The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Nicole Davis
coley30@gmail.com

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Author: Juster, Norton
Title: The Phantom Tollbooth
Illustrator: Feiffer, Jules
Year of Publication: 2011
Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers
ISBN: 9780375869037
Number of Pages: 288
Rating: Outstanding
Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate; Young Adult
Keywords: Time; Words; Math; Learning; Adventure; Appreciation

Review:

The Phantom Tollbooth is a story about a boy named Milo who is unaware of the joys in life he is missing. After lamenting about how bored he is he finds a mysterious box in his room containing a tollbooth. By journeying through the tollbooth into a fantasy world, Milo learns to really see and enjoy life.

The Phantom Tollbooth is a classic written in 1961 that still holds valuable lessons for young and old today. Juster teaches an appreciation for things in life often taken for granted, encouraging the reader to see the whimsy in everything. Juster's writing is unique, and he uses abstract ideas in very concrete ways, including naming his princesses Rhyme and Reason. The puns and wordplay create beautiful images that bring the story to life in a fantastical Wonderland way. Juster pushes the reader to really look at the world around them without lecturing. This light hearted story, recommended for middle grades and older, has surprises at every turn and new things are discovered with each read.

Reviewers Name: Nicole Davis

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