

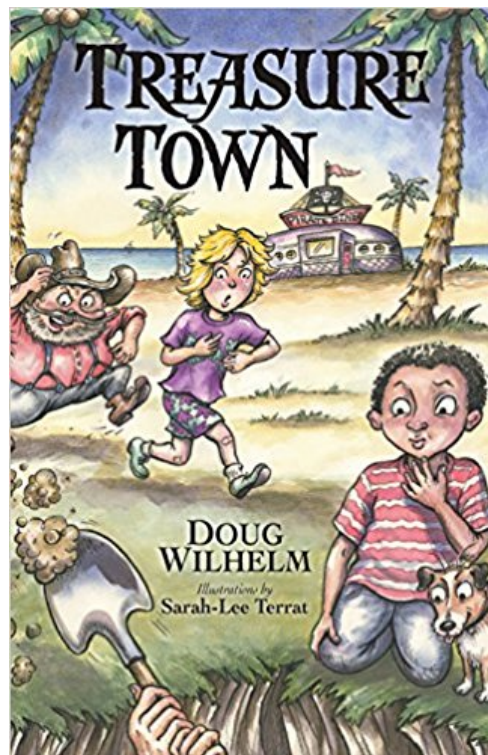
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Review of *Treasure Town*

By Doug Wilhelm and Illustrated by Sarah-Lee Terrat

Adult/ Educator Reviewer: Mary Guay
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Student Review: Askia Hylton, 5th Grade



Wilhelm, D. (2016). *Treasure Town*. Weybridge, VT: Long Stride Books.

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Adult Review: Mary Guay

In a small Florida beach town, three young friends set out to find the buried treasure of legendary pirate, Jean Lafitte. Lafitte was said to have buried enough treasure to build a bridge of gold across the Mississippi River. As our three friends, Luis, Haley B., and Speedup are planning their grand escapade, two “weirdos” arrive in town, Bug Luck and Yuke Johnson. The bungling pair of buddies, Bug and Yuke, were trying to get to Alaska to search for gold, but they arrived, instead, in Florida. Yuke is a gentle giant with a penchant for digging and Bug is his short feisty leader. The kids meet up with Bug and Yuke and together they head to the beach to seek their fortunes.

“This is a light-hearted tale with engaging characters and the universal allure of finding buried treasure.”

In an effort to please, Yuke digs until there is no beach at all. The town is upset when they discover that their beach has disappeared. Yuke did not intend to upset anyone and so consoles himself by doing what he does best, dig. He digs up the neighboring parking lot and finds a buried ship. It is not the pirate ship of Jean Lafitte, but rather a United States Navy ship designed to hunt for pirate ships. The kids, Bug, and Yuke become heroes bringing fame and fortune to their town.

At the end of the book, Luis and Haley B. give us deeper insights into the book. Luis reveals that the legend of Jean Lafitte is a true story, and that there

may indeed be treasure buried in Florida. Lafitte, a handsome and arrogant pirate entrepreneur, was captured and escaped US custody on two occasions. He eventually fell victim to a Spanish warship disguised as a cargo ship and died. Haley B. speaks out for women pirates. She shares the adventures of Calico Jack, his wife Anne, and Mary Read, proudly declaring that the women pirates were braver than the men.

This is a light-hearted tale with engaging characters and the universal allure of finding buried treasure. The reality of pirates adds to the intrigue of the book, but also softens the brutality of pirate life.

Student Review: Askia Hylton

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes pirates, treasure, and geography. The cover led you to believe that that treasure was across from the pirate diner, but it wasn't. I expected them to find treasure, but they found a boat.

I think it would be fun to dig as fast as Yuke. I would want to dig to the mantle of the earth. I was pretty surprised that the story was true.

“I was pretty surprised that the story was true.”

When I was reading, I thought that I had heard the pirate name before.

I think this book was important because of the facts at the end and the lesson it taught you- to care for your friends, and always put your head where your soul is