



Fish

Gregory Mone

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The exciting adventure of a resourceful boy who discovers his hidden gift as a fortune-hunting pirate

Fish--nicknamed for his incredible swimming abilities--is a twelve-year-old boy from a poor farming family. After taking a job as a courier for his uncle, Fish is waylaid by pirates, who steal the package he's carrying. He soon learns that it's the key to locating the Chain of Chuacar, a legendary treasure. As he works to earn the trust of Cobb, the fortune-hunting captain of the Scurvy Mistress, Fish learns of a mutiny headed by a nasty pirate called Scab. With time running out to find the Chain, Fish and some fellow shipmates still loyal to Cobb must thwart Scab's dastardly plan.

Fish Details

Date : Published June 1st 2010 by Scholastic Press (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9780545116329

Author : Gregory Mone

Format : Hardcover 256 pages

Genre : Adventure, Historical, Historical Fiction, Pirates, Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Young Adult

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Colin says

After the family horse dies, Fish, aptly named for his natural swimming ability, is sent from his family's farm to the city to earn money as a delivery boy. But after some mysterious coins that Fish was tasked with delivering get stolen, he inadvertently joins the crew of the Scurvy Mistress. Reluctant at first, Fish soon finds himself more at home on the sea than on dry land. He befriends his fellow pirates and naturally makes a few enemies just by being there. Now Fish must help the pirate captain unravel the clues leading to Chain of Chuacar, a valuable treasure not seen in many years, and prevent the mutiny being led by the first mate.

I typically don't think that young adult fiction and pirates are two things that go together considering that pirates aren't the most ideal role models for kids. However, this book does a good job of trying to stay faithful to pirate mythology while not encouraging the less favorable aspects of it. For example, after Fish is forced in to a fight, he opts to take a pacifistic approach in combat. His friend Daniel begins to teach him "non fighting" skills that reads as a form of mixed martial arts of some sort that is unnamed in the book. Speaking of naming things, there were a couple of small references in the book that annoyed me. Nora, the ship's cook, apparently invented the sandwich and the pirate named Jumping Jack invented a form of aerobics that he quickly named after himself. These aren't big deals but they broke the flow of the story. Kids who read this book and are less fact snobbish than myself probably won't care and may even find it amusing.

In the end this is fun read for kids/young adults who are fascinated by pirates. The chapters are the perfect length and full of action and adventure. This is not a boring book.

Sergi says

The book I read was Fish. The author's name is Gregory Mone. It was published in January of 2011. Scholastic Inc published it. This book falls in a fiction book about pirates and how the story of a farm boy falls into place. The genre of this book is an action and adventure book with lots of clues to the mystery. If you know a lot about pirates or you like pirates then this is a great book for you. This book is a one of a kind because there are no sequels to it. This book is a very easy book to understand and was a great reading for anyone of all levels. The author of this book is named Gregory Mone and he lives in Canton, Massachusetts, with his wife and his two daughters. The book is based around a kid named fish and how his journey from a farm boy changed into the life on the sea. There is one reason why fish is called fish. He is one of the only boys that can swim. The pirates endure a long time of life on sea. There are specific groups that are on the boat and stay with each other. They eat together and sleep together. They will eventually stop at an island. Until they figure out that one of the crew members is rotten and they have to defend their boat. The book was very good but boring at some parts. The book was very suspenseful and kept me on my toes at all times. I really liked the main character, fish. Fish was kind of like the nerd in today's world he didn't know how to fish or how to shoot a gun. He just learned how to "non fight" and survived with mean pirates on that for a long time. This book was a must read if you like fiction books. Also you have to like books about pirates and that have a lot of suspense.

JoJo says

To me, "Fish" will always be one of the ultimate comfort books - comfort food in book-form. It's been a good two or three years since my last re-read, and yet, it never fails to make me smile. The oft-times whimsical and hilarious dialogue (AND THE CHARACTERS !!!) (the "One-Eyed Willies" and the "Scalawags for Sausages" had me ROLLING. ON. THE. FLOOR.) (LITERALLY ANY OF THE CHARACTERS COULD MAKE ME LAUGH ANY TIME ANY DAY OF THE WEEK THEY WERE ALL FANTASTIC) paired with the thrill of hidden treasure have kept me hooked, even after all these years.

I always forgot how quick a read this one is, a blink and it's over kind of book. I picked it up this time because I had just finished reading "Challenger Deep" and was in the mood for more time spent out on the open seas, preferably more grounded in reality than Caden's journey. Nonetheless, Fish's voyage has in no way satiated my thirst for the crisp, cool breeze with a tang of salt, or the rare warm, billowing puffs of air, or still nights under a blanket of stars, or the constant rocking of a boat beneath my feet.

(Praying even harder that summer comes sooner rather than later.)

All in all, this book is a bundle of fun (did I mention there's an island named after TURTLES???) that never disappoints. Was not my first and most certainly not my last time picking this gem up. (Trust me, just read it. It's a FUN. TIME.)

NebraskaIcebergs says

Did you know there are both good and bad pirates? In Fish by Gregory Mone, when Fish (whose real name is Maurice) is forced to join the crew of The Scurvy Mistress, he doesn't know one kind of pirate from the other.

He also doesn't care. His sole mission is to retrieve the bag of gold coins which Nate had stolen from him. When the head pirate Cobb decides that his crew will sail their ship to lay in wait for a freighter bound for America, Fish launches his own "raid". He finds the gold coins that his uncle had entrusted him with and attempts to deliver them to their rightful owner. Unfortunately, Fish gets caught. In the interrogation that follows, Fish learns that some pirates are raiders while others are seekers. The "raiding" pirates believe that attacking every ship in the water is the swiftest way to fortune. (These are the bad pirates.) In contrast, "seeking" pirates prefer to undertake challenging quests. The Scurvy Mistress is manned by both types, a division which eventually leads to a mutiny.

Before Fish learns whose side everyone is on, or even figures out for himself which side he should take, he spends hours swabbing the decks of The Scurvy Mistress clean. Fish also fills his stomach with dreadful gruel and hardtack. And he sleeps on ragged bits of old sailcloth in one corner of the main cabin. If that doesn't sound too grand, why would Fish agree to stay? Well, earlier in the story, the family horse dies, and Mr. Reidy declares that one of their children will have to work in the city and send home money to help out. Unlike his eight other siblings, Fish is inept at farm work. For that reason, Fish is taken into town to work for an uncle. Fish is actually on the way to deliver a bag of coins that his uncle entrusted him with, when Nate robs him. Being honorable, Fish pursues Nate—even when this means climbing aboard a menacing boat. Thus begins an adventure where Fish not only has to decide which pirates to defend, he also faces other choices. For example, should he interfere with Cobb's orders, when a fellow pirate is sentenced to walk the

plank for betraying the crew? Or should he fight when challenged to a duel, despite his abhorrence of violence? Although Mone isn't blatant about themes, he does interweave into *Fish* the values of family, friendship, pacifism (which might seem like an oxymoron in a pirate book) and being true to self. Their subtle inclusion is part of what makes *Fish* stand out from typical adventure stories.

Time to talk treasure! Every good pirate story must include it. *Fish* is no exception. Initially, all that anyone on board knows is that head pirate Cobb seeks a treasure that will render the ship's treasure chest of coins "as worthless as pebbles and stones". Cobb also promises that every member of the crew will receive a share large enough to buy a herd of horses. That's enough to make *Fish* give up on the idea of retrieving that bag of coins his uncle gave him. Remember how I mentioned that there would be a mutiny? Well, the treasure also causes some divisions among the other crew members. To reveal anything beyond this little enticement would spoil your reading of *Fish*. What I can tell you is that in the years before Mone wrote *Fish*, he'd arrange treasure hunts for his nieces and nephews. Each hunt grew more elaborate and complex, until eventually his nieces and nephews asked Mone to write a pirate story. The result was *Fish*.

Before I conclude my review, I also need to praise the description in this book. It is so meticulous! For example, this is how Mone paints *Fish*'s dive into the undersea world: "The line dragged him through a multicolored world full of purple, fernlike waving plants, giant yellow rocks covered with small grooves and challenges, fish of all shapes and colors." And here's how he portrays Cobb: "He was distinguished, with tightly curled gray hair, fine clothes, and the stem of an unlit pipe held between his lips. His ears were large, pressed back flat against his head, and his skin was tanned, with a faded but thick red scar on his chin. A thin, pronounced nose added to the air of nobility." As for the treasure, sorry, but I still can't tell you about it. Now I recognize that all this attention to details might bore those who grew up on video games of non-stop action and movies drowning in special effects. Most readers will however love the opportunity to settle into a rip-roaring tale of an unlikely hero on the high seas.

After all, what better adventure could one ask for than a soaking-good seafaring pirate story about a treasure hunt? There's even a dash of romance and humor. Just be sure that when you do borrow *Fish*, you can curl up for a long read. It's that good!

Debbie says

This was a great book. The reading level feels more middle school, but deals with an elementary aged child. A perfect read for my high students!

Marlene says

Fish is tiny and weak and not very good at working the land. When his father takes him to the city to work for his uncle as a runner/delivery boy; *Fish* is excited to be able to contribute to the family. However, things don't always work out the way we plan and *Fish* ends up working on a pirate ship. A well written adventure with some twists and turns that require a creative mind and a steady heart.

Mari says

This one started out very strong for me - appealing characters, plot, writing etc. Plus, pirates! Gotta love pirates.

Later on, there were a number of times that the dialog or writing felt off. I know I won't remember specifics if I don't write them down. The one that looms biggest in my mind was when Fish, Nate, and Nora go hunting on Turtle Island. This incident has the benefit of passing along a cool fact - but it was jarring. Basically, it felt like the scene was there JUST to get that nifty fact into the book. It may not bother other readers, but this kind of thing pulls me out of a book when really I just want to stay immersed in the story.

I did like it, and needed to finish reading it to see what would happen to the characters I had come to care about. However, with different pre-publication readers and/or editors, I think it could have been tightened up, resulting in a better crafted work.

(I always feel bad when I write a critical review. I don't do it lightly. Mr. Mone, if you ever happen to read this, please know that I strive to be respectful and honest about my experience as one of your readers.)

Jennifer says

I liked the book a lot I would recommend this book to every one. The book is family friendly and it is good for every age.

Zoe says

ar book level 5.6

Lauren says

Maybe it was because I read it while waiting for two hours in a crowded doctor's office waiting to get a shot for pneumonia, but I just kinda found this book boring. Fish's outlook on life was quite clever and enjoyable, though.

Carolynn says

boring. I was not interested in any of the characters whatsoever

Josh Newhouse says

4.5 stars for this pitch-perfect pageturner about the most civilized pirate captain ever and his somewhat scurvy crew... So close to 5 stars!

Nilsson says

It reminds of when I was at sea myself, last year. I wonder if Fish misses his brothers at all, being from such a fun sounding, big family though? I understand if he belongs at sea, but I'd miss my family if I stayed forever and never looked for them.

Ron says

This is probably a pretty good story for an upper elementary child. It is the story of a boy raised on a farm who goes to the city to get a job. He's working to get money to help his family buy a new horse. While working, he ends up on a pirate ship searching for treasure.

Gig Wailgum says

a fun, lighthearted, kid-centric pirate adventure
