positively makes the best of every bad situation. Life gets far from normal as Addie and her reckless mother settle into an infinitesimal camper on the corner of a civic crossway. Addie admits, "I'm good at getting used to changes – been doing it all my life," and incontinently makes a cosy nest for herself in the camper. She optimistically starts sixth grade and makes friends, meets her neighbour's, and keeps the house on a pittance while her unstable mother spends days sleeping and nights chatting on the Internet. Challenged by dyslexia, Addie works extra hard to succeed in academics and learn her flute to be a part of the orchestra. Addie's desire for a "normal" life, makes her strive each day to reach her goal. In the end, her positive stance and competency to find happiness make all the difference as she patiently waits for "normal."

All in all, "Waiting for Normal" is a novel that narrates the importance of family and the pluck and spirit of the protagonist offers an inspiring lesson in perseverance and hope. I highly recommend this novel to all the young and deep readers out there because it is a story that will inspire you.



Alda Nongmeikapam



XI

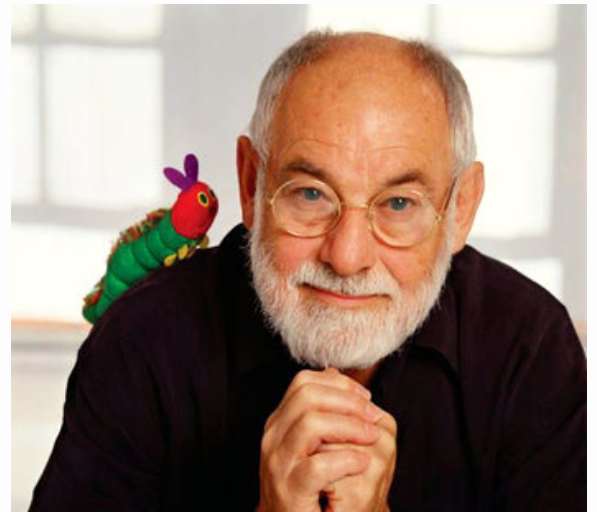
Meet the Author

Eric Carle

Eric Carle (June 25, 1929 – May 23, 2021) was an American author, designer and illustrator of children's books, born on 25th June 1929 in Syracuse, New York in a German immigrant family that has delighted millions of youngsters with classic picture books filled with wildly imaginative trips and riots of colours that he has been caging in his mind since childhood. His book has been a bedtime staple of children for decades. He was someone who took this work from concept to final form by himself. Its bright and texture-rich illustrations were perfect for children.

At the very first glance, his books do not jump at one for they lackwit. But the simple bright storytelling illustrations always managed to catch the fancy of young readers, to such an extent that they are considered classics now especially *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

During world war Eric was called to Germany to dig trenches; a memory Eric never really liked to recall. He once told a reporter that his wife thinks that he still suffers from post-traumatic stress from those days. When he returned to the US after the war he only had 40 dollars in his pocket. Eric soon had his breakthrough in his works became renowned. One of the reasons for his success, apart from his innovative and unique artwork, is that his readers tend to relate their life and experiences with his stories.



In 2009, Google paid tribute to Carle and *The Very hungry Caterpillar* by requesting him to design their logo. Eric died on 23rd May, 2021 in Northampton, Massachusetts where he was living with his wife a son and a daughter.

CHINMOY TAMULI

XI



Lyrical

“MY HOBBY”

Happy am I while I sit
On my sofa while I laze
By myself with my laptop
My book in my lap while I watch
Sometimes anime is my catch

Necessary in my life
An enjoyment
It takes my time
Make no mistake though
Hobby is the word

Makers of wonderful memories
Of moments
Never shall I forget
Allures those who read
The magic of words and the text.

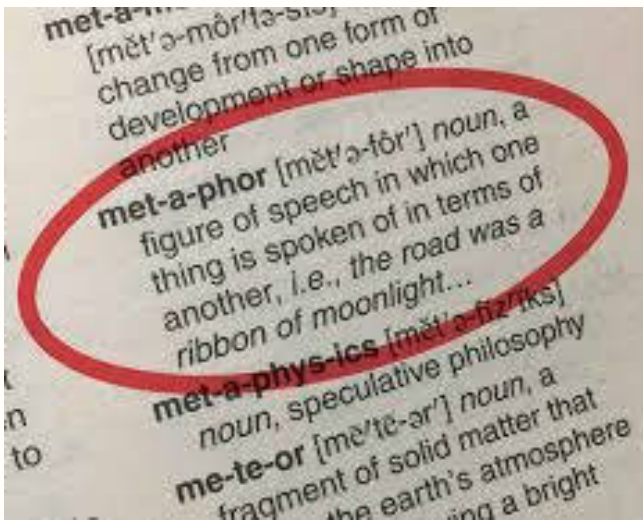


HEMANSHI MALIK

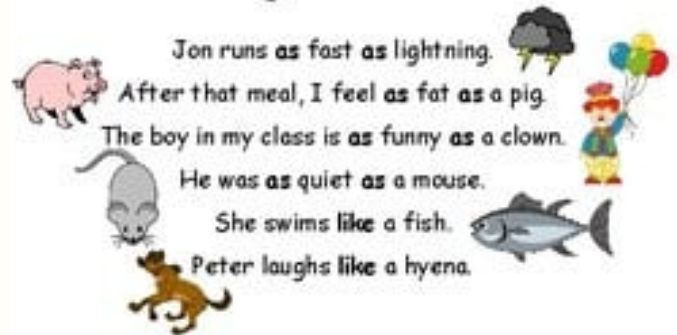
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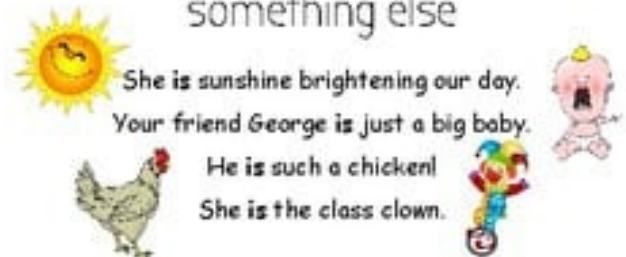
ECLECTIC



SIMILES -- compare two things using **like** or **as**



METAPHORS -- compare two things by saying something **is** something else



Similes & Metaphors

Simile: Comparing different things using "like" or "as."



The cinnamon bun was like glue.

or

The cinnamon bun was as sticky as glue.

Metaphor: Comparing different things by saying one **is** or **was** the other.

The cinnamon bun was glue. It was a hot, gooey treat!



Common Metaphors In Literature

In the speech by Martin Luther King, he equates light with freedom through the speech. Here are the examples:
"This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.
Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice."

Courtesy: Google



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