Summary

I read the book *By the River* by Steven Herrick. This book is about a young boy named Harry. Harry is named after Harry Houdini, an escape artist which is weird because he is always finding ways to get out of trouble in the town. He lives by a river in a small town in Australia. He dislikes this place and thinks it’s the most boring place to live. He also hates the place because it reminds him of the tragic deaths. Harry dreams about running away from home almost every day. Harry’s mother recently died tragically when he was 7 years old leaving his father to raise him and his brother. His friend, Linda, also died in a flood that came through the town.

Harry eventually falls in love with the secretary of the school, Miss Spencer. One day while he was walking past someone’s house, he saw Miss Spencer kissing someone else. He threw a rock through the window and ran home as fast as he could. Luckily, they never find out it was him. He eventually started to die down on falling in love with her.

Eventually Harry starts to think negative and wanting to run away from and see the good in everything. Also he makes friends with his arch enemy Johnny.

This book has random flashbacks and goes back to the tragic deaths a lot. Harry doesn’t want to run away from the town he wants to run away from the tragic past.

Recommendation

I thought this book was an alright book. It got very boring at times and made me want to put it down. I liked that it was written like poetry. It was easier to read and understand.

This book has many dramatic tragedies including the death of his mother and Linda. Harry has spent the time since the flood trying to figure out how Linda could have possibly drowned. Harry never finds out how Linda drowned, but he learned how to deal with his feelings and live his life the best he can.

I would say this book had a depressing setting and plot. When they talk about how he doesn’t even know how she would have drown and how he was wondering what she was doing before she died. The book wasn’t very interesting. The reason it wasn’t very interesting is because they mainly just talk about the tragic deaths. Before like I said there were just lots of flashbacks concerning the flood so that made the book dull.

Overall I think the book had its ups and downs. It had its goods and bads, but I think the book has its values. I think it was a book worth reading. If you like to read about tragedies and the Australian world then this book would be perfect for you.