

THE PRESENTATION OF SIMPLE THINGS IN RUSKIN BOND'S NOVELS

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of
Bachelor of Arts degree in English

By
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38010001



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

SATHYABAMA

**INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)**

Accredited with Grade "A" by NAAC

JEPPIAAR NAGAR, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 119

APRIL 2021



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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this Project Report is the bonafide work of **ABINAYA. I** (38010001) who have done the Project work. She has carried out the project entitled **"The Presentation of Simple Things in Ruskin Bond's Novels"** under my supervision from June 2020 to April 2021.

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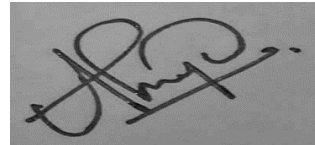
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DECLARATION

I, **ABINAYA**. I hereby declare that the Project Report entitled ***The Presentation of Simple Things in Ruskin Bond's Novels*** done by me under the guidance of **Dr. J. Amutha Monica**, is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Arts degree in **Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology**.

DATE: 05.04.2021

PLACE:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Abinaya'.

SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am pleased to acknowledge my sincere thanks to the Board of Management of SATHYABAMA for their kind encouragement in doing this project and for completing it successfully. I am grateful to them.

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ABSTRACT

This research is a brief study with reference to the dream theory which discusses on the “***The Presentation of Simple Things in Ruskin Bond’s Novels***” the focus of this research is on Ruskin Bond’s works which are like the epitome of nostalgia. They often transports the reader into a world of old school and simple things. His books have been entertaining both young and old readers for decades.

I basically wanted to highlight how his works are mainly focussed on the Joy of Simple things, which he portrays in very much detail and it makes it appear Magnificent to the Readers. Not every Author is blessed with such a way of narration, it is kind of difficult to achieve such poise and perfection in this kind of narration. Ruskin’s writing style is also to be appreciated which we will see in detail further forward. Bond has also made very sure that his books would deliver the enjoyment of the pleasure of simplicity to his readers. His books also has helped to develop an adequate internal peace without artifice.

The novels are great teachers for moral development. Another reason for choosing his novels is, he is very simple with his language, doesn’t actually complicate the structure of the novel either. So the novels I have chosen for this research are, *The Little Book of Everything* (2003), *Rusty Runs Away* (2003), *Rusty and the Magic Mountain* (2015). The main reason why all these novels has a huge publishing gap is because I tried to capture and prove that the rhythm and simplicity of his works haven’t changed and continues to be extraordinary in all times which we will discuss in coming chapters.

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CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION- A WRITER WITHOUT REGRETS

“Happiness is as exclusive as a butterfly, and you must never pursue it. If you stay very still, it may come and settle on your hand. But only briefly. Savour those moments, for they will not come in your way very often.”

- Ruskin Bond, *A Little Book of Life*.

Ruskin Bond is amongst the most well-known writers and authors of India. His very first novel was, *“The Room On the Roof”*, which he wrote at the age of seventeen and earned the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial prize in the year 1957. His works are very vivid and enjoyable to all age group readers which is a main fact to appreciate, also young Ruskin Bond managed to captivated all kinds of readers throughout his work which is notable.

Bond’s love for India and its diversity is what prompted him to set stories on the mountains, painting pictures in a variety of colours. His love for the Indian culture, the languages and the people deeply inspires his stories. Being a writer for over 50 years Bond experimented with different genres, his early works include fiction, short stories and also little autobiography. Later he tried out Non –Fiction, Romance and also books for children. Also his essays and short stories are very much notable.

Ruskin Bond is one of those writers who refuses to be brought down by predictability. His works vary in terms of language, style and most importantly the story. The stories about unusual friendships, first love, and spending some time with his father accompanied by the beautiful imagery of sprawling mountains and streams. His books sure do teach us that small everyday things can be a source of art and pleasure as well.

“It’s the simple things in life that keep us from going crazy” sure they do. His books and essays are very witty and humorous, one can associate his works with books, philosophy, love and simple perfect things. It serves as a gateway to know the person behind our favourite stories. Though ‘Children’s Author’ is a tag that he is

usually associated with, Bond began writing for children in his Forties only. So he wasn't only a great writer but also an avid reader, he says in one of his interviews that he started reading books just because his primary schooling was strict and tough on his childhood. And he also recalls an incident where he first used books was when was getting caned. Yes, Interesting enough? One of his friends advised him to stuff two books down his trousers just so to minimise the pain while getting caned. He precisely names the book also, the two books he first stuffed through his trousers and the first books he tried reading and led him to this beautiful art of writing were, "Shakespeare's As You Like It" and 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde". The Headmaster found the books though but still he was led to becoming a book worm who loved reading "Shakespeare, Dickens and Daphne du Maurier, Somerset Maugham," among others.

From reading he sprang to writing, Bond also added that he wanted to emulate his favourite authors and he wrote his first novel, "The Room on the Roof" when he was Seventeen. This novel is all about Rusty an Anglo Indian teenager living in the European colony of Dehradun, who runs away from his guardian Mr Harrison, which leads him to a new world of love, friendship , food and more. At first his books were rather autobiographical, later he had introduced new characters to his novels and kind of fictionalised it. He also says publishing the book wasn't easy, it took nearly one year to find a good publisher and all these has helped to make it known and make him known. He also hasn't changed a word of the novel since then, when he wrote the book he was an adolescent and there were things in the book that could be improved by the writing point of view. But never touched it because he wanted it to represent him as he was then, which is a really beautiful thought.

There is some kind of magic in his writing, the kind of magic where you inner child is awestricken and wants more of it and even if you get more, it isn't enough and keeps the childlike wonder on always. He has a great sense of humour, which adds life to his writings. There is something Peter- panish about Bond, despite his wrinkles and shaky hands and grey hair. He has great sense of possibility and amazing sense of humour. His Boyhood's magic never left him neither us because, that's the period he wrote about the most. He has introduced great characters like, Uncle Ken, a Grandfather in a petticoat feeding his owls, The little Princesses his

father taught at a palace school in Jamnagar and this is where Bond learnt the skill of reading upside down an superior skill. He says he was always happy and loved to write about children. He once said children like him because he loves them, he wrote about children for practical reasons but thought it was fun too, so he writes more about children but he is focussing on both children and adults in equal measure but in his whole writing experience he says children are the most difficult to please. “An Adult will put up with two or three chapters but a child will not”, he says that’s why he gives extra effort of time, thinking and also never fails to add his magic to his writings for children.

Nature, Children, memories, nostalgia, the hills of Dehradun, family, animals maybe Ghosts also has found their way into his writings. He enjoys writing be it Prose, Poetry, Short stories not only fully fledged Novels. Bond remembers and recreates many memories and landscapes and that’s what makes them beautifully, The empty railway station at Shamli, the sleepy, lazy version of Dehradun, He is both greater narrator and writer. Bond is a very subjective writer, admitting that he can rarely detach himself from the story. Critics say it is important for a writer to know when and where to detach himself from the story, but Ruskin Bond believes and proves it wrong he loves to narrate the story through his eyes. He uses simple words knitted softly in a sentence, that’s what made him very successful in receiving the love and admiration from the children. So let’s take a look what makes his stories especially the Rusty series, a good read for adults of every age group? Is it the thrill or the adventure one experiences while travelling to the unknown places.

For instance, there is this novel where Rusty and his friends, Pitambar and Popat begins an adventure journey on the mighty and mysterious Himalayas. Rusty always wanted to climb over a witch mountain which was woven by many superstitious stories have grown over years. As you read you can see Rusty and his friends dealing with Man-eating Tigers. This is not just it, they come across strange looking tall men and a queen who pets, hundreds of crows and a beautiful mysterious princess and also a colony of dwarfs. But don’t you worry child, the story has a share of fun moments, especially his friends and their innocent dumb acts. It was always full of surprises and adventure of anyone who read these topics soothed the adult readers also. Ruskin describes Rusty as a boy who didn’t just want to write mystery

but also live one. Even for slow readers this book is a gift, it keeps you hooked to the story and the narration is at its best. And Rusty's grandmother's words are to live by,

"Always expect something good to happen ,Good thoughts and feelings usually lead to good results" There is certain charm and magic while reading , few books can also evoke. It could immediately immerse you in a cosy, warm and snug place. Few writers have been as overwhelmingly and consistently autobiographical as Ruskin Bond, however his creative being cannot be understood. Bond's development as a writer are, His life and its influence on his works and his obsession with childhood. His writings are distinguished by their immense variety and their alluring simplicity.

John Ruskin was born in 1934, in Kasauli, a little town in Himachal Pradesh, India. Ruskin was named after John Ruskin famous Victorian Essayist, for whom his father had great respect and admiration. From a tender age he noticed and had to go through strained and tough relationship between his parents. His mother was only eighteen when she was married Aubrey Alexander Bond, who is fifteen years elder to her, which is twice her age. She loved outdoor life, parties and was a fun loving extrovert. Her husband was however a sedate introvert and was most comfortable when engaged in domestic chores at home. With such diametrically opposing temperaments, their marriage was doomed from the beginning. Their enormous age difference only heightened their incompatibility.

Obviously this had affected Ruskin's life, when he was eight years old, his mother walked out of their house, one day, never to return. This domestic upheaval left a deep scar on young Ruskin's sensitive mind. It gave birth to a feeling of insecurity and helplessness in him. Bond however had a complicated relationship with his mother, who was rarely there to offer him affection and they eventually grew distant. His father's undivided attention helped him grow. He felt loved and secure but his tragic departure from his life left him lonely and broken, later he moved to his Grandparents house in Dehradun where he was raised by his Grandmother. He received his early education from Bishop Cotton School in Shimla.

During his school years he won several writing competitions, including the Hailey Literature Prize and the Irwin Divinity Prize. In 1952, he completed his graduation and moved to England and stayed at his aunt's house for four years. The

first twenty years he was groomed to be a writer as it developed his personality in such a way. Despite his sufferings and loneliness, Ruskin bond always had a optimistic outlook on life. At the age of seventeen he wrote his first ever novel, *The Room on the roof*. The novel charts the life of an orphaned Anglo Indian teenager. He runs away to live with his friends and to escape the strict guardian. The book has a strong autobiographical element as it's based on actual experiences living in a small rented room on the roof in Dehradun. It was not published until he was twenty-one. He was awarded John Llwellyn Rhys Memorial prize for his first novel. Its success gave him that confident push which now led to beautiful and brilliant collections of Ruskin Bond. Later he went abroad subsequently he returned to India and worked as a journalist in Delhi and Dehradun for a few years. Later he relocated to a little town at the foothills of Himalayas, Missouri, where he pursued freelance writing since 1963.

His essays and articles were published in numerous magazines such as *The Pioneer*, *The Leader*, *The Tribune* and *The Telegraph*. Till now he has wrote over three hundred short stories, essays and novels and over thirty children's books. Additionally he penned two autobiographical volumes, "*Scenes from a Writer's life* and *The Lamp is lit, Leaves from a journal*" The first one details his formative years in India and the second one is based on journal entries, essay collection and episodes about his years making it as a freelance writers. "And when all the wars are over, a butterfly will still be beautiful". This quote itself gives us chills, so you can imagine what his books are like. To put it in simple words his works were beautifully slow yet brilliantly engrossing. The way he played with the adjectives and nouns in a sentence felt as if I were in those books. He did not pay much attention to great detail neither had a mind boggling plot or suspense unlike other authors, what he possess though was the fluidity that everyone needs to experience once in their life. It is simple yet magnificent. He is in my opinion one of the best authors I've ever read and would suggest anyone I meet to gaze upon his literature.

So I have chosen three novels for this research, the first one is *Rusty runs away*" (2003). It is an excellent story which touches the reader deeply. It is a story about a shy, sensitive boy Rusty who has a lonely childhood after the death of his father, it is a story of almost all kids who has to grow through a lonely childhood. So Rusty the young boy is very much deprived of parental love and craves for heartfelt

love. Rusty is not very compatible with his stepfather so he moves to a guardians place but unfortunately his guardians find him as a problem or a burden. Set in Dehradun with a vivid description of its natural beauty, he encounters with Mrs Mackenzie is highly touching. It shows how a small boy and an old lady share their mutual love for flowers. This also kind of disturbs Rusty's guardians and he is sent to a boarding school, there Rusty finds friendship in someone who shares his dreams, later he and his friend decides to chase their dream together, which is sailing across the world. The hardships they endure on way to Jamnagar and their subsequent failure to find Rusty's uncle's ship evokes sympathy. When Rusty is sent to a new school in Shimla he bond with another boy called Omar. After an unpleasant encounter with his guardian Rusty runs away again but this time he finds himself admist the love and affection of his friends.

This story will tug your heart and compel to go back to your boyhood days. His days spent in his guardian's house doesn't feel like home. Rusty goes through several emotions, he is really confused, scared, tired, helpless, hopeless, lonely and sad. He is confused because he is a young boy between the age of an adult and child and doesn't know who to follow or what his future holds. He is obliged to follow the orders and rules of his guardian and dares not disobey him. He feels helpless.

Rusty had no friends back in his guardians place hence feels worried and lonely but however his school life has helped him overcome those emotions and tired looking in the positive side of his life. However Bond only specifies the present moment in the book he didn't jinx it with the future, of course he gave a small glimpse of hope here and there but always put the present happening moment first and glorifies the simple great things like new friendships, little deeds of joy, a small boy's happiness and light heartness were in those moments he doesn't have to worry about anything happening in his life, he enjoys the present to the fullest.

So this book is followed by the successful first book, "Rusty the boy from the Hills". The author has wrote each and every sentence in a way that he could make beginners speakers of English to have no problem reading this book. The story takes place around Rusty, the protagonist of this novel. In each chapter he meets new and interesting characters, who show him love and care and care him from the loss of his

parents. Rusty's guardian is very firm and rude with him, but still Rusty is very respectful towards him and doesn't throw any tantrums. Rusty pays attention to few characters like, Miss Mackenzie, Ko Ki, Puran, a woman on Platform No.8, Daljit, Omar, Somi, Ranbir and Kishen who returns the same with love.

Mr Bond is so detailed and well versed with descriptions that it needs constant reminding that this is fiction interspersed with the actual experiences of Mr Bond. Anyone who wants to explore Mr Bond's work should start here and then proceed to *The Room on the Roof*. Ruskin Bond enthralls, excites and surprises me every time and this gem is not an exception. It is indeed a very interesting and comforting book. The stories are very good. The nature is described as heaven. This book makes us imagine every line of it. Stories are sweet and interesting. The events and the places are so nicely described that it seems like we are experiencing it and are there in that place.

I enjoyed reading this book the most in comparison with Ruskin Bonds other books because it gave a glimpse into the olden Indian bazaar and the life's of the Anglo Indian community, culture and how they have adapted India as their home. The title story is the best story it actually makes you think your the one running away, I think it would be better to allow you to grab your copy and experience the magic of Rusty's lives adventure! This book also depicts the mental state of teenagers.

Ruskin Bond found a resemblance with David Copperfield who sustained himself in an unfriendly world. The thought that children are rarely given attention by their elders, made him more sympathetic towards them. The children he came across in village, their everyday experiences suggested themes for his stories. Later we will throw light on his children's stories and presents a detailed analysis of children's literature in India by comparing and contrasting his children's stories with other children's story writers. Ruskin Bond loves children because they are not deceptive. All children love freedom jumping in pools, climbing on trees and are always curious to know about their surroundings. Ruskin Bond is more close to children of the world because they have same nature whether they belong to East or the West.

CHAPTER II

THE PRESENTATION OF SIMPLE THINGS IN RUSKIN BOND'S NOVELS

Ruskin Bond has a strange bond with nature. Nobody can get bored in this love relationship. There is always something new in nature. The nearer one goes to nature the greater the fascination is. If a person is in love with nature he can never be a pessimist because of nature's fecundity. He found infinite impressions and unending material in nature to write about. He never yearned for a luxurious life of city rather he preferred to live in the lap of nature and really felt comforted in this company. His love for nature is described with illustrations in his stories. In nature he found a healing and therapeutic power for everyone who observed her minutely. His father grounded love of nature in him when he was quite young. He has given major attention to nature which represents his extra ordinary attention to nature. It taught Ruskin Bond to live his life in his own way. He found nature very receptive and gave him a feeling of security. However Bond's is an ardent lover of mankind but many of his love stories have a tragic end. Ruskin Bond did not approve of married love Donne, because he had experienced the bitterness of a broken family. To him marriage is first a restraint which results in unhappiness.

The bitter experience of his broken family did not let him think about the happiness of married life, hence his love stories end on a note of despair. He records his own life experience of life and observations about things and people which leave an abiding effect on his mind, hence he creates stories from his surroundings. There is a variety of themes he employs in his stories, they pertain to love, pets, animals, children and object of nature. His sober temperament affected his life style. In the last chapter a detailed analysis of Ruskin Bond's thematic concerns is taken into account as he writes on various themes and is never short of material. He can get a theme or plot of his story from a flower, a leaf. A prig, a worm, or an ant crawling on his desk. Ruskin Bond is a close observer of things around him. Like great writers namely, Dickens, Chekhov, and Samuel Beckett, his fictional world reflects his own experiences. He could get themes for his stories in the world where he lived because he depended entirely on what he saw around him.

Ruskin Bond's deprived life influenced his writing from his childhood to adulthood, for he encountered a number of difficulties and yet he managed to become a good writer. Ruskin Bond could not pursue higher studies due to lack of resources. After his father's untimely death Ruskin Bond lost everything in his life because his mother remarried an Indian named Mr Hari and did not love her son in a befitting manner. Ruskin Bond had his primary education in the boarding school of Mussoorie. In his autobiography, "Scenes from a Writer's Life" he refers frequently to the fond memories of his father. He describes in detail the days he spent with his father at Jamnagar, Shimla and Dehradun. Ruskin Bond's life and experiences from his childhood to adulthood are presented in detail along with his achievements starting from his first novel, which was published when Ruskin Bond was only seventeen years old to the mature age of seventy because Ruskin Bond is still contributing to English literature.

Ruskin Bond's early life at woods in early age has built up a strong emotional bond between him and the nature which urge him to take necessary steps to safeguard nature, like Robert Frost he stands in front of the woods dark and deep, unlike him he enters them and discovers the very soul of the woods , which in turn transformed him into a visionary. Being a visionary, he recognizes the need for ecological balance and calls to turn towards the essential need of the hour, recognizing human nature interdependence. The destruction of forest means death of flora and fauna, finally death of the man. Destroying the ecological balance kills all forms of life. When man shows no mercy towards nature then someday nature will show no mercy at all leading to a complete disaster Bond insists. It is in the hands of mankind to preserve or spoil earth and hence it is the duty of every individual to cherish and nurture the life giving force for the future generations and with a positive note he has concluded many of his short stories like, "An Island of Trees". Here also he has stated beautifully a simple thing with so much poise and perfection.

Ruskin Bond attempts to analyse human psychology in his short stories. He deals with the elemental and impulsive life of man. He tells the stories objectively and beyond all these things his stories shows goodness of man's heart and his faith in the supreme power. Ruskin attempts to analyse human psychology in his short stories. He deals with the elemental and impulsive life of man. He tells the stories objectively and

beyond all these things his stories shows goodness of man's heart and faith in the supreme power. He has innate power to produce the influence of one's emotions, sounds and sights that thrills the senses of other man, it is due to his profound faith in God. As a writer he has put goodness of man and dignity of human self above all considerations this is the real reason sometimes our heart is filled with pleasure and a sense of spiritual satisfaction. Ruskin is a writer of children and when we talk about children a sense of innocence creeps over our mind. The bent of mind of the author takes it in a religious way, he wants to show us innocence of nature, the basic decencies of god. God creates and nourishes us with innocence without any partiality, in return, he needs only our dedication but most of the times we ignore this fact due to our business, our careless attitude, in worrying about own distress, they had forgotten about the island, in the middle of the river. The river was very angry now rampaging down from the hills and thundering across the plains, 165 Ruskin Bond's books are very famous all over the world. Some of his stories are, Blue Umbrella, Untouchable, Panther's Moon, Time stops at Shamli and Angry River. The book "Angry River" potrays the work of nature. The story is a pathetic description of a family of remote area, where no one can imagine about survival.

A major producer of children's stories, Ruskin Bond has given a new garb to the Indian writing in English. With children, he is very extraordinary. His choice of subjects, the selection of situations, the projection of names and the delineation of child characters are very touchy and vigourous. A great observer of child psychology, he has created exotic scenes in his mellifluous poetic style. His description has a universal appeal. After reading several of his books, especially stories for children, one can draw a simple conclusion that Bond is child-like at heart and treats his children quite perfectly. The present paper is an attempt to show how Bond has treated children in his stories. Children are the finest flowers in the garden of humanity. Without children, the garden of the earth will look very deserted, monotonous and cheerless. The unforgettable prattles of children, their childish nuances, sometimes give us an elixir of life. The young and the old feel a sense of ecstatic joy in the presence of children. Ruskin Bond's creative world is absolutely very exciting, because he has made a unique delineation of the innocence and eccentricity of children and transformed it into an earthly El do Rado. His true greatness lies in his sharp observation of things. His fiction, in all probabilities, is very

akin to real life. Most of his characters – men, women and children of various age and class -- belong to the high hills and valleys of Garhwal. There are farmers, traders, vendors, teachers, rickshaw-pullers, chowkidars, students, vagrants and old men and women. Boys and girls of different age groups form the nucleus of his major stories. Ruskin Bond is basically a writer for children. Boys and girls play a dominant role in most of his writings. Their childhood prattles, adventurous zests, relentless spirit, indomitable courage and power of understanding captivate the writer. He dives deep into the subtle region of the children's minds and understands their childhood nuances. A writer with a difference, his grasp of the subject and the style of presentation are very thrilling. When he narrates his own experiences, he is very free and straightforward. He presents his childhood experiences very candidly. He does not hide anything. His heart is like an open book and he ventilates his feelings without procrastination.

Ruskin Bond's childhood painting is very exceptional. He shows his exceptional dexterity in this field. Stories that tell us about his exceptional narrative technique and exulting delineation of childhood are: "*The Panther's Moon*," "*The Tunnel*," "*A Rupee Goes a Long Way*," "*A Long Walk with Granny*," "*Riding through the Flames*," "*The Flute Player*," "*How Far is the River*," "*The Wind on the Hunted Hill*," "*The Great Train Journey*," "*The Eyes of the Eagle*," "*The Fight*," "*The Visitor*," "*Animals in the Track*," "*Chachi's Funeral*" etc. Bond has great sympathy for the poor children. He treats them very lively. In "*Panther's Moon*," his treatment of Bisnu is very exemplary. Similarly, in "*The Tiger in the Tunnel*," the role of Tembu is very thrilling. S.C.Dwivedi in his essay "*Child Archetype in The Eyes of the Eagle and Other Stories and Big Business*" writes: When we read Ruskin Bond we feel that his books have been written by a child. That shows his strength. He has the capacity to peep into the heart of his characters drawn against the background of nature. He is superb while dealing with the psychology of children. It appears he lives permanently in their inner and outer weather dearly....The world of children is the world of innocence, simplicity and grandeur.

Ruskin Bond's children are much more than children having common traits. They are not ordinary, but extraordinary. They can show their exceptional dexterity even during a terrible crisis. They do not break down. They are the embodiment of courage and fortitude, projected as heroic warriors against natural odds. Their

pragmatism cannot be treated as premature. They can think and act like the adults. Though they live in the sylvan atmosphere of Dehra valley have a passion to study. In addition to attending schools, they also help their parents in the field and tend cattle. They are not flat, but round. Vijay, Bisnu, Kishen. Suraj, Rusty, Arun, Satish, Mani, Rakesh, Tembu or even Kamala and Sunder Singh etc., are very beautifully drawn and delineated in his stories. Bond's stories fall into two categories, i.e., personal and impersonal. The stories of the first category appear to be autobiographical or semi-autobiographical. Here he speaks about his dreams, frailties and unfulfilled visions. In the impersonal stories, Bond's vision is general and cosmopolitan. Here he is not subjective; rather he is inspired by an objective approach. Bond is a life-long lover of trees. He always feels their presence all around him. He acknowledges their presence by touching their trunks and has been doing this since his childhood days in Dehra. From the trees which grew in his grandma's garden, he became a lover of the trees and also a part of their existence. This is beautifully depicted in his very popular short story "The Cherry Tree." It is a very short, but didactic story bringing out the inquisitive thoughts of a six year old child named Rakesh.

However there are some thrilling, spine- chilling short stories and books. Some stories are absolutely frightening. It is about supernaturalism. In every part of India, we have a common belief that when the wind blows violently and the night becomes dark, the evil spirits come out to frighten human beings. This shows that he excels in every genres, which is really amazing.

Ruskin Bond stands out to be one of the greatest writers in India. His works can likewise be found reading material of many school syllabus. With his 50 years of writing career he has explored different avenues regarding assortment types apart from novels. These assortment types has also excelled just like his novels. Bond has been composing for his Indian fans since the 1950s, yet pundits have tended to give careful consideration to expatriate Indian writers as opposed to the indigenous ones.

Some books of his is simply just a collection of heart-warming, thought provoking stories will take you to heavenly grounds of Dehradun and Musoorie. And then Ruskin Bond has created a series of Ruskin Bond stories known as Rusty's series. He created Rusty to spin stories about his own past, Rusty's adventure and so

on. Rusty the boy from Hills is the first book ever released in this series even though there is nothing adventurous about it, the strangest and most extraordinary things keep happening around him, so the stories he has to tell are simply fascinating. This series basically has the most exciting years in Ruskin Bonds early life to his early teens. Then there is his collection of stories called "Our Trees still grow in Dehra", this consists of fourteen engaging stories from Ruskin Bond's life. It is semi-autobiographical in nature, this is actually a narration from his childhood to the present. And also one of his collections of stories called, A Flight of Pigeons was made into a film Junoon. Then there is this book Roads to Mussoorie that's basically his ode to his home where he stayed for more than forty years. This is an interesting novel because here the story itself starts from the backwards and not foreword. This urging the reader to read the last chapter first before deciding to go ahead with the book. Ruskin vividly writes about his many journeys to, from and around Mussoorie and themselves into the daily scandals surrounding his life and friends in the not so sleepy hill town.

Then there is this book called "Children's Omnibus" is a collection of some of the author's best loved stories. Most of these stories are set in the Hills, but their appeal is universal. These stories are quite witty, charming, evocative, these stories highlight the charm of simple living. "Rain in the Mountains" is a collection of stories, essays, snippets and poems penned by Ruskin Bond after having lived in many small towns across the Himalayas. He describes his life in the Himalayan Wilderness surrounded by chirping birds, clear blue skies and sparkling streams. The beauty of it is just mesmerising. This book is an excellent companion for contemplation and quiet reading. "The book of simple living" is a personal diary in which Ruskin Bond records the small many simple cute moments which constitute a life of harmony with the self, the environment, friends and family and well-wishers. He let's see the beauty in simplicity and also gives us a sneak peak into his routines. Most of his writings tries to convey one message very subtly that not to let the beauty of nature pass by unnoticed, unacknowledged and unregistered because it is the simplest and purest of beauty. His writings also tickles every sensory nerve of one's being. Speaking of another tale by Ruskin Bond " A face in the Dark and other hauntings", it is a collection of paranormal tales, he makes the supernatural entity to appear entirely natural and therefore harder to ignore. Reading ghost stories by Ruskin Bond is definitely a treat.

“Funny side up” collection of his writing offers a fascinating read not only for children but to all readers.

Ruskin Bond has a unique ability to look at the most regular circumstances with exceptional wit and accuracy, he takes the readers to his home, his country side and his life. “Maharani” a novel Rusty wrote about a semi fictional character Neena who is really spoilt, selfish and beautiful ageing widow who happens to be Ruskin Bond’s friend. It is a delightful story about love, friendship and death. His novels are filled with warmth and passion each story showcases the myriad variations of Romance and heartbreak. Mystery novels contains flashes of gentle humour in trademark Bond style. In mid part of his stories he meets many interesting characters, in the end we also end up loving them. “Love among the bookshelves” is a glimpse into Ruskin Bond’s life through the books he has loved and an introduction to some forgotten classics. Told in Ruskin Bond’s simple yet poignant style, the writings and poems in “No man is an Island” thoughtfully explores the many shades of many shades of friendship and love. This writing shows and proves that man is a social animal and is always in need of companionship. This author also has written many novels speaking and praising India a lot. He has divided into three sections, The Tales from the Epics, Tales from the Jataka and regional Tales and Legends. This book is of course and ideal read for both Adults and children as it helps all of them to connect to the Indian roots.

The selected short stories are, “The Woman on platform 8”, it’s a beautiful short story where two strangers comes together and fall in love, it is not an usual love story, Ruskin Bond adds his magic to this story. “The Coral Tree” is another short story where Bond unites two strangers with the help of nature. “The Window” relationship between the narrator and a small girl and their beautiful little friendship forms the plot. “Love is a sad song” narrates about and deals with the immaturity in love. Here the guy is supposedly elder than the girl and certain things aren’t acceptable for the guy, this evokes many problems between them and mainly the narrator isn’t able to understand the thoughts and actions of the girl. This short story is kind of thought provoking and makes the readers understand how love isn’t very complicated at the same time not very easy but very simple thing. Then there is this short story called, “Story of Madhu” where a stranger and a little girl Madhu shares their bond beautifully

and the little girl shares all her little big dreams to the guy and they both dream of it together but unfortunately the little girl passes away and this breaks the sanity of the guy. This leaves all of the readers teary eyed. Ruskin Bond's romance's are one of a kind. Then there is this short story called, "The Eyes have it" this shows how beautifully two strangers meet and fall in love in a train journey. Here the love is very simple and steady. The narrator is actually a blind person but he describes the scenery to gain the attention of the girl, but finally comes to know that the girl is blind too. That's how beautifully the plot can get. "The Night Train at Deoli" is another love story where a potential young man falls in love with a girl who sells baskets in Deoli station and how this young man just goes to the station to catch a glimpse of her beautiful face. "The Thief" is another beautiful story where a cunning forging thief comes in contact with a man called Arun and how this man Arun changes the perspective of the Thief, and changes his life totally. And here comes my favourite short story "Chachi's Funeral" where a child is extremely frustrated with his strict grandmother and quite has a lot of hatred towards her but in a very innocent way and he tries to perform a funeral for his living Chachi which is much unexpected, humourous and also to add very notorious. It is a must read and also very fun story. "A Guardian Angel" is a story of a young boy who encounters the death of his mother and is very heartbroken and lacks the actual warmth of the family but luckily there is this woman who loves him to the core and showers him with little simple joyous things and gives him the warmth he deserves but unfortunately that woman is not very welcome in their family. This story is about the motherly love shared by the little boy and his aunt. It is quite beautiful story.

If you observe closely, all the works of Ruskin Bond, he is very much motivated to write about what is uncommonly common in human nature. Ruskin Bond's characters has a different perspective from other writers from his period. Mostly his characters aren't from higher class, they are just normal people or from a rural background and has a very simple way of living. He sees dignity in the daily experiences and in the lifestyle of the people who live in the hilly towns and villages. He addresses the beauty of nature also. As many researches address him as "Nature writer". He also has a touch of or very precisely to say he follows the romantic views of Wordsworth, Shelly and Coleridge. Almost all his works basically revolves around the beauty of nature, animals etc.. Ruskin Bond's fictional world is made up of persons of

all ages belonging to the North India, these characters are presented in different social and family relationships. Almost in all stories of Bond, his protagonists are from lower middle class but they all have life changing visions. It's like he speaks on the behalf of them and its beautiful.

Like the world of Bond's contemporaries, Bond's society is too male dominated but his sympathy is always with children and women characters. Bond never treated them as inferior beings, gave them an equal and voice in his writings as well as life. He projects children and women as virtuous and graceful in his writings. His most familiar women characters are mostly loving aunts, girls and loving elderly women. They are not shown as a victim of male dominance at the same time they are comfortable to domestic chores of the society. For example, in "The Woman on Platform No 8", Bond characterizes a lonely woman who bestows her motherhood to a lonely boy Arun. Bond always ties two totally different characters at the end of the story. The story doesn't reveal any details about Arun's family but the readers can understand that he is in need of motherly care, love and attention. On the other hand the lonely lady finds real love of a child from the little boy whom she meets from the railway station. Bond has been able to penetrate the external self of a woman to reveal her innate grace, power and softness. Especially when Bond creates a situation in which a girl's presence in a man's life, he makes it more beautiful by making her presence as a "magic" in his life.

Mostly Bond's characters are from rustic life. In order to give realistic touch to his stories, Bond selects characters from his own life. Thus we can see some autobiographical elements in his characters. As they are from his own life, readers can easily associate themselves with the characters without any confusion. Bond is very comfortable to introduce characters from his life as he states it in the preface of "The Night Train at Deoli" and other stories. Actually the interesting fact is that "The Night Train at Deoli" is one of the stories in which Bond's own experience in one of his travels to Deoli is presented in a semi-autobiographical manner. "Room on the Roof" is the first novel by Ruskin Bond. It is basically his story after the death of his parents and how he deals with the hardships he has to face right after that. He was quite unhappy with the ruthless ways and strict rules of his guardian and decides to break free one day. So he goes to nearby market and makes friends and starts living there. He

discovers that life is not that easy and he has to face a number of challenges that are waiting for him. Ruskin Bond in his first venture keeps people captivated from the very first page, till the last one through the simplicity in his writing and spontaneity. He has so well represented every detail that it engages the reader very well and proves to be a complete page turner. The reader will feel the pain of Rusty and laugh at the light hearted humour. The book summons up all the traits of human life well ranging from adolescence, love, friendship to losing your loved ones and agonies of life. Ruskin has a certain poetic style of writing. He chooses words carefully and describes every detail appropriately. The marked style of writing is noteworthy when the boy gets into the dilemma of living India and going to England.

Ruskin uses many adjectives to support his writing that make his work beautiful and graceful to read. He also remarkably shows in the novel, how some strangers can become part and parcel of one's life by showing a little tenderness and warmth. Rusty the protagonist in the novel underwent same state and made some friends for lifetime. The novel is the winner of John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize and is certainly a pleasure to read. Most of his writings depict the life of the adolescents. All narrations are made by them. Bond describes the circumstances and helplessness realistically and ushers us into the world of the downtrodden and poverty without being a pessimistic. His writings are a blessing to young readers. It is also very refreshing and fun. His content being authentic it's very graceful to experience such authenticity.

Rusty, a sixteen year old Anglo Indian boy, is dissatisfied with the life in the declining European community at Dehradun. Unhappy with the strict ways of his English guardian, Rusty runs away from home to live with his Indian friends. Plunging for the first time into the dream bright world of bazaar, Hindu festivals and other aspects of Indian life, Rusty is enchanted and is lost forever to the statutory properties of the European community. Like an Indian bazaar itself, the book is filled with smells, sights, sounds, confusion and subtle organization of ordinary Indian life. This book has a special magic of its own also considerable charm and spontaneity. It also is very engaging. The writer moves the story line very carefully in its simplicity and underlying tenderness. This writing is marked originality. And this surely makes any reader think that Ruskin Bond is a writer of great gifts. Ruskin Bond's, *Rusty Runs Away* is the second book followed by the successful first book, *Rusty, The Boy from the Hills*. The

author has created the book, Rusty, The Boy from the Hills. The author has created the book in a way that could make beginner speakers of English to have no problem reading this book. The story takes place around Rusty, the protagonist of this novel.

Nestled in the vicinity of Dehra's snow mountains is the residence of Rusty, a melancholic dreamer who aspires to live life on his own terms. Through Rusty, author Ruskin Bond has recounted his own boyhood days back in Dehradun, Shimla and Mussoorie. "Rusty Runs Away" is story of every kid who is deprived of parental love and craves for heartfelt tenderness. The incidents happening in the memoir Rusty Runs Away will tug your heart and compel to go back to your boyhood days. There is a "Rusty" hidden in every person who wanted to break free from his daily chores and hectic responsibilities. Today we are so entrapped in web of fake desires, expectations that we have stopped living the real life we aspired for. The nostalgic episodes in this book will encourage the readers to pursue their dreams even in the toughest times. The most interesting episode in the novel is the escape of Rusty and his friend Daljit from their boarding school. This escape takes them to interesting locations till they finally reach the sea port only to face delay. This writing is a roller coaster ride of happiness, joy, exploration and imagination.

The other story in this memoir is the friendship between Rusty and Omar strike a bond and enjoy the best moments of friendship. They bond over playing hockey, discovering tunnels and sharing their emotions. The heart breaking partition tears apart their partnership Omar has to leave India. After 18 years, Rusty receives the news that Omar died in air crash during Indo- Pak War of 1972. This is one of my favourite chapters in this novel. If you have disconnected from your long lost colleague then you will definitely relate to this story of Rusty and Omar. The most nostalgic episode in this novel is the friendship of Rusty with Somi, Ranbir and Suri who help him to break free from the cage of melancholia and enjoy the life to the fullest. Rusty not only enjoys food on road side stalls but also discovers the colour of happiness by celebrating Holi with his friends. This friendship gives Rusty the courage to rebel against his tyrant guardian. Rusty not only rebels but also thrashes his guardian black and blue, putting an end to the strict tyranny imposed on him. "Rusty Runs Away" is celebration of friendship, togetherness, love, freedom and nostalgia. This memoir is one of the best works of Ruskin Bond which will touch your heart's string. The scenic

descriptions, travelogues will inspire you to take a trip to your favourite destination. As a social human being, we are so concerned about people that we suppress the “real person” in us. We care about others opinions but never heed to the inner voice of our conscious. I hope that after reading this book- Rusty Runs Away, you will definitely look out for your inner self.

Then comes my another favourite book of Ruskin Bond, “The Little Book of Everything” keeping this little book by your bedside, or your desk or on your kitchen self and turn it from time to time. It will have something comforting or helpful to say. This is a cute little book of his quotes, no one can deny reading this if they have had the opportunity to read. Reading Ruskin Bond has a calming effect on his readers, His words soothe and relaxes our nerves. Although they are simple the effect they have is surreal. This book is wonderfully presented and consists of few quotes of the great Indian author. I absolutely loved traversing his thoughts as the quotes reflect on life, love, living, ambition and so much more. If you need something to go back to during the lowest points of your life this could be one book you pick. Basically this is a book of few words and many colours. “The Little Book of Everything” is exactly that. Quotes from all walks of life, some inspiring and some observational, but each filling us with a sense of unbridled joy and feeling of being understood. Bond’s idea behind this book was to recall the days when we would meticulously write down quotes sayings and innocent observations in a book and keep it hidden from the world. A book we would go back to whenever crisis hit, or purely for the sake of reading those familiar words again. Some of my favourite lines are,

“And when the wars are done, a butterfly will still be beautiful”

“Courage, my friend. May it last to the end”

“ Yes, we must have secret places. Not in order to hide from the world, but simply in order to be with oneself for a change- to get to know oneself a little, because in the hurly burly of life we can so easily become strangers to ourselves”.

Ruskin Bond books feel like home. They ooze comfort, something that can be found only on warm summer days when we soak up the sun. “The Little Book of Everything” is a book of quotes collated by Mr. Bond which are quite simple but truthful nevertheless. Having read couple of other books by him I enjoy how they are narrated in an almost lyrical manner. His impeccable way of describing the hills and Mountains makes me witness its beauty without ever physically being there. Even though this

particular book took me hardly ten minutes to finish, it did manage to leave a lasting impact on my mind. Wrapped behind a subtle yet cute cover, this book holds a handful of sayings that Mr Bond has listed down over a period of time. Considering his habit to jot down lists of movies, books, songs and everything under the sky, he managed to note down these quotes that assisted him and his beloved ones at times of need. These quotes are simple to remember and perhaps this is why one can seek great solace in his words. This has always been a significant quality in Mr Bond to act as a magnet to readers. I'll be passing significant quality in Mr Bond to act as a magnet to readers. I'll be passing along this pretty little thing to the ones I love so that they can draw in the warmth it has to offer, to not feel alone at times of distress. Ruskin Bond's works always portrays the serenity and beauty of nature which makes me feel more connected to his works. What lies beneath the gorgeous cover is a hive of quotes that makes the readers feel a little less lonely and fills your heart with overwhelming joy. This book is a really find because the reader's heart can't hold the passion that Ruskin Bond always writes with overflows from every single quote, in "The Little Book of Everything". Sometimes it's all in the name. "The Little Book of everything" is about everything. A little treasure, a tiny little gem of a book. As I said it earlier, keep it by bedside, take it whenever you go, open a page and you get little messages. Sometimes, small lessons, some learnings and a lot to observe and introspect. This is a little book but has so much to offer. The lines written are gold and most of them will make it to my hand lettering journal. Love this book and I totally recommend it to readers and non-readers. For the first time, I don't think any kind of rating would do justice to this one. Its priceless! Being a fan of Ruskin Bond from childhood. His writings are always interesting and brings you fresh visuals in front of you. This Little Book has a collection of quotes from the author's various period of time. Short or long it's meaningful and takes you realise things. I loved the writing style and also the presentation that makes the book a read that is close to heart. This book tends to brighten and inspire many parts of your life. It is appreciated by many Ruskin Bond readers all over the world. The book has beautiful scripts that will make you want to hang those as a frame on the walls of your home because the quotes and poems mentioned in the book are those that will ooze out positivity in you. The book is perfect for a light reading or when a person is down because this book makes a reader more grateful towards life and that's the best thing any author can achieve, to make someone feel grateful towards life and that's the best thing any author can achieve, to

make someone feel grateful towards life. This book is basically an amalgamation of wise sayings and thoughtful messages which will comfort you in the most beautiful way. Bond has meticulously prescribed his life incidents and experiences to these phrases which almost anyone can relate to. I say this is a book of few words and many colours. Colours that brighten your life and lighten your load and make you feel home. And that's all we crave for and that's what matters. Ruskin Bond's compositions are continually intriguing and brings new visuals before you. This Little Book of Everything has an assortment statements from the writer's different timeframe. Short or Long its significant and makes you understand things. I loved the composing style and further more the introduction that makes the book a read that is near heart. The statements are philosophical and very straightforward. With a reassurance trove of experience and learnings, Ruskin Bond holds the secret to a peaceful and enjoyable life. Here he has collated life lessons that can be read on daily basis to feel motivated, to feel hopeful and to feel alive. There is a magic about this book that each page speaks volumes even though there are very few words printed on the page. I would say these are quotes from a lifetime, for a lifetime. It won't take much time to read the book, but if you read these words calmly enjoying the feelings associated with them, it will last an eternity. It is needless to say that if you have read, re read any of his works, stories, you shall have a parallel vision of them soothing through you are journey while you are at this. I love how Bond has contemplated basic things with deep understanding and meaning. These are the words of joy, compassion, courage and love, when you are depressed or low you can have a read of the quotes that uplifts you. Words that bring smile like morning sunshine, words that hold power to soothe an aching heart and if there is something called words that make you feel home during the time anyone is going through emotional volatility and anxiety, this book helps, reading a random page will help you uplift your mood with a sweet message. Ruskin Bond's writing style has always made me feel like getting tucked inside blankets and you know that everything will be fine at the end of the day. And also to compliment such positive outlook on the book, there are dreamy illustrations which compliments the writings. Last but not least this book is a beautiful journey to go through, the kind of book you will love to read when it is raining or when you are close to nature as it increases the essence of the writing. It is a small book with inspirational quotes and teaches how to value little things in around us. Every page in this book is written in different fonts and style thus making it a direct connection between eyes and

the soul. It uplifts you during your lowest times. It has a calming and surreal effect on the readers. It is my comfort book, a book with a dreamy world, a book of everything.

“Rusty and the magic mountain”, Rusty and his two friends, Popat and Pitamber, set out on an adventure to the Magic Mountain which is mired in a haunted forest rest house, manage to escape the jaws of a hungry man eater and experience an amusing mule ride up the mountains to a deserted, dilapidated palace inhabited by an old mad queen and her flock of crows. The thrill of adventure, a bits of fantasy and magic works well on everyone. I particularly find these books very relaxing. The author is a keen observer and successfully captures the sights and sounds of nature through his words. As a result, while reading one is able to immerse oneself completely in the surroundings captures the sights and sounds of nature through his words. As a result, while reading, one is able to immerse oneself completely in the surroundings crafted by the author. Though on the surface it is an adventure story of three young boys but there are certain philosophical musings interweaved with the broad tale. While reading, it takes you back in your olden times. It is a lovely book with beautiful images. My favourite character is Popat.

Rusty and the Magic Mountain just blew my mind, it was so amazing I just couldn't stop reading it. The book includes everything I could ever ask for in a perfectly good book. It is a humourous, well illustrated and has a great story. This book is about the adventures of Ruskin Bond's alter ego Rusty. Rusty goes to a trek on a magic mountain, along with two of his friends. Their adventures throughout are full of tales and events of mystery and supernatural. They take shelter in a forest bungalow that comes out as haunted one, and then reach an old palace high on the hills. There also adventure and horror awaits them. Although the book is meant for children, yet I found it quite spooky read, full of humour. This is also one of the best book in Rusty series, it is stuffed with Indiana Jones adventure, motorcycles diary type feel and a complete fantasy plot to remind you of fairy tales and Harry Potter. Ruskin Bond has unleashed his imagination to the best. Ruskin Bond's stories make you nostalgic for places you have never been to. This book is for children and for the child in every one of us.

Ruskin Bond brings back Rusty the boy from Dehradun, his alter ego who loves adventure. In his quintessential and simple narrative style, Bond weaves the

latest exploit of Rusty and his friends Popat and Pitambar. The friends scale a certain mysterious mountain, around which various superstitions have grown and proliferated. Interspersed with humorous incidents, the suspense and thrill of adventure and the horror of an unknown landscape and people, Rusty's newest adventure becomes a riveting tale. Actually Ruskin Bond's writing's has very limited elements from his own personal experiences and the fiction is delicious! In this story Bond has used many comedy cards otherwise also it has a great storyline and is illustrated perfectly. It is a rocking tale of humour and enchantment. This book is rib tickling and again Ruskin Bond plays comedy card again to bring out another great story.

Basically it is an adventure story set partly in Dehradun and partly in the hills, in this novel the famous semi fictional character Rusty hears about a mountain that has curious legend attached to it and heads towards it with his friends to find out the mystery behind the mountains. The thrill of adventure, a bit of fantasy and magic and Ruskin Bond's signature humourous style makes it an enjoyable read. Though the book is meant primarily for young adults but Ruskin Bond's magic works well on everyone. The author is a keen observer and successfully captures the sights and sounds of nature through his words. As a result while reading one is able to immerse oneself completely in the surroundings crafted by the author. Though on the surface it is an adventure story of three young boys but there are certain philosophical musings interweaved with the broad tale.

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

The simple things in life are those like stars that shine on a clear night. They are always there, surrounding us, offering their subtle magic however its not like everyday that we stop to look at them and remember that they exists. Some people often say that the simpler our way of life, fewer the worries we have and the fewer mistakes we make. The main thing is that the key is not to lead a simple life, it is keeping simple thoughts and knowing what is important, what really makes our heart happy and identifies us. These things are beautifully engrossed and explained in a simple way in Bond's novels. Ruskin Bond's novels are suffused with warmth and passion, the stories in *Falling in Love* again showcase the myriad variations of romantic love fleeting, intimate, joyous, heart breaking. Actually in simple words life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. This man has proved the quote of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "In character, in manner, in style, in all things, the supreme excellence is simplicity" in almost all of his works, which any reader even a beginner can find amusing. Ruskin Bond has been inspired by the beauty of still life objects, especially the little simple ones. He loves to capture them in a way that gives the feeling of emotion, movement and magic. Basically looking out for beauty in simple things, about the amazing life that is all around us, all day long, that we tend to overlook. For many years beauty has a very narrow definition. They look at the physical beauty of others, or that which is overly beautiful to most, as whole. This is only one, very narrow definition of beauty though, and one that we should all consider expanding on, if we haven't done so. His books tends us to reach out to the concept of beauty in simple things a little easier. Bond always have learned and also taught us to appreciate the beauty which can improve the quality of our lives, as we are able to look more deeper and more meaningfully at people and things in our lives. Ruskin Bond has taught us to find beauty in unusual things, like hanging your head out the window or sitting on a fire escape. And at the same time also stressed the fact that everything has beauty but not everyone sees it. And the female characterisation in his stories are on another spectrum, to me I would say this man has never failed to add a little mystery and lots of charisma to the women in his life and stories. The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mode but the true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul.

It is the caring that she lovingly gives the passion that she shows. The beauty of a woman grows with passing years. You can also find this attributes in most of his female characters. Also never forgets to stress the factor beauty is the illumination of your soul. And I found it really amazing when he insisted and proved that sometimes people are beautiful, not in looks, not in what they say, just in what they are. Isn't that really beautiful? Also reading excerpts from his writings is also very much worthwhile. The three books which I have chosen share one common trait when it comes to characterization, which is, outer beauty attracts but inner beauty captivates. This man, what he does, the way he thinks, makes him really beautiful and authentic. Which proves another fact that what you do, the way you think , makes us beautiful. He has set an right example in a very humble and grounded way. Like Oliver Wendall Holmes said," Wisdom is the abstract of the past, but beauty is the promise of the future. Beauty in his characters are not in their face but beauty is a light in their heart, which is why most of the time when Rusty is lost or feels lonely or is desperate for parental love his friends come by and shines the light to his darkness which is a really beautiful thing to do. And also his characters show another beautiful message which is, people are just like stained glass windows, they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.

Ruskin Bond never failed to show that the youth is happy because it has the capacity to see beauty in the little things and anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old. And also his writings proves that a thing of beauty is a joy forever, it is loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness. Even when Rusty or his other characters were in their darkest times something or the other cheered them up, how do you think it is possible because at some point of their life during that point of time they were open to receiving or maybe seeing the beauty in simple things. Always one must be ready to receive the beauty and happiness which is found in simple little things. One must be open to receive it. There are numerous reasons to be happy in a day, if we choose to be happy yes, ultimately we can. If not then there is no use in complaining or whining about one's unhappiness. Where there is beauty in simple things nothing ever ran quite straight, which no doubt, was why so many people looked on it as immortal just like John Galsworthy said. It is a kind of radiance.

People who possess a true inner beauty, their eyes are a little brighter, their skin a little more dewy. They vibrate at a different level of frequency. If you notice Ruskin Bond always specializes and elaborates little moments in his life, ain't it one prime example of how to enjoy simple little moments happening in our lives. Beauty is how you feel inside, and it reflects in your eyes, it is not something physical, was never in Ruskin Bond's novels. Some people in Rusty's life as well as if we are keen to observe even in our life, no matter how old they get they never lose their beauty, they merely move it from their faces into their hearts. In few books there are illustrations also, which adds beauty to the page as well as the book. It never fails to cease the attention of the readers. The fountain of beauty is the heart and every generous thought illustrates the walls of the readers chambers which is quite amazing. Few characters of Ruskin Bonds novels are beautifully compared.

Some characters never failed to show us that beauty is only skin deep, but ugly lies to the bone. Beauty dies and fades away but ugly holds its own. Create and cultivate inner beauty that never fades away but grows and matures with time. That is also shown very beautifully. I would say that Love of beauty is taste and the creation of beauty is art. And Ruskin Bond's novels are an exquisite form of art work, which I will always adore. His writings are like a good company, can completely trust them and fall for them at any point of our life. The beauty of a woman be it the grandmother or the teacher in Rusty's life are prime examples that, the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of awoman is seen in her eyes because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides. I was literally astonished when he and the old lady character bonded over the love for flowers, in the book "Rusty Runs Away". The author says that individuals have an attachment to earthly things. This attachment is such that it has the resemblance of flowery wreath.

Furthermore, there are traps that keep people connected to materialistic things. This connection with materialistic things distracts humans from eternal happiness. This is because the focus of such materialistic people will be on acquiring more and more resources rather than on attaining eternal happiness. The world has lots of negativity, hatred, and greed. According to the poet the cause of gloom and sadness is this negativity. Moreover one can fade away these negative vibes away with the

help of beautiful things that surround us. This is because these beautiful things bring nothing but positivity. The author informs us about some beautiful things that are around us. Beauty is certainly in the eyes of the one who beholds. This means one can see the beauty in anything. Furthermore the poet talks about the numerous creations of god which we should admire. One such creation is the sun which provides energy. Moreover the author talks about the beauty of the moon and the beauty of the tress, hills, snowy days, hot chai, pakoda's which the old lady made. The market place where he and his friends used to visit regularly, be it his hostel room, their adventures journey to get to their uncle's ship and sail across the world, everything was beautiful. There are various animals around us which makes our world lively. The pretty flowers like daffodils enhance the liveliness and the greenery of the world.

Moreover the flowing streams of water provides cooling effect and refreshment during the hot summer season. The forests have plenty of pretty musks rose flowers, such flowers are a beautiful sight and eyes feel delight due to them. All such things certainly are things of beauty. Also one must not forget the beautiful and inspiring stories of the brave kind hearted people. These beautiful things have a resemblance to the fountain of immortality bestowed upon us by god as a gift and a blessing. Such beautiful things are an inspiration for all of us to continue living. They make life worth living. Also they also help us in maintaining our faith in goodness. Life without these beautiful things would certainly become very hard. A thing of beauty tells us the value of beautiful things that are all around us and that one must cherish them.

Also Bond never failed to potray the large heartness and innocence of children are set in direct contrast with the shrewd nature and envious nature of grown ups. Bond here juxtaposes the two worlds the innocent world of children and the cunning and manipulative worlds of adults. The children openly admires the blue umbrella which Biniya owns and gets thrilled by its sensational touch. It is their sincere appreciation for umbrella that gives them a chance to hold it and experience its thrilling touch. The malicious attitude of grown ups stopped them to admire it openly. But secretly everyone craves to possess it. Bond brilliantly here celebrates the innoncence of children by setting them against the world of adults. The children sincerely appreciate Biniya's umbrella and give a vent to their true feelings. By criticizing umbrella the grown ups rd egotism. Away from pretensions the children

openly praise it. Unlike the adults, the children didn't have to pretend. They were full of praise for the umbrella. They knew that if they said nice things about the umbrella, Binya would smile and give it to them to hold for a little while. Bond effectively blends the tradition and canon of Indian and English children's literature in this story. By portraying Binya's free spiritedness, her heroic adventure to save her umbrella from a thief and her passion for it, Bond focuses the individuality of a child as does the English children's literature. The story highlights the innocence of children and communicates the lessons of kindness, sympathy and brotherhood like the traditional children's literature in India does.

Bond's acumen could well be observed in his projection of life-like children. His child protagonists appeal enormously for their love, adventures and inquisitiveness to know the things around them. They pester the adults, at time their friends, with unending and mind boggling questions. They frequently tell lies which are invented truths of their imagination, tease each other, befriend again forgetting the scuffle of one minute before and show concern for peer interests.

The child characters of Bond act and behave as the children do in any part of the world. In their appearance and attire, Bond's children could differ from the children of the world but not in their attitude and temperament. If Tom Sawyer of Mark Twain steals jam from a pot in the Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Ranji, Koki and Teju of Bond steal guavas in the story "When Guavas are Ripe." Tom befools Aunt Polly and so do these three children play tricks on Gopal, the watchman of the guava orchard. Aunt Polly punishes Tom by asking him to whitewash the fence. Tom shows excessive interest and indulgence in whitewashing with the intention to allure his friends to complete his work. His trick works. The gullible friends of Tom not only whitewashed the fence but also enriched Tom by gifts for allowing them whitewashing. Teju, Koki and Ranji flatter Gopal, an ex-wrestler and the keeper of an orchard. They praise his prowess and physique and listen to dull stores of his bravery with the sole interest of procuring guavas in return.

The old and lonely Gopal was immensely impressed by children's flattery. He treated them with the grand feast of guavas from his orchard. Tom and Huck love adventures. They enjoy hunting and fishing and go for expedition to Jackson's Island.

Laurie, Anil and Kamal of *The Hidden Pool* enjoy themselves the secrete pool on the mountain site. At the pool they fish, build dams, take midnight dips, wrestle and ride buffaloes. They go for trekking up to Pindari Glacier at 12,000 feet above sea level, where no one from their town has gone before. Rusty in *The Room on the Roof* runs away from his apathetic and strict guardian, Kishen in *Vagrants in the Valley* from his drunken father, Daljit and Rusty from school. Thus Bond children follow the trend of running away from home or work like *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Kim* and *Huckleberry Finn*.

The act of stealing jam or guava, place of expedition on Jackson's Island or Pindari Glacier, reasons for running away from school or home could differ but not the spirit of Bond's children from the children in other cultures. Telling lies, stealing things, playing pranks on others and benefiting in their small enterprises are the common activities of Bond's children. Thus, Bond achieves universality while delineating with accuracy the familiar characteristics of his child protagonists. His close observation of children's behavior endows his child persona with convincing authenticity: "And here I stand at my window, watching some of them pass by – boys and girls, big and small, some scruffy, some smart, some mischievous, some serious, but all going somewhere hopefully towards a better future."

Children have always rated those people high in the list of their favourites who respect their feelings, trust them and stand by them in times of trouble. That's why indulging and doting grandparents and grown-ups with caring and understanding attitude are always preferred by children to the domination and disciplinarian ones. Bond colors the canvas of his stores with friendly and considerate adults who love children and are loved by them in return. Michael Heyman says that Bond "depicts relationships between adults and children where children are not wiser, and where they rarely challenge the adults"⁴. Bond is aware of the fact that the tender body and immature mind of children need protection and guidance, to acclimatize themselves in the world of adults. He invokes loving and nurturing relationship between children and adults – not necessarily parents. Loving portrayal of friendly adults and doting grandparents have autobiographical reasons as Bond says: "In some of my children's stores I have written about fun-loving grandfathers and doting grandmothers, but this was just wishful thinking on my part"

Bond presents two kinds of adult characters: one who acts as possible catalyst and the other who creates hindrance. In general, the adults in Bond's stories are considerate and contact with them exposes children to new vista and a better perspective. They love and rescue innocent and naïve kids from troubles like the fairy Godmother of Cinderella. The good natured strange woman who gives treat to a lonely child in *The Woman on Platform No. 8*, caring Aunt Mariam who takes care of an orphan nephew, in *The Thief* are thoughtful adults who by their positive attitude and loving approach take care of the children and guide them during trouble. They receive deep reverence of children. They pass on their wisdom to children and enable them to gain confidence and assume responsibilities. The invigorating relationship of children with adults paves the way toward happy selfhood.

Majority of adult characters of Bond are portrayed in positive vein. But still there are some characters like Mr. Harrison, the strict guardian of Rusty, drunkard Mr. Kapoor, indifferent towards the need of his son and caring wife, in *The Room on the Roof*; Mrs. Bhushan a nosey and overbearing lady in *Vagrants in the Valley*; Satish mother a domineering and imposing lady in *The Woman on the Platform no. 8*. The adolescent characters are shown in clashes with adults. They defy the authority and break the conventional rules. Adolescence is a period in one's life when one becomes very sensitive and opposes protractions, rules and codes of conduct which one cannot absorb. Rusty in *Room on the Roof* rebels against the restriction of his guardian Mr. Harrison. He defied the rigid social codes of the English which do not allow him to mix with the natives. Harrison beats him for playing holi (an Indian festival) with his friends. Rusty repulses the attack of his guardian, beats him on the rebound and runs away.

The adults in Bond's stories, in general, are supportive of children. They stand by them, guide them and nurture them with love. They do not obstruct their way rather remove stumbling blocks from their path. Bond enforces healthy relationship through his loving adults. His portrayal of adults differs from Narayan and Dickens. Swaminathan of *Swami and Friends* suffers the oppressive regime of adults embodied by male authorities: father, teachers, headmasters, doctors and the forest officer. Child heroes of Dickens – Oliver, Pip, Neil, David suffer the ruthless treatment meted out to them by the adults and society. The exploitation, the sad surroundings and

miserable life make the process of growing up difficult for Dickens' children. Bond's child protagonist also has to face difficulties and vagaries of life. They successfully overcome it. Both Dickens and Bond had unhappy and insecure childhood. The trauma of unhappy childhood is revealed in Dickens, through the suffering world of children. Contrary to Dickens, Bond creates happy-go-lucky life where children enjoy blissful presence of the elders.

The relationship of friendship is a very important tie in Bond's work. This binds his young persona with each other and with the world. Bond remains unsurpassed in his portrayal of friendship, captivating the young minds. The bond of friendship plays a vital role in shaping the personality of young boys. Particular emphasis is placed on the need for security in the life of adolescents. This is why Ruskin Bond stands out in every aspect of literature and this is only just one of the major subjects which I covered.

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