

Enid Blyton Fiction

Children's fiction of the Enid Blyton variety usually features a group of young children who are remarkably adult: they are completely self-sufficient, resourceful, intelligent and capable of outwitting the most cunning of crooks: a variation on Enid Blyton's can be seen in the Scooby Doo cartoons. The children inevitably become accidentally involved a mystery or crime which they help to solve. In particular look out for the ridiculous over-enthusiasm of the children, their revolting happiness and their unbelievably sugary exclamations.

Anne thought with delight of the coming evening, when they would stop and camp, and cook a meal, drowse over a camp fire, and go to sleep in the little bunks. She didn't know which was nicer – ambling along down country lanes with the caravans – or preparing to settle in for the night. She was sure it was going to be the nicest holiday they had ever had.

Comment [K1]: An early indication of the rapture and enthusiasm with which these children will greet everything.

Comment [K2]: Already we are getting a sickeningly sweet image of Anne whose greatest dilemma involves deliberating the relative niceness of walking or sleeping. There are no typically teenage thoughts about impossible boyfriends, dressing fashionably or how embarrassing her parents are. I bet she even loves school.

'Don't you think so?' she asked Gerge as they sat together on the driving seat, with Timmy, for once, trotting beside the caravan, and leaving them a little more room than usual. 'You know, most of our hols have been packed with adventures – awfully exciting, I know – but I'd like an ordinary holiday now, wouldn't you – not too exciting.'

Comment [K3]: Ridiculous confidence and enthusiasm

Comment [K4]: Quintessentially English and particularly childish slang word for holiday

'Oh, I like adventures,' said George, shaking the reins and making Trotter do a little trot. 'I wouldn't a bit mind having another one. But we shan't this time, Anne. No, such luck!'

Comment [K5]: The way this is written in parenthesis, reinforces the sense of her excitement, as if she had to break out of what she was going to say to assert this.

They stopped for a meal at half past twelve, all of them feeling very hungry. Dobby and Trotter moved towards a ditch in which long, juicy grass grew, and munched away happily.

Comment [K6]: Huge massive great giveaway!

Comment [K7]: There is no real sense of individuality – they all act as a group – no one has a tantrum and storms off

The children lay on a sunny bank and ate and drank. Anne looked at George. 'You've got more freckles these hols, George, than you ever had in your life before.'

Comment [K8]: Even nature seems to be on the side of the children – the exaggeration of juicy creates the impression that all things are harmoniously working with the children

'That doesn't worry me!' said George, who never cared in the least how she looked, and was even angry with her hair for being too curly, and making her look too much like a girl. 'Pass the sandwiches, Anne – the tomato ones – golly, if we always feel as hungry as this we'll have to buy eggs and bacon and butter and milk at every farm we pass.'

Comment [K9]: Childish comments related to nothing, emphasise the youth of the characters

Comment [K10]: Again – polite English child exclamation of surprise – this is the closest they will get to swearing

'Yes and just look at Timmy,' said Anne. 'He's getting fat with all this scrummy food we're giving him.'

Comment [K11]: A very weak joke made out of their excessive hunger

Comment [K12]: Again very English, very childish word for delicious

'He's not getting fat!' called George indignantly. 'Don't you listen to her, Timothy, you're a very nice shape.'

'Woof,' said Timmy and trotted over to George's feet.

Comment [K13]: Even the animals can talk and notice he isn't even angry at being called fat.

All this time Julian had been studying the map. He was very good indeed at map reading and hadn't missed the way once but Anne was still disappointed that they still could not see the hills they were aiming for.

Comment [K14]: He would have to be 'very good indeed' wouldn't he. He couldn't just be a little bit ok or pretty much alright but prone to the odd mistake

'Goodness, they're miles and miles away!' said Julian. 'We shan't arrive for at least four or five days, silly! Now, look out for a farm, kids. There should be one near here, where we can ask permission to camp for the night.'

Comment [K15]: Another typically English exclamation that only children in these kinds of books say.

Comment [K16]: These teenagers, or perhaps even younger children, are traveling the country on holiday with a horse drawn caravan BY THEMSELVES and are camping, cooking and planning their route flawlessly. The adult-like independence of these children is meant to appeal to the child reader's sense that they are more mature than adults give them credit for

Taken from 'Five Go Off in a Caravan' by Enid Blyton