

Pooh and the Psychologists

We met discussed and disagreed about this book. Our views ranged from “made me chuckle out loud”, through “an amusing book”, to “I gave up on page 50 because it was annoying me”. Perhaps it depends on what mood you are in to read this one....

Made me chuckle out loud

For me – a stretch of 2/3 hours on a ferry in calm waters and the prospect of no phones and catch up on reading time, this was a pure indulgence book – tongue in cheek - not be taken too seriously. A light ‘summer’ read. One of those that made me chuckle out loud.

The author has used great deal of creative license so that:-

- Pooh becomes the psychologist in any situation
- Every other character has a psychological issue that needs solving.

Case 1 -- Pooh Cures Christopher Robin of Arktophobia (fear of bears)

Case 2 -- Pooh Assists Piglet to Mature

Case 3 -- Pooh at His Most Eclectic with Tigger

Case 4 -- The Problem with Rabbit

Case 5 -- Parenting: Kanga and Roo

Case 6 -- Wol's Problems with Communication

Case 7 -- Eeyore: A Case of Classical Depression

With this in mind the author introduces various psychological theories – from T/A to Jung to Freud and more. And considering the stories date from the 1920’s – Pooh even has the foresight of theories that had not been thought of yet!

I love the one about Pooh and the honeypot. Most of us would say Pooh was greedy and that is why he got stuck in Rabbit’s door. Oh no ... the exact opposite is the case. Pooh was in fact typically sacrificing his own dignity and comfort to teaching friends and succeeding generations a most valued lesson. He was warning us of the dangers of overeating.!! This is a tongue in cheek book and an attempt to reveal an important truth to Ursinologists.

An amusing book

In many ways the book was intriguing if quite hard work. It was an amusing book but not laugh-out-loud for me. The author clearly enjoyed AA Milne’s books and probably enjoyed the chance to get back into their detail. I enjoyed the fact that the writing style was taking the ‘mick’ out of academic surmising and he delightfully illustrates how easy it can be to overanalyse and find depths of great nonsense within otherwise totally shallow remarks.

By the end of the book he had finally cured Christopher Robin of his phobia of bears.

I gave up on page 50 because it was annoying me

No comment!

This would be a lovely book for someone’s Christmas stocking if they are a lover of Pooh.