

The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp

Kathi Appelt

Reviewed by: Krista Holmstrom, 16

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In the book, *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp*, Kathi Appelt writes a fictional story of the lives of wildlife and humans intertwined. The story is clever and unique, one that combines reality with fantasy. If you enjoy reading fictional stories with animals acting in a human nature, this book is for you.

Bingo and J'miah are raccoon brothers and the newest scouts of the Sugar Man Swamp. It is their duty to report information and keep watch over the swamp. Chap Brayburn is a human, a real boy who lives near the swamp. He loves the swamp dearly, as it is very close to his heart and would do anything to protect it. It is a good thing that both the raccoon brothers and Chap are dedicated to protecting the swamp, as trouble is a brewing. They will need to be on their toes if they are going to be able to protect their precious swamp.

This is a book that I found very interesting. I liked the way that the author combined reality and fiction. She was able to intertwine the lives of animals and humans in a way that was realistic and made sense. She almost made it seem as though our lives aren't that different from animals at all, that we have the same motives and want similar outcomes for our lives. This book, despite it being fiction opened my eyes to the lives of animals and made me appreciate their presence even more, no matter how pesky the animal in real life. I believe that this book could emulate the same effect in other readers, animal enthusiasts and fiction aficionados alike.

I would recommend this book to those ages 10-12 because it is written in a manner that is welcoming for kids of all ages, however I think that those a little bit younger would appreciate the book more. *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp* is a book that I would prefer to check out from the library due to the fact that I would only enjoy reading it once in my life. Read this book by Kathi Appelt if you enjoy fictional stories about animals taking on human-like roles.