

Upon being given the book Rocket Boy's, by Homer H. Hickam, Jr., my first thought was, "oh no not another one". Through my school life, I had been assigned many biographies to read, and had enjoyed not a single one. They always seemed to be long rants about the person's life, containing nothing much of interest to the reader. So, when I was handed yet another one, I immediately started to prepare myself for another long, painful stretch through a book I had no interest in reading. Then I started to read. I admit, through the first chapter, I was rather confused, not knowing most of the things he was talking about. But as I read on, I found myself sucked into it, unable to stop, not something that happens often to me in any book, and never something that had ever happened before in a biography.

One of the most effective things about this book is how it is written. It packs both humor and information into the story in such a way that there is not too much of either. It is informative, but not so informative that it seems like a textbook, like some I have read. It also doesn't use so much humor that it just seems pointless, like the author has too much time on his hands. The balance between these two elements helps to make it informative, but still enjoyable. Another aspect of how it's written that helps promote its allure is that it is in fact a story. It has a point. It is not simply a long rant about a person's life, written by some self centered famous person who wants to make sure he is not forgotten, but a story about a person whose life will inspire others, not just bore them.

One of the things I found sort of funny about this book was how it has all the plot elements that you would find in any fictional story. A person who is trying to do something that no one else believes he can do, who encounters many problems that he has to overcome as well as triumphs. His life isn't just one big success story. There are times when he is put back, when he doesn't want to continue. There is an underlying romance story to it; it even has a bit of suspense. I found these similarities rather amusing. If I had not known that it was a biography, I would have guessed that it was a fictional.

And finally the last thing I found very effective in this book was how it had things that anyone can relate to. No matter who you are, or where you're from, there's going to be something in this book that you can directly connect to. Whether it be knowing what it's like to have no one believe that you can do something, or to have the one you like fall in love with someone else, or to have trouble with family, in particular parents and siblings, everyone is going to be able relate to Sonny in some way or another. I believe this is also a major contributor to what makes the book so interesting. When a book has nothing in it that you can relate to, it's harder to care about the main character and what happens to them because you cannot find any similarities between you and the main character and therefore do not understand fully what they're going through.

I have always had a dream to go to Egypt and become an Egyptologist. However, I quickly was convinced by myself and others that it was a futile goal, because Egypt is not only very hostile towards Americans, but also rather sexist against women. Seeing as I was a member of both of those categories, I

decided that it would be best to forget that dream, and work towards a more realistic goal. However, after reading this book, I feel inspired to continue trying, no matter how far away and impossible it may seem. If Soney, a regular kid with nothing separating him from others other than his strong determination to do something everyone else told him was impossible, was able to succeed in something that was seemingly impossible, then what's to stop me from doing the same? I now believe that if I try hard enough, I might just be able to go for my dream, and succeed in getting there. This is a book that I would recommend to anyone, and I am very glad I got an opportunity to read it. Thank you very much.