

A Tale of Triumph and Resilience told via Narrative, Natation, Navigation and The Ordeals of Life.

A Fin-Tastic Tail: *Fish Boy*, a beautiful novel written by Chloe Daykin, is an engrossing story that tells a tale that urges the reader to dive deep into the unfathomable and oceanic, as well as vivid thoughts and internal imagery of a young boy named Billy.

The main character, Billy (my favourite character within the book), is a youthful chap who is full of vim and vigour. Billy has a feeling about himself... he thinks of himself as somewhat of a *fish out of water* within the seaside town in which the story takes place. Billy faces many challenges at school. He is, far too often, the target of some of the less savoury aspects of school life and he does not exactly feel fully accepted. The vastness of the deep and briny seas, the oceans and their seeming endlessness, provide the gentle Billy with much comfort in the face of his unfortunate trials and tribulations at school and beyond.

Billy embarks on a journey of courage and acceptance. Thanks to meeting a *rather interesting individual* along the way, Billy makes deep discoveries about the realms of the vast oceans that he admires as well as learning about himself too. His innocence, his limitless thoughts, and his whimsical nature always lead him to question the frontiers between the realms of that which one believes to be tangible and those that are thought to be fanciful. I think that this is a very profound story that will take the reader on journey that is full of discovery.

The story covers many topics and many matters that many readers will be familiar with, namely: relationships; companionship; loved ones; and wellbeing. I am sure that many readers will either be familiar with some of the situations and circumstances described within the book or, perhaps, you might have some appreciation of the main character's experiences. It made me feel almost as if the book was talking to me, reaching out to me, and trying to tell me the truth about life.

I would recommend this book to readers that are prepared to be challenged, both in terms of the themes that are covered within the story but also with regards to the messages, and their significance. I would also encourage parents to read this book, not only because it is enthralling, but, moreover, because it gives an insight into the mind and thoughts of a lovely young boy.

Fish Boy by Chloe Daykin would be, I believe, very much suited to readers who enjoyed *Wonder* by Raquel Jaramillo Palacio. I encourage all of you to dive into this tale and let the oceanic undulations of wonder transport you to new profundities of your imagination.

I would definitely give Fish Boy five out of five stars.

Michael

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