



Who Really Killed Cock Robin?

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Citizens of Saddleboro are proud to say that theirs is the cleanest town around. So they can't ignore the mysterious death of their mascot, Cock Robin. Some people would like to blame the citizens themselves, but one boy-Tony Isidoro -- suspects there's more to the story.

Tony threads his way through a maze of clues: Among other things, the town park is overrun with trillions of ants; nights are quiet because there are no frogs singing; the nearby river contains a dangerous amount of an unknown chemical; and the town dump is emitting strange fumes. What does it all add UP to? It's an eco mystery all right, and it's up to Tony to figure out who *really* killed Cock Robin.

Who Really Killed Cock Robin? Details

Date : Published by HarperCollins (first published 1971)

ISBN : 9780064404051

Author : Jean Craighead George

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Tilia says

I just finished reading this YA/middle grade ecological mystery from the early 1970s. Cock Robin, a avian celebrity in the town of Saddleboro, is found dead; but who, or more precisely what, killed him? This book came out less than a decade after Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, the book that showed the adverse effects of chemicals on the environment, especially birds, and led to to a nation-wide ban on DDT and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Jean Craighead George was no stranger to environmental writing; she is also the author of *My Side of the Mountain* and *Julie of the Wolves*, to name but two of her best-known books. *Cock Robin* isn't quite in their league--it lacks the urgency and suspense of a wilderness survival story, for one thing--but it is a thoughtful, well-plotted detective story, and leads us along nicely as the students of Saddleboro put together the pieces of the puzzle that reveals the cause of one bird's death and an entire countryside's decline.

Robina Fox says

Excellent little mystery, with clues, red herrings, and a bunch of suspects. I liked the blustering, well-meaning mayor, who was making political capital out of the pair of robins who had nested in his hat; the earnest Tony, who makes careful observations and doesn't jump to conclusions; and the feisty daughter of the local industrialist, convinced of her father's innocence in the matter. I liked the town too, so proud of its environmental initiatives. And the message of the book - that all nature is tied together and we have to understand it all to avoid blundering - is one I wish more people would take to heart.

Graham says

this was the worst book I have ever had the pain of reading. Every chapter brings new pain and agony onto the poor reader. This book is terribly boring and stupid. Should be declared a war crime

christineE says

If it was possible to give negative stars, that's where I'd put this book.

Maelee says

This eco-mystery was very interesting and it has a sound plot and I enjoyed reading it. However, it would be for a specialized reader who is a strong reader and has an interest in ecology and the health of the environment. The biological descriptions and explanations may inhibit lower readers.

Taffey Champion says

Never before had I read an Ecological Mystery until I read this delightful book. I love the fact that it is age-appropriate for children to read...truly delightful.

Threegirlsandabook says

Basically a Science Text book in Disguise, enough said.

Cynthia says

My response to this novel is that, Tony the protagonist of this novel was trying to find the source of poison that killed the cock robin. He discovered that many people dumped toxic waste into the water or even spray or burn certain things that releases harmful chemicals into the air and into the water as well. However, Tony began to analyze what caused the death of the Cock Robin and the mother and one baby. However, lab test shows that chemicalls were discovered in the robins.

Each time Tony discovers a new clue he would continue to move on and gather more information to actually form his conclusion on the death of the robins. Upon reaching the conclusion, Tony found new ways to actually experiment and test out each given information that people believed was the caused of the death of the robins. With trial and error, Tony was able to figure out the real element of the killer and who is it. As for you, if you want to know who killed the Cock Robin and his family read this novel.

Ross says

Unfortunately the book it a little dated, so it wasn't as fun for me to read. Fifteen twenty years ago adults and kids alike would enjoyed this book.

Samantha Glasser says

I read this book in 5th grade English class, and while I enjoyed it, I was never ahead of the protagonist enough to guess what the culprit was. The plot is tied to environmental issues and tries to teach kids the importance of taking care of nature.

Michelle says

I love her books, but I think her eco-mysteries are going to be the most sought-after ones for our kids. There is a mystery to solve, lots of red herrings, plus this one connects right to living in suburbia. Lots to learn

about environmental impacts of our daily decisions in this one.

Jonah Senft says

This is a mystery book about a town that is pushing towards being better for the environment adopts a Robin as a mascot but suddenly he dies out of nowhere and John was given a task from the mayor to find out who killed him.

Jonah says

OK... not great

122kavaris says

I like how the author ties everything in so enviromnmentally.

Joshua Ripkin says

Did not read yet
