

EXCUSE ME , IS THIS INDIA?

By Anushka Ravishankar

Sub: Introduction to
Children's literature (PG 2)
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2019-2021

ANUSHKA RAVISHANKAR


- Award winning author of Children's books
- She sent her first few stories to Tinkle digest, later they offered her a job.
- She worked as a freelance initially as she had to look after her daughter.
- Then hired as an editor at Tara Books.
- Authored "Tiger on a Tree".
- writes both picture books and chapter books.
- Well known for her use of Nonsensical verse.
- Influenced by Lewis Carroll.
- Most of her works have cultural appeal on its readers.
- Called as "Indian Dr. Sue".
- Other works: Catch that Crocodile, Elephants never forget.
- Most of her works are inspired by real events.

NONSENSICAL VERSE

- A form of light verse , usually for children, depicting imaginative characters in amusing situation of fantasy,whimsical (playful, fanciful) in tone and with a rhythmic appeal , often employing fanciful phrases and meaningless words.
- Used for pure fun.
- In some cases, the humor of nonsense verse is based on the incompatibility of phrases which make grammatical sense but semantic nonsense at least in certain interpretations.
- Other nonsense verse makes use of nonsense words without a clear meaning or any meaning at all. Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear both made good use of this type of nonsense in some of their verse.
- Other nonsense verse uses muddled or ambiguous grammar as well as invented word

POEM ANALYSIS

- The poem inculcates a curiosity to travel to India in young children.
- Creates a realisation that each nation has their own culture.
- Exposed to some of the Indian cultures(Elephant, temple, bandicoots, girl with the broom, kumaran silks, Autorikshaw, Crows cawing in the beach, cows eating plastics at the beach).
- Child readers informed about directions.
- Destination does not matter but journey does: profound message about life.
- Travelogue through a child's imagination.
- Lyrical /musical quality attracts children's attention.
- Use of bright colours attract as well as portray the diverse and vibrant culture of India.

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- Illustrations are stitched on a quilt, which is a method of communication used from very old ages.
 - It was earlier also used to capture memories.
 - Illustrations are all simple and easy to the eye.
 - Repressed emotions and desires find expression through dreams.
 - Indian spaces exposed to European Children.