Master Diplexito and Mr. Scant #1: The Thief's Apprentice

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Young Master Oliver Diplexito is bored with his life, where nothing more exciting than school ever takes place. However, that all changes when Oliver learns that his father’s butler is a famous thief known as Ruminating Claw. The Claw, or Mr. Scant as he is normally called, goes around “stealing” and then returning valuables to highly protected places, such as national museums. Oliver discovers that Mr. Scant only steals from the original thieves to return the stolen property, and so he happily becomes his apprentice. They manage to rescue Mr. Scant’s brother from the evil secret society that had been doing all the actual stealing. They then capture the leaders of that society. They all rejoice in their victory, but they also know that the danger in their lives is far from over with a looming threat coming from a band of Chinese criminals.

This book has the feel of a fantasy adventure book without actually being fantasy. The main characters are working against a society that is stealing “magical” objects, but there is not any real magic. The book is historical fiction, yet by having the characters work with the most advanced and strange technology possible to the time period, the book feels in some aspects like science fiction. By branching out to so many genres, the book is able to appeal to more readers. The main character Oliver wants to do more with his life than just coast through school, and Mr. Scant gives him the opportunity. This is a feeling that many young readers can relate to, since each of us want to go and do great things with our lives. The book shows that through hard work, a person can become more than they ever thought possible.

*Contains mild violence.