



“RIDING THE YELLOW GIANT” “FROM FEAR TO COURAGE: THE SYMBOLIC MEANINGS OF THE YELLOW GIANT”

Tilavova Gulyuz Yoʻldosh qizi

Student of Turon University Qarshi, Master's Department, 2nd year

Abstract: The article explores the novel “Riding the Yellow Giant” by Xudoyberdi Toʻxtaboyev, one of the most prominent works in Uzbek children’s adventure literature. Although written for children, the work reflects important social and moral values such as honesty, courage, friendship, and responsibility. The study analyzes the plot structure, the system of characters, artistic features, and the educational and social significance of the novel. Special attention is given to the symbolic meaning of the Yellow Giant as a representation of fear, imagination, and personal growth. The research demonstrates how fantasy and realism are harmoniously combined to engage young readers while fostering moral and creative development.

Key words: Yellow Giant symbolism, fear and courage in children, Moral and ethical values, Friendship and solidarity, Fantasy-realism in literature.

Introduction

Xudoyberdi Toʻxtaboyev is one of the most prominent authors in Uzbek children’s literature, renowned for his ability to blend artistic imagination, humor, and fantasy. His work *Sariq devni minib* (“Riding the Yellow Giant”) stands among the most celebrated examples of Uzbek adventure literature. Although the work is written for children, it offers a profound artistic reflection on social relationships, issues of upbringing, and universal values such as honesty and courage. This article analyzes the plot, characters, artistic features, as well as the educational and social significance of the work.

Content And Plot Structure Of The Work

Sariq devni minib is rich in adventure and features a dynamic plot in which elements of real life and fantasy are skillfully intertwined. At the center of the narrative are the adventures of Hoshimjon, whose encounters with the Yellow Giant are portrayed in a spirit of childlike imagination and playfulness. As the author gradually increases the complexity of the plot, he introduces transformations, challenges, and trials that are well aligned with children’s psychology [1, 78].

The presence of fantastical events in the story symbolically reflects Hoshimjon’s inner emotional experiences. The image of the Giant serves as an



artistic embodiment of the protagonist's fears, grand dreams, or his attitude toward complex issues in life [3, 91]. One of the distinctive features of the plot is that beneath the humor and laughter lies a profound social message.

Ideological Directions Of The Work

➤ Moral education and the principle of honesty

In the novel *Sariq devni minib*, honesty is promoted as one of the central ideas. Hoshimjon's aspiration to be truthful and upright serves as an exemplary model for young readers. The writer pays great attention to children's moral upbringing and interprets honesty as one of the most essential virtues in society [2, 102].

➤ Courage and the sense of responsibility

The theme of courage is artistically explored through a series of adventures. Hoshimjon's fearlessness in encountering the Giant and his responsible attitude when facing problems can serve as an inspiration for the younger generation. These aspects encourage readers not to fear difficulties, to think independently, and to make thoughtful life decisions.

➤ Friendship, solidarity, and kindness

The work also addresses the importance of human relationships. The interactions among the characters, their mutual support, and qualities such as kindness and compassion play a significant role in children's social development and moral growth [5, 224].

System Of Characters And Their Artistic Interpretation

Hoshimjon

Hoshimjon is the character closest to young readers, embodying childlike simplicity of thought, sincerity, and truthfulness. His aspiration toward heroism, as well as his ability to recognize his mistakes and strive to correct them, enhances the educational value of the work.

The Yellow giant

The Yellow giant functions as the main dramatic force of the adventure as a fantastical character. He is not portrayed as frightening; rather, he appears humorous and sometimes even weak. Through these features, the author artistically conveys the idea that fear is, in essence, a product of human imagination [4, 87].

Secondary characters

Secondary characters such as parents, teachers, and neighborhood residents also play an important role in the story. Each represents a particular segment of society and, through their behavior and actions, encourages readers to draw moral and educational conclusions.

Artistic Features Of The Work

One of the most notable aspects of *Sariq devni minib* is its humor and wit.



Although the author employs a light style characteristic of children's literature, the work nevertheless contains meaningful social content. The liveliness of the dialogues, the vividness of the scenes, and the unexpected turns in plot development make the narrative engaging and appealing [3, 91].

The harmony between fantasy and realism strengthens the artistic power of the work. This balance expands children's imagination and encourages creative thinking. The fluency of the language and the careful selection of expressive devices further establish the novel as an accessible and captivating literary piece.

Social And Educational Significance Of The Work

"Sariq devni minib" pays direct attention to issues related to upbringing, family, and the school environment within society. The events depicted serve as valuable artistic material for shaping children's behavior, providing moral guidance, and instilling positive qualities.

The work helps cultivate the following traits in children:

- Honesty and truthfulness,
- Courage and a sense of responsibility,
- Kindness and solidarity,
- The ability to solve problems effectively,
- Imagination and creative thinking skills.

The author's aim is not merely to present amusing events, but to influence the worldview of the younger generation and strengthen noble human qualities within them.

Conclusion

Xudoyberdi To'xtaboyev's "Sariq devni minib" is one of the brightest examples of Uzbek children's literature, successfully combining adventure, humor, fantasy, and social meaning. The work not only entertains readers but also educates them, encouraging independent thinking and the ability to draw meaningful life conclusions. Its characters, events, and expressive artistic techniques expand the reader's imagination and play a significant role in their moral development. For these reasons, the novel continues to retain its importance in Uzbek literature and remains a cherished work for future generations.

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