

Knowledge Organiser - English: The Iron Man by Ted Hughes

Novel as Theme - Key Information

Plot

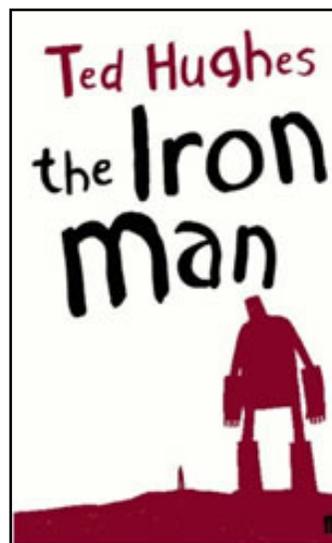
An Iron giant appears from seemingly nowhere, feeding on local farm equipment. A trap is set and he is buried, although he eventually escapes. A small boy called Hogarth has the idea of sending him to a scrapyard to feed him metal and keep him out of the way. Meanwhile a giant dragon appears to get larger in space and makes it's way to earth. The Iron Man is suddenly called upon to help save the world.

Themes

Bravery, prejudice, irrational fear, inclusion, teaching children not to fear people who are different to themselves, but to learn to understand and accept them. It is also critical of warfare and violence, showing how intelligence can succeed where weaponry fails.

Setting

The opening to the book set is an unknown part of the world on a clifftop by the sea. This could possibly be England as this is where Ted Hughes came from. As the Iron Man makes his way inland, he travels over hills and fields but ends up trapped in a giant hole. After he climbs out, he is kept in a different rural town nearby where there is a scrapyard. When the Space-Bat-Angel Dragon appears from space, it lands on Australia, causing tremors all around the world.



What Can the Book Teach?

Don't bury what you don't yet understand. Humanity should try to live in peace rather than create wars and fight one another.

Quote

"The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff. How far he had walked? Nobody knows. Where he had come from? Nobody knows. How he was made? Nobody knows."

"If you're all so peaceful up there, how did you get such greedy and cruel ideas?"

Blurb:

'Reckoned one of the greatest of modern fairy tales.'

Observer

'Starts superbly with a clanking iron giant toppling from a cliff and lying smashed on the ricks below. Then his various parts get up and search for each other. Hushes has never written so compelling.'

The Times

Novel as Theme - Key Characters

The Iron Man	The giant 'metal man' of unknown origin.
Hogarth	Young boy who strikes up a relationship with the Iron Man.
Hogarth's family	Hogarth has a father, mother and sister.
Farmers	They build a giant trap to bury the Iron Man.
Armed Forces	Sent to destroy the strange creature from the sky.
Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon	The giant creature which falls to earth and battles with the armed forces of the world.

Key Characters

blissful	Extremely happy, full of joy
infrared	rays like light but outside the visible spectrum at the red end/although we cannot see it, we can feel it as heat
torso	the trunk of the human body (ribs, navel etc)
sheer	incredibly steep, almost vertical
harrow	equipment used for breaking up and smoothing out soil
colossal	extremely large or great
unfurled	spread out from a rolled or folded state
hillock	a small hill or mound
jolt	push or shake abruptly
constellation	group of stars forming a recognisable patter
astronomers	an expert in or student of stars, planets and space
pedestals	the base or support on which a statue is kept

