

## Irani Books review

Eklavya published four books from Iranian culture, these books were:

THE BLUE PEOPLE (नीले लोग)

KIMIYA (कीमिया)

SOON VERY SOON (जल्दी बहुत जल्दी)

FRIEND (दोस्त)

THE SHADOW OF DARKNESS (अंधेरे का भूत)

These books have been inspired from Iranian culture. The illustrations are also from the same culture. The illustrations are quite abstract and hold a deeper meaning than you would think. As we know that literature is the mirror of society, these books reflect what is prevalent in Iranian society, what are the conditions of people living there and how the situations affect the functioning of the family. These books deal with complicated issues which are not given proper space in children's literature. Here I am going to talk about some of the points that we liked in these books:

1. **Depth:** These stories hold meanings which cannot be decoded by just reading the text. The book 'Shadow of darkness' has a message of making your fear as your friend but it is not clear by just reading the text. We have to read and re-read to understand the meanings and every time on revisiting the book we find a new aspect of the book that the author is trying to tell. The book titled 'The Blue People' gives a new information about the protagonist and the situation and is very difficult to understand by reading it only once. One has to know about the Iranian culture and the conditions that are prevalent in the society before reading the text.
2. **Different Culture:** These books bring diversity to the literature present for the children of our country. Children get to know about various beliefs of other cultures, their food, clothing, various painting styles etc.

3. **Situation:** As we know about the current situation of Iran due to various wars and protests within the country. These conditions cause huge disturbance in personal lives of the people who live there.
4. **Abstract concepts:** These books talk about the concept of death and its after effects which is not much talked about in our culture. These are very important issue; children need to know about such complicated issues as it is related to their day to day lives as we all have lost someone at some point of time. The concept of war is also dealt with in these books. Generally, we see that war is presented as something very glorifying incident for a country. But in these books you would see how the destruction due to war impacts on the functioning of the families of that country.
5. **Illustrations:** the book has some very abstract drawings. They are not completely related to the text but hold the meaning independently. The depiction of people as insects tells us about the life of people living there. They don't know if they will be able to wake up next day or not. Author has compared the lives of people living there to insects.
6. **Age appropriateness:** the books are not appropriate for young children as they deal with concepts in an abstract manner which is difficult for young learners to comprehend. Children also need to know about Iranian culture and condition before reading these books then only they will be able to understand the depth to which the books are dealt with.

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