The Unlikely Adventures of Mabel Jones

Melanie Curtis

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Title: The Unlikely Adventures of Mabel Jones  
Author: Will Mabbitt  
Illustrator: Ross Collins  
Reviewer: Melanie Curtis  
Publisher: Viking  
Publication Year: 2015  
Number of Pages: 290  
Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate  
Rating: Dependable

Review

Have you ever wondered what happens if you pick your nose...and eat it? Well, according to Mabel Jones, if you commit such a vile deed you’ll be kidnapped by a band of dastardly pirates (she knows from experience). After Mabel is caught “itching her nose”, she is snatched into another world, full of blood-thirsty, villainous, animal pirates, the likes of which she has never seen before. It is only Mabel's ability to read that saves her from walking The Greasy Pole of Certain Death, and sends her on an adventure helping this rag tag crew of pirates find their much-desired treasure. From the belly of a whale, to an underground crypt, Mabel meets many a friend and foe along her journey to find her way home.

Filled with dynamic illustrations and frequent changes in font and layout style, The Unlikely Adventures of Mabel Jones keeps you visually entertained as you follow along on this crazy adventure. While driven from a narrator’s point of view, the quick jumps between narration and dialogue take some getting used to in the beginning of the book, and can make it difficult to keep track of who is speaking. But the clever writing and witty, sometimes disgusting, humor will resonate with many kids. A child on the low end of the suggested reading age may benefit from the help of an adult when reading this story.

*Contains mild violence and mild bathroom humor.