

YA BookTalk: *Out From Boneville* by Jeff Smith

Out From Boneville is the first graphic novel in Jeff's Smith's 9 book series that follows Fone Bone's treacherous adventures in a mysterious valley Oasis.

Plot Summary

The story begins with three desert wanderers, Fone Bone, Smiley Bone, and Phoney Bone, who have just been chased out of the only home they've ever known: Boneville. After a sudden swarm of locusts separates the three cousins, Fone Bone must navigate his own way through a strange new world filled with talking bugs, cynical dragons, dangerous rat creatures, and one exceptional teenager named Thorn. While Fone Bone searches for his lost cousins, he finds himself falling in love with Thorn, and becoming tangled up in complex matters such as the war between the rat creatures and the humans, the secret agenda of the dragons, and a persistently ominous hooded figure.

Appeal Factors

For the past 22 years, The Bone Series has been a favourite of teens and adults alike, merging a swift plot line with clever artwork and delightful humor. Although the childlike appearance of the main character may raise concerns with teens, the Bone series tackles topics that will appeal to older readers such as politics, vengeance, first love, self-identity, and world order.

Teens who enjoy offbeat fantasy stories like *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Here There Be dragons*, or *Abarat*, will love the Bone series.

Reviews

The series has been well received by professional reviewers and authors alike. Time Magazine says that Jeff Smith's *Bone* is "as sweeping as the Lord of the Rings cycles, but much funnier" and Neil Gaiman says "Jeff Smith can pace a joke better than almost anyone in comics."

Intended Audience

Teens of any age who are looking for a fast-paced humorous fantasy story, that tackles big issues while maintaining a lighthearted tone, will find what they're looking for in Jeff Smith's *Out From Boneville*.

Full Citation

Smith, Jeff. *Out From Boneville*. Singapore: Scholastic Inc., 1991. Print.