

Stinson, Kathy

Seven Clues in Pebble Creek

7-10

illus. Don Besco

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Lorimer, 1987

116 pages.

\$14.95 cloth, \$5.95 paper

*Type of Story:* Mystery*Setting:* Small town, Present

Matt Randall has that common summer holiday affliction: nothing to do. A mysterious post card, with its rhyming message, ends his boredom by sending him off on a treasure hunt which leads him to a few thrills, a new friend, and his heart's desire.

Despite the very few illustrations, and these in black and white, even the youngest children found this an engaging and compelling story to listen to or read to themselves. They thought the development of the characters of Matt and his new friend, David, was realistic. Readers also enjoyed figuring out the clues which are reproduced as they would have appeared to Matt. These clues were easy without being too obvious. Readers found the whole book exciting and suspenseful, with moments of humour. Especially popular was the visit to the punk hairdresser where Matt had his hair sculpted into a purple flamingo as part of his detecting.

A fast-moving mystery, for children aged 7 to 10.

*"The treasure Matt finds is friendship."* Reader #1389, 9 year old girl.

*"The boys seemed to be like me."* Reader #2083, 8 year old boy

*"I feel as if I am not only reading about the characters, but I feel as if I have been introduced to them."* Reader #1744, 10 year old girl.

*"Boys would do things like that."* Reader #1953, 8 year old girl.

*"Is there a treasure? You'll find out if you read this great book!"* Reader #2023, 10 year old girl.

*"It's really really really good!"* Reader #1710, 8 year old girl.

*"I learned where there are some hiding spots so I can make a treasure hunt for a friend."* Reader #2023, 10 year old girl.

*"It really could be real, like it says . . . I just liked it. I wanted to go on reading."* Reader #1894, 7 year old boy.

*"The pictures aren't really important compared to the words."* Reader #1952, 7 year old boy.

*"C. finished this book on his own (we had started reading it together) even though reading something of this length is new to him. That speaks well for the story, I think."* Parent of Reader #1952, 7 year old boy.

*"Are there any other books like this? Can you find one for me? Can we read this one again?"* Reader #1324, 8 year old boy.