



Mister Teacher

Jack Sheffield

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It's 1978, and Jack Sheffield begins his second year as headmaster of a small village primary school in North Yorkshire. There are three letters on his desk - one makes him smile, one makes him sad and one is destined to change his life forever. This is from nine-year-old Sebastian, suffering from leukaemia in the local hospital, who writes a heartbreaking letter addressed to 'Mister Teacher'. Jack tries to help, and so begins a journey through the seasons of Yorkshire life in which the school is the natural centre of the community.

There's a colourful cast of characters who accompany Jack through the ups and downs of the school year including Vera, the school secretary who worships Margaret Thatcher and whose greatest ambition is to become President of the Women's Institute; Ruby, the 20-stone caretaker who sings like Julie Andrews; and Dorothy, the coffee shop assistant who is desperate to be Wonder Woman. Most of all, there is the lovely Beth Henderson, a teacher from a nearby school, who with her sister Laura presents Jack with an unexpected dilemma ...

Mister Teacher Details

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Author : Jack Sheffield

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From Reader Review Mister Teacher for online ebook

P.S. Winn says

Book 2 in the series and it is heart warming and fun as Jack heads back to the school and through some letters learns the tragedies some are going through and tries to hep.

Margaret Bamford says

A pleasant read with a lot of humour.

Laura says

I love this series from the cultural references, to the community story and the feel of nostalgia that resonates when I read this. Can't wait to dive into the next book!

Alan says

It's a bit like watching the Phantom Menace - I started with what I now understand is book THREE in the series, and have now just finished book TWO, so I need to get book ONE later, and have just realised book FOUR is due to be published, and FIVE is in progress...

I remembered more about 1978/9 - the topical references are great, especially viewed through a long lens. I especially noted references to Harry Potter, Designer Labels and Saddam Hussain...

Another enjoyable romp through the late 70s

I read this 'Teacher' book and Educating Rita as the 'student' book for challenge 15.10

Petermcgehan says

An engaging read, a series of human interest episodes with an underlying love story which remains unrequited but progresses through the course of the book.

I hope this doesn't sound too lukewarm because it was nice to pull the book out of my bag and get into the next chapter on the train to work or back.

Chris says

Thoroughly enjoyed this. Fantastic observations on the people around him and some funny anecdotes,

especially with the benefit of hindsight and things we know have now happened. "Harry Potter - everyone will soon forget that name!" LOL It is simply written so an easy read but the human and heart warming sentiment is not lost and it is fantastic when the village bully finally gets his comeuppance. The small stories of things the children say and write and interjected with observations about the villagers lives and some sad and happy tales of their living, loving and leaving, followed by comments on Jack's personal life, especially the dilemmas he faces in his love life.

A gentle read at the end of the day that will make you laugh out loud and smile with sentiment and look back at a different era, sometimes with rose tinted glasses and sometimes with harsh reality that life was actually tough then too.

Rachel pearson says

The story of `Mister Teacher' is a semi-autobiographical recollection of events and experiences of author Jack Sheffield from his days as a headteacher of a school in North Yorkshire. It is written in the first person in a delightful and gentle manner where characters are attractive and appealing even though some have roguish or intimidating tendencies. Apart from the headteacher as main protagonist the cast is largely his staff and pupils, but there are continuing encounters with villagers and school authorities. Each chapter embraces a separate tale with dates and extracts from a school logbook as headings to be linked with the narrative's indications of cultural and political occurrences ongoing at the time. Big changes were underway in education, lifestyle and society at large, and Jack Sheffield skilfully interweaves observations and pronouncements on these general matters with hilarious yet perplexing tales based on school and village situations. In easy to read manner this is accomplished with much humour yet also a degree of pathos, and readers are stimulated to think in addition to being entertained with heartening tales.

Being from Yorkshire it's extra special series !!

Julie says

Fabulous; feel happy book ; funny and heartwarming

Arpita says

Charming.

Juliana Graham says

I was keen to read this book as it's the next in Jack Sheffield's series and I really wanted to know what was going to happen to all the characters!

I like the fact that the years these books are set in nearly mirror my own school years (I'm about 3 years too young) so references to things going on in education and the classroom ring many familiar bells in my mind.

One thing that did annoy me slightly is the use of hindsight to make jokes. For example there are comments about Harry Potter (having a boring name that nobody will remember). These seem a bit forced as obviously if this was really a memoir from the time this comment makes no sense at all!

Otherwise though I enjoyed the book a lot and have already started the next one in the series (things are still up in the air for our hero!)

ReaderSP says

I haven't read Teacher, Teacher and was pleasantly surprised that I could read the sequel without any issues. This book was given to me by a friend and I started it straight away.

This is basically an autobiography of Jack Sheffield and depicts his tales as a Head Teacher at a village school in Yorkshire. The book is set in the late seventies, when the world was a seemingly different place. The story shows how simple everything must have been then, only merely 30 years ago, and also Jack Sheffield has achieved in showing the reader that actually a lot has changed in this time. This is a pleasant, unique tale which is actually quite funny. The story warms your heart and makes you realise how nice and simple things used to be. I enjoyed this book and will read the next instalment shortly.

Paula Moncur says

I've finished this book eventually. Again Mr Jack Sheffield didn't disappoint. Looking forward to the next in the series following Jack's life.

Janey says

Wholesome read, with some humour.

Grammar*Kitten says

My mum is a teacher, and I have grown up socialising with a lot of her teacher friends; reading this book made me howl with laughter. It is poignant and funny, and reminds me of hearing stories straight from the classroom!

A brilliant read that I'd recommend to teachers, parents, or just anyone who can appreciate the funny things that kids say and do.

Sue says

Sequel to 'Teacher, Teacher', this book documents the second year of Jack Sheffield's life as headmaster in the fictional Ragley School, a small primary school set in a village in Yorkshire.

It continues many of the threads started in the previous book, and introduces some new and interesting characters. As with the first book, there are some amusing parts, and some which are quite emotional. The sub-plots are many, and mostly believable; the book well-written on the whole.

I did find myself annoyed in a few places when incidents were described, or even emotions explained in situations where the narrator (who uses the first person) was not present. The editor should surely have picked that up; the section where Jack's 'young lady' Beth applies for a Head post in another school was one such section that I found distinctly irritating.

Overall, though, a very enjoyable read.
