By The River

I read the book “By the River” by Steven Herrick. The book takes place in the past about a boy named Harry Hodby. Harry got his name after being like Harry Houdini, he escapes from trouble often. Harry has a very tough life in the book because his family is poor and they live in an old run down house. His mother and best friend were also taken from him by tragic floods. The book picks up right after the flood that takes his best friend. Other than some flash backs there isn’t a lot of action in this book. One of the only times the book gets really interesting is when Harry sees Miss Spencer, the secretary of the school, who he is in love with making out with another boy. He throws a rock through the window and immediately runs home as fast as he can. The boy carries out a search for over a week and offers a pound to anyone who catches the culprit, but Harry is never caught. Harry is very troubled by all these things that happen to him and has dreams of running away and leaving the town, but he never does. The book was very calm and pretty slow, so I wouldn’t recommend this book to anyone who gets bored easily. Harry never gets in heated arguments or fights and the book but still stays pretty interesting. One thing about it though is that if you think you can just read it without really paying attention you are wrong, the book is written in poetry form and is often hard to understand, I had to go back and reread pages several times just to get what it was talking about. This was nice because it made a 238 page book seem like a 100 page book, but on the flip side it’s often hard to understand what’s going on. Whenever Harry would have a flashback or would be dreaming about something it would be hard for me to pick up on that, and I would often have no idea at all what was going on. One thing I liked about the book was that it seemed like there was a little bit of mystery on how his best friend died, because you never know what she was doing when she drowned and it feels to me like perhaps there was somebody else involved. I would rate the book 4 out of 5 stars. It interesting and you really felt bad for Harry when you were reading it. Although it was hard to understand at certain parts and required full attention to understand, and even than that sometimes wasn’t enough for me to not get lost. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants a calm relaxed book, or something they can read in a day. I wouldn’t recommend this to anyone who needs constant action to stay focused or loses interest quickly because the book takes a while for you to really get sucked in and want to finish it. I would say that I liked the book.