



The Adventures of Odd and Elsewhere | The Secret of the Seven Bright Shiners

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Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

It's nearly ten years since I first read 'Odd and Elsewhere' to an enthralled class of nine and ten-year-olds. Odd is a bear and Elsewhere a superannuated circus clown. They live in Fenton House in Hampstead with Hallelujah Jones and his daughter Collander Moll. In **The Adventures**...there is fast-moving fun as the pair become involved in a whirlwind trip around London (including some busking and high jinks at the Royal Dolls' Hospital). There's action, glorious humour and the quirky eccentricity that's the hallmark of so much of the best writing for this age group. Do try it: it reads aloud perfectly and Brian Robb's line drawings and splendid cover are an object lesson in 'how to complement a rattling good story'.

In **The Secret**...there is a richer, more diverse plot. Characters from the first are extended and the two become involved tracking down a gang of thieves. The canvas is vast, kaleidoscopic, but never becomes obscure: the action ranges from Fenton House to a circus to a Welsh village and the hilarious climax is set against a televised opera production. There are five more 'Odd and Elsewhere' stories: I hope they're in paperback before too long.

Running Order:

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