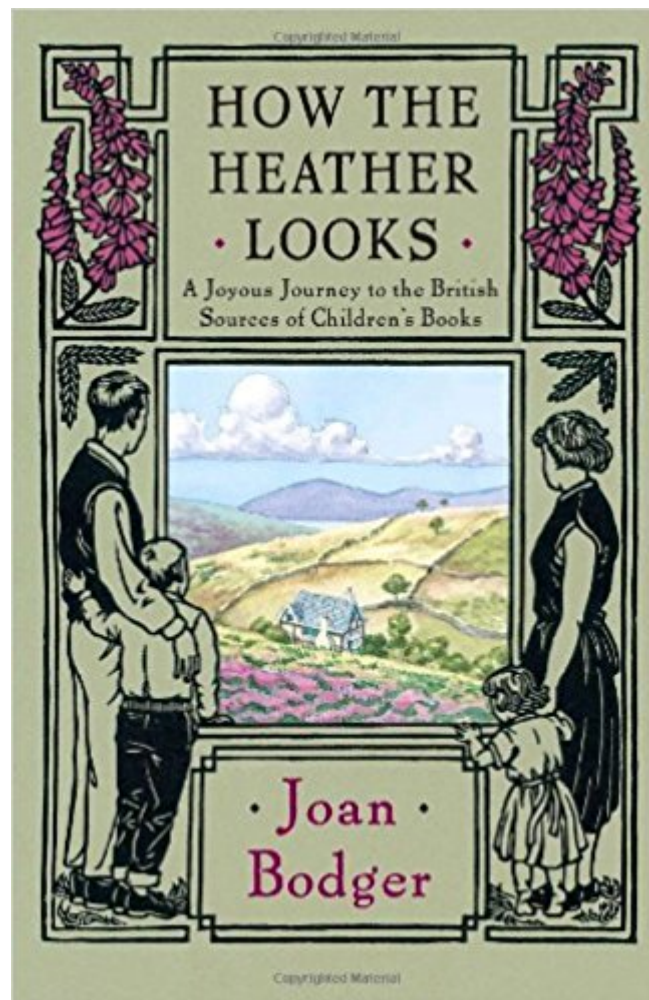


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How The Heather Looks: A Joyous Journey To The British Sources Of Children's Books



Synopsis

Over forty years ago, Joan Bodger, her husband, and two children went to Britain on a very special family quest. They were seeking the world that they knew and loved through children's books. In Winnie-the-Pooh Country, Mrs. Milne showed them the way to "that enchanted place on the top of the Forest [where] a little boy and his Bear will always be playing." In Edinburgh they stood outside Robert Louis Stevenson's childhood home, tilting their heads to talk to a lamplighter who was doing his job. In the Lake District they visited Jemima Puddle-Duck's farm, and Joan sought out crusty Arthur Ransome to talk to him about Swallows and Snails. They spent several days "messing about in boats" on the River Thames, looking for Toad Hall and other places described by Kenneth Grahame in *The Wind in the Willows*. Mud and flood kept them from attaining the slopes of Pook's Hill (on Rudyard Kipling's farm), but they scaled the heights of Tintagel. As in all good fairy tales, there were unanswered questions. Did they really find Camelot? Robin Hood, as always, remains elusive. One thing is certain. Joan Bodger brings alive again the magic of the stories we love to remember. She persuades us that, like Emily Dickinson, even if we "have never seen a moor," we can imagine "how the heather looks." First published in 1965 by Viking in New York, *How the Heather Looks* has become a prized favorite among knowledgeable lovers of children's literature. Precious, well-thumbed copies have been lent out with caution and reluctance, while new admirers have gone searching in vain for copies to buy second-hand. This handsome reprint, with a new Afterword by Joan Bodger, makes a unique and delightful classic available once more. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

"If we are lucky, our minds are furnished with the words and stories that spring from the English earth – the winds that wuthered around the Secret Garden, Ratty's riverbank, the magic isle of Avalon, Pook's Hill, and the Swallows and s Wildcat Island. To journey back with Joan Bodger as a guide is a rare treat – she winkles out wonderful literary connections at every turn. You'd have to be made of stone not to feel the old enchantment stirring again. Bodger's prose is tart with humour and warm with intelligence – and the whole venture is sparked with the fresh wonderment of seeing the ancient story-places through her children's eyes. – Michele Landsberg

"For anyone who loves Britain or English literature, especially children's literature – it was one of the greatest pleasures of the publishing season. – Horn Book

"A feast for any lover of English children's books. – Christian Herald

"One of the most satisfying rambles we have taken in years. – Mademoiselle

From the Hardcover edition.

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This book was written in 1958. A family goes to England for a summer holiday and travels to many different sites to see where a number of famous children's books were written. They have a 10 year old son and a 2 year old daughter. It is absolutely delightful and FULL of good authors and books! Highly recommended!

What a dear glimpse into a once-in-a-lifetime journey through England with a couple and their two young children! I enjoyed reading about all the books that brought them to each site. And it's bittersweet to read about their family after the return home.

We have a fondness for British children's literature from the early 20th century. When I learned about this book through our homeschool curriculum, it seemed like a good bet. My oldest was supposed to read it the following term. However, as soon as the book arrived in the house, my middle child read it in every spare minute over the next couple of days. The older child finished it within a day or two later. We have not gotten around to discussing the book yet, but their enthusiasm for it makes me think the discussion will be lively.

Beautifully written by a naturalist. We used this in our homeschool and the children didn't just learn about the natural world, they "experienced" it! We used it in Jr. High school ages, can also be used in high school.

Arrived in a timely fashion exactly as described. Thank you!

How the Heather Looks by Joan Bodger is quite well written, it can be slightly boring at times, but overall is pretty good. The book is about a family of four who visit England to find the sources of popular children's literature. They visit many different places including Beatrix Potter's home, Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë's home, etc. etc. The Chapters and the main subjects in them, below; Chap. 1 Whitchurch, Randolph Caldecott. Chap. 2 Beatrix Potter's "The Tailor of Gloucester" Chap. 3 Narnia. Chap. 4 King Arthur Chap. 5 Camelot Chap. 6 Wind in the Willows Chap.

7 Johnny CrowChap. 8 Rudyard KiplingChap. 9 Winnie the Pooh, The Borrowers.Chap. 10 Robin Hood, Frances Hodgson Burnett- The little Princess, The Secret Garden, Etc. Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Bronte, and Robert Louis Stevenson. *** My favorite chapter***Chap. 11 Beatrix Potter, Arthur Ransome- Swallows and s.(written by my 13 year old daughter.)Now I will write mine!joy to the world!This book was very popular when it came out and was reported most stolen by retiring children's librarians.It covers many sites of popular English children's classics, and talks about how they got to the site, what they felt on finding it, and how it appeared, and who they met, as well as where they stayed.(written by 15 year old son.)

I wanted to like How The Heather Looks, really i did. For all her alleged prowess as a story-teller though, Bodger was unable to fully engage my attention. Her writing style came between us, as did certain aspects of her story. On a trip to discover the landscape behind certain childrens classics, her family was curiously uninformed about where they were and what they were missing. One becomes tired of the phrase, "Later we found out..." or "If only we had known...". We are treated to a detailed explanation of how much her family knows about Gypsies, but we look in vain for that information when it would be appropriate; instead we are told of another castle passed by. I was sadly disappointed by the lack of information at the bottom of the story.

Thank goodness this book is back in print! A delightful serendipitous account of a young family's trip in England discovering places made famous in the children's books they love, even living in a caravan and "messing around in boats." A book I've treasured but been unable to find even in my county library. Now I'll have my own.

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