

THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET-

BOOK REVIEW

Introduction:

The book is about Hugo Cabret who lives alone in the train station Montparnasse and steals to survive. His father died some years ago in a fire working on an automaton, and left Hugo alone with his drunken uncle. Hugo is “caught” in the train station and is watching people’s lives through a gigantic clock.

George Méliès is another character in the book, but he is real. He was a filmmaker, a good one. He’s most popular movie is a stop motion movie called “A Trip To The Moon”

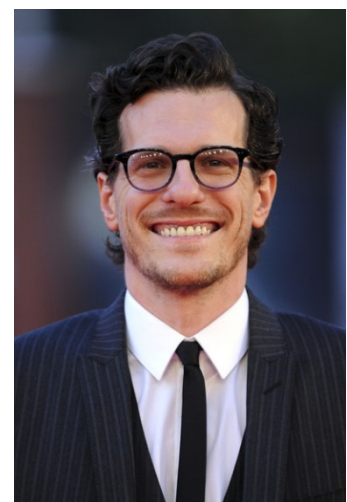
On 22 October 1895, it was a terrible train accident at Montparnasse, the train station where Hugo lives. Luckily, there was just one woman who died. This is a true story, and in the book, Hugo dreams about it.

Before we read:

Before we read the book, we read a summary of the book and a little bit about the author. After that, we talked about the plot in the book, George Méliès and Hugo. We also watched a short video about an automaton and what it was. I recommend doing that, or else you will most likely not understand the book.

The author:

Brian Selznick is the author of one of the world’s best-selling book, the cover artist and the illustrator in the book. He read about a popular automaton on a museum and that’s where it all started. The book is released in United States January 30, 2007. The publisher is Scholastic Press. The genre is historical fiction, mysteries, tragedy and friendship. The book is very special and original, because it has 526 pages, but its most well-drawn pictures. The pictures are like a stop motion movie, because it’s not “moving” pictures, they stand still.



The plot:

The plot takes place in 1930's in Paris. The book's plot is mostly about Hugo. Hugo lives above the train station Montparnasse alone. His father died some years ago in a fire, working on an automaton. He has a notebook that is special for him, because his father has written down how to fix the automaton. Hugo is sure that his father left a message "inside" the automaton, so that's why he continues working on the automation. He's uncle was a clock maker, that's why Hugo thinks he can fix the automaton. Later in the history, he meets Isabelle, George Méliès is her godfather. Isabelle has a key, and Hugo thinks the key and the automaton have a common history together. If you want to know more about Hugo, and if he manages to fix the automaton, why Isabelle has the key, you have to read the book and find out.

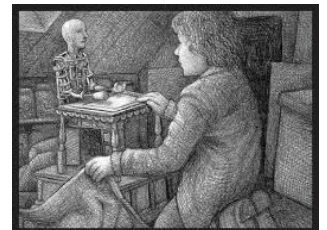


The characters:

The book is about Hugo Cabret, Isabelle, George Méliès, George's wife and Etienne, but I would say that Hugo Cabret and George Méliès are the two main characters. The automaton is of course a very important character. The book has also two parts, the first is about Hugo and he's life, and the second part is about George.

George is very mystical and grumpy. He's a toy maker in a toyshop at the train station. He has lost his future and all he does is just watching other people's life from behind his counter. No one, except his wife, knows that he is a film maker. He tries to forget he's past, but when Hugo tries to find out more about the automaton, the name "George Méliès" shows up many places, and Hugo starts to get suspicious.

Hugo is a poor, eleven year's old little boy. He lives alone at the train station and fixing the clock after his uncle died. He is sad and has also lost his future, but when he fixed the automaton, he sees a light.



It's no "I person" in the book, it's more like a narrator telling what happens, like a fly on the wall watching the people. But in the end, we learn that Hugo is the narrator.

Foreshadowing:

The author uses some “symbols” in the book, which is hard to understand, especially when Hugo and George goes out through the train station together. The author also uses some imagery, for example when George says “You don’t want to be followed by ghosts, do you?” and “I don’t like the sounds of clinking heels”. That’s the book foreshadowing.

My opinion:

I think the book was well-written and very good. I liked the way the author connected real life into a fiction book. It was special because half of the book was pictures. It’s been made a movie about the book. I choose movies instead of books, this time also, because I find the book a little bit boring. But, the movie has exuded some very important details, for example Etienne, when Isabelle falls down from a chair and in the end when Isabelle is the narrator instead of Hugo, and that is sad.

In the end, I’ll give the book four out of five stars, and I recommend the book to all age groups.

