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The Invention of Hugo Cabret

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Book Review

Title: The Invention of Hugo Cabret
Author: Brian Selznick
Reviewer: Kristie Hinckley
Publisher: Scholastic Press
Publication Year: 2007
ISBN: 9780439813785
Number of Pages: 533
Interest Level: Primary, Intermediate
Rating: Outstanding



Review

There is a mystery behind the clocks in the Paris train station and a little boy named Hugo has to do with it. He was left behind in the train station when his father and uncle died. There is a broken invention that he rescued and wants to repair. After a stealing a few things from different train station vendors, his dreams are put on hold and the police are after him. A wonderful story full of heart, suspense, and dreams—The Invention of Hugo Cabret demonstrates how broken pieces can be mended together to make something beautiful.

Brian Selznick's The Invention of Hugo Cabret is 526 pages long, which may deter some children from reading it, but it is actually appropriate for most students reading on a fifth-grade reading level. There are many pictures and not too many words on each page, which makes it easier for less confident readers to pick up and read. In a classroom setting, it would be appropriate to talk about the topic of stealing because Hugo, the main character, gets into a few predicaments where he justifies stealing. The author also explores subjects such as death, friendship, and imagination. The pencil sketch illustrations in The Invention of Hugo Cabret are absolutely stunning and will pull you in from the very first pages!