



Trouble River

Betsy Byars

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Safety is downriver--but first there's trouble ahead.

As soon as Dewey Martin sees the Indian creeping toward the cabin--and toward his unsuspecting grandmother--he knows what to do: knock him down and take off before the rest of the raiding party arrives. The only means of escape is Dewey's homemade raft, and lying in its path are rapids, wolves, Indians, and forty miles of uncharted river. Can a boy who's never manned an oar and an old frontierswoman be the first to make it down Trouble River?

"[An] original, suspenseful story of pioneer life, enlivened by touches of humor and vivid characterizations."--*Booklist*

Trouble River Details

Date : Published September 1st 1989 by Puffin Books (first published 1969)

ISBN : 9780140342437

Author : Betsy Byars

Format : Paperback 128 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Academic, Read For School

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From Reader Review Trouble River for online ebook

Jessica Dudenhofer Beery says

Such a fun read (zipped through it in a day)! Will have to pick this one up for my collection...an exciting read about a 12-year-old boy who is forced to use his beloved homemade raft to flee raiding Indians with his grandmother and injured dog. Lots of adventure and the characterizations are spot on and well-developed for such a short book. I appreciated how respectful the boy remained, no matter how annoying his grandmother got with her "backseat driving" - LOL. Very lovable characters with a great ending.

Age: 8-10 years or so and older, depending on maturity (people are killed/burned by Indians, scalping mentioned a few times)

Themes: Pioneer days/raiding Indians/traveling on water/wilderness adventure

Morgan Wylie says

Summary: Living on the frontier has plenty of dangers, Indians being one of them. In order to save himself and his grandmother, Dewey Martin takes on a thrilling adventure down the most dangerous river, Trouble River.

Evaluation: I gave this book 4 stars. It is thrilling and keeps students on their toes. This book keeps you wondering what is going to happen next on this adventure.

Teaching Point: This would be a great book to read when teaching students about the frontier and Native Americans during this time period. It will allow students to understand more in depth of what life was possibly like for the white people and Indians on the frontier.

K.Butler says

Not one I will be reading again with my students. Although the subject perfectly fit in with our Social Studies unit on the American frontier and Native Americans, it just doesn't have enough meaty literary stuff to dig into. Thought it would be more action packed, but it bored the kids. :(

Karen says

Newbery Medal- winning author published in 1969. This one is a good example of just one of the trials and tribulations of settlers moving west. The fear of the unknown, especially "Indians" at that time was rampant as well as the tactics they used to remove those from their homes. Dewey and Grandma are alone with the dog when they are forced to leave and travel to Hunter City by the raft that Dewey had made.

Jacob says

it was not the best book i read

Barbara Lovejoy says

What a delightful book! It was #12 book from the Reading Promise Booklist. I seem to never be disappointed with a book from this list. There is even a movie based on this book, but I couldn't find the book or the movie at either our city or county library. Therefore, I bought the book with a B&N gift card given to me by husband as a Christmas gift. :)

Jenny says

The picture on the book inspired me to read this book. The grandma sitting on the raft in her rocking chair was hilarious I thought. The book itself was OK. Story a a boy and his grandma who escape an indian attack by floating his raft down the river to safety. Quick, easy read - about all I can handle nowadays with the overwhelming life I'm leading!

Anna Cavallo says

Summary: Living on the frontier has plenty of dangers, Indians being one of them. In order to save himself and his grandmother, Dewey Martin takes on a thrilling adventure down the most dangerous river, Trouble River.

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Books Kids Like says

When Dewey's father and mother go to Hunter City for the arrival of a new baby and leave Dewey and Grandma at home, they don't realize that Indians are lurking nearby. One night, while Dewey is finishing his raft, he sees an Indian and a strange glow in the sky that looks like a cabin fire. Frightened, Dewey and his grandma quickly gather some provisions, grandma's mementos and rocking chair, and set off down river on the raft. They plan on stopping at the Dargan's homestead and waiting for Dewey's parents there. Unfortunately, the Indians have killed the Dargans and burnt their cabin. There is nothing Dewey and Grandma can do but float on to Hunter City. The night that they camp on shore, they are attacked by wolves. Soon after that they encounter dangerous rapids. Narrowly escaping death several times they arrive in Hunter City wet, bedraggled, and hungry. I can still see Grandma sitting in her rocking chair on the raft!!!

Bethany says

Read with the kids. Quite the little drama! lol.

Cassidy says

I HATE THIS BOOK, AND I WILL HATE THIS BOOK FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE!!!

Jackie Bonath says

This was a very cute book with lots of action. I think that my students will enjoy reading it for historical fiction book clubs.

Kayla says

This is a really wierd book...

Liam Murphy says

This book was exciting and I was almost 100 percent sure it would end very badly. I thought the dog the grandma the pa and the ma were going to die.
I was wrong.

Mia says

This book was HORRIBLE. I could see how Byars may have tried to make it an adventurous book but it really was not good. I may be wrong because I am a 10 year old, and I read it in class with my teacher, but I rate it 1. Dewey and Grandma were not likable characters, and the plot was not interesting.

- MIA
