

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Title: The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Author: Brian Selznick

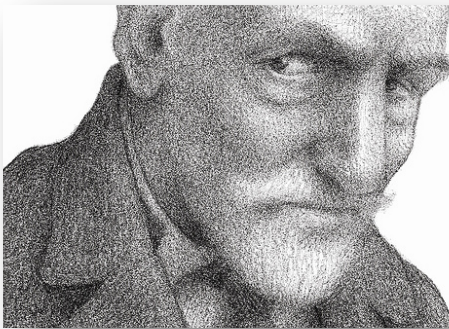
Publisher: Scholastic Press

Year of publication: 2007

The Invention of Hugo Cabret is a book about magic and friendship. The author has written the book using both pictures and text, which makes the book so special. Hugo lives in a train station, with no one to take care of him.



Hugo's father died in a tragic fire at the museum where he worked. And Hugo's uncle was taking care of him after this. One day his uncle didn't come home, and Hugo was alone with no one taking care of him. A blue notebook and a broken automaton was all he had left from his father. Hugo start fixing the automaton, because he thinks it is going to write a message from his father. He thinks that the message is going to tell him what he is going to do with his life. Hugo doesn't have anyone left, that's why the automaton and the notebook is important to him.



The setting is in a train station named Montparnasse in Paris and the plot takes place in the 1930ies.

The main characters are Hugo and Papa Georges.

Hugo is a twelve years old boy who lives in a train station behind the walls. He fixes the clocks every day.

Papa Georges is an old man who lives in a house with his wife and Isabelle. Many years ago he was making films. But now he is working in a toy both in the train station.

The title of the book refers to the automaton and Hugo's and Papa Georges' future. Hugo opens doors to the future.



For example when Hugo follows Papa Georges through the doors at the train station he creates his and Papa Georges future.

When Papa Georges says “do you want to be followed by ghosts?” he means that he doesn’t want anyone to recognize him or his past.



Hugo thinks the world is like a machine.

There’s a reason why people are here. A machine has no spare parts and if the world is like a machine, which means all of us have purpose here. That the meaning of life.

These are examples of some imagery that the author is using.

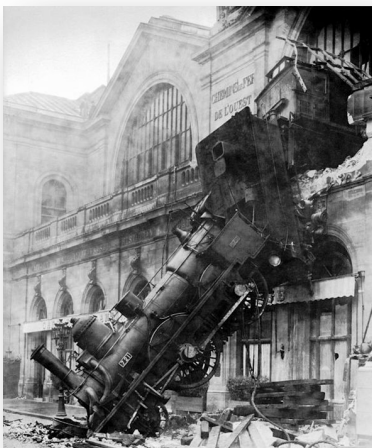
The themes in the book are friendship, family, to create your own future, to follow your heart. Hugo makes his own friends and family. He writes his own future when he start dig in Papa Georges past. He follows his heart when he fixes the automaton, fixes Papa Georges future and fixes his life!

Before we started reading the book we saw a video about the automaton, read about the train accident and watched a film of George Méliès “A trip to the moon.” I think it is important to understand more of the plot in the book.



The narrator in the book is a 3rd person, but in the end we learn that it was Hugo who told the story.

I liked the book better than the movie. Because when you read a book you can create your own pictures, but in a movie they make the pictures for you. It was some characters in the book I think it was important, but in the movie they wasn’t there. When we read the book I was making my own pictures from the illustrations in the book, and the movie destroyed them.



I liked the way the author writes the book, and uses imagery. I also like that the book has many illustrations. It’s almost like a stop motion movie, because it has so many illustrations. The book is written in two pieces. Hugo’s and Papa Georges’ story. The book is a mixture of reality and fantasy. For example is the train accident a real story. Papa Georges is a real person, but Hugo isn’t.

The author has written in way that makes Hugo real. That makes the book so special.

