

## HUMOUR AND WISDOM IN THE WORKS OF RUSKIN BOND

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**Abstract:** Ruskin bond is a writer whose name is not unknown to the readers. He is the one whose stories need no introduction. He pens down his stories in a very lucid and fantastic manner covering the touched and untouched areas of human life and aspirations ranging from themes such as child psychology, environment, friendship, love of nature, innocence, wisdom and also the personal experience of the author. He has been writing for over sixty years and has now over 120 titles in print- novels, collections of short stories, poetry, essays, anthologies and books for children. His novel *'The Blue Umbrella'* (1980) deeply studies the human psychology and gives us valuable lessons for life. This short and humorous novel captures life in a hilly village of Garhwal, where ordinary characters become extraordinary, heroic and others find opportunities to redeem themselves. Ruskin Bond writes his stories in a very witty yet simplistic manner that everybody reads and enjoys them without much difficulty. His writing reflects a genuine simplicity and has a deep and everlasting impact on the readers minds. *'The Blue Umbrella'* is a good source of amusement loaded with wisdom and a perennial fountain of knowledge. This paper will focus on the basic and significant virtues presented by Ruskin Bond through his novel the *'The Blue Umbrella'* that can help the people to become good human beings.

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### Introduction

Ruskin Bond, a renowned Indian author, is known for his unique writing style, which is deeply rooted in his personal experiences and observations. He dresses his stories with emblems and stimulates everyone involved despite having lived in Mussoorie for over 30 years, the author Ruskin Bond has made the Himalayas a major aspect of his life and work as a writer. His sources for the story are infinite, especially when it comes to trees, wildflowers, birds, animals, rocks and rivers.

Such ordinary mountain folk are also a significant element of the culture of the mountains. Through his poems, essays, short stories, novels and autobiographical writings for young children, Bond portrays his changing relationship with the Himalayas and the different aspects of nature he came to know in childhood, with particular attention to how he and the protagonists in his stories, has experienced it. His works often have an autobiographical element, which adds depth and authenticity to his stories. Bond's writing reflects his life growing up in small towns in India, spending time with local craftsmen and living in the Himalayas. He presents the mountains and high peaks with his enthusiasm in the short story "Rain in the Mountains" (1993). Of all Indian authors, Ruskin Bond is by far the least popular. He writes in English, but outside of India, he is not a well-known author. This does not appear to worry him, but he is satisfied

to create novels set in little communities in his beloved Himalayan foothills. The tranquilizer-like effect of the short tale "Rain in the Mountain" is demonstrated by the aroma of newly soaked ground, which has the effect of expanding and transporting the reader, an anthology of prose and poetry curated by Mr Bond from his book *A Little Book of Life* (2012). It contains information on 30 years of his time spent in the mountains, amid his close friends, nature and the family he adopted. To find his roots, he retraces his steps back to India. As is the case with all of her work, the language in this issue is simple and elegant and pushes us to take time away from our hectic lives and to meet the plain people of the hills. He chronicles various night-time creatures making their way through Mussoorie and the numerous scents that greet him in Meerut; the monsoon showers in the latter location and its complex effluvium, which unleashes new life in that environment; the chorus of insects as the sun sets outside of his bedroom window; trees growing ancient in the surrounding area; and a single, ephemeral cosmos flower, as well as one lone bat, in his writings.

The collection before us demonstrates again that, with respect to his prose's soothing qualities and the expression of both lyricality and sensitivity, few writers can match Ruskin Bond. Sunday Midday has once again been captivated by this Mussoorie writer

with his compelling collection of nature pieces. After many fruitless years of trying to succeed on the plains, Ruskin Bond, a mountain man known as the “old man of the mountains”, arrived in Mussoorie to make his home in 1963. As he is attracted to the natural beauty of nature, he describes the attraction of nature and its splendour. Although these stories often take place in a small, lonesome Himalayan town or hamlet that nevertheless has its “inherited virtues of fundamental honesty, faith and love for family and friends”, he claims that every one of his stories is fictitious. Parents do not worry about the protection of their children, who travel freely without fear of harsh or criminal acts, because the people from the hills are welcoming, trustworthy and kind. When faced with such a positive and cordial atmosphere, Bond envisages the innocence of his and his characters’ infancy as a long, idyllic summer afternoon of laughter, play and reckless abandon. His characters live in woodland ponds, take naps under shaded trees and are accompanied by butterflies and bugs that live nearby. They can also climb mango and litchi trees, ride bicycles down steep slopes and enjoy a day outdoors exploring rivers and mountains.

When vacationing in the hill station in the summer, the world has a wonderful, timeless quality that is well suited to his writing. An incident from *Once Upon a Time in Doon* (2007) about trees he planted with his father before his father’s death is recounted in his autobiography. When he went back to the exact location he had previously visited, he found that the trees had multiplied and appeared to speak hello to him. In their efforts to save trees on a dry riverbed, the father and protagonist plant trees on a rock outcropping in the middle of a dry river. Hoping the trees would be left alone, they also protect them from the next flooding by building a sturdy dam. The protagonist from “My Father’s Trees in Dehra” (1991) is now an adult and has returned to this location. He is surprised to see that the trees are doing well and that his father’s desire has come true. In his poems, essays and short stories, the motif of trees and crawling vines crawling toward his father and grandparents in an attempt to connect appears constantly.

In *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra* (2011a), Bond thinks that trees used to be able to move around much like people did until someone put a spell on them and imprisoned them in one location. He is looking forward to when trees will be allowed to walk again without the threat of deforestation. In this case, the sentence might be seen as an allegory for the needless tree massacre that occurs in the Himalayas. Bond appeals, claiming that trees are necessary to both birds and animals who call the woods home, as well as to humans, who derive many benefits from the trees’ fruit and lumber, including their use in retaining

rainfall in the area, avoiding soil erosion and keeping the desert at bay.

To a large extent, his connection to the natural world is also related to his attachment to Mussoorie, a location of beauty and his love of reading and writing about the works of Henry David Thoreau, Richard Jefferies and H.E. Bates “who lived near to nature and included it in their creative work”. The mastermind loci of the Himalayan foothills are of interest to him, not just as symbols, but also in an animistic sense, because of his childhood curiosity. He had a conversation with Nilima Pathak about communing with nature, “To me, nature is intimate. This is because I have lived within a stone’s throw of it in the nearby mountains for the previous 35 years. Although I had lived among trees for a long time, even before that I had quite related to the woods and the flora of the country.

### **Element of Ruskin Bond’s**

Writings Literature dealing with the majesty and force of nature is abundant. There are various ideas, but they all centre on the fact that Bond’s works are logically sound and realistically depict life. Ruskin Bond is celebrated for his distinct writing style and evocative storytelling. One can discern several key elements in Bond’s writings that contribute to his enduring popularity and charm. The elements that define Bond’s writings include simplicity, a deep connection with nature, nostalgia, the exploration of human relationships, a touch of humor, and a keen eye for the ordinary moments that shape our lives. His stories are windows into the heart of India and the human experience, capturing both the magic and the everyday with equal grace.

### **Ruskin Bond: One of the founding fathers of children’s literature**

As the 19th-century British poet and writer, Sir Walter Scott, found in an inhospitable environment, Bond sees a parallel with 19th-century British novelist and writer, David Copperfield, to a greater extent, he became sensitive to youngsters as a result of believing that they get less attention paid to them by their elders. These youngsters that he encountered in villages and townships served as inspiration for his writings, showing him topics to incorporate. He addresses his children’s stories, presenting a thorough examination of children’s literature in India by contrasting and comparing his children’s stories with other children’s tale writers. As Bond explained, he likes children because they are not dishonest. Many youngsters have a strong attachment to freedom; they enjoy diving into pools, scrambling over trees and are always interested in the surroundings. Although all children belong to the world, Bond spends more time with the children of

the world as he understands their nature and shares the same qualities with them

### **Bond's love stories**

In Bond's love stories, all of the male protagonists are men of principle who are shown to be sincere, whereas the female romantic interests are revealed to be young, immature and subject to social pressures. Because of this, just before the start of each of his love stories, you will find the following line: "Another charm of sad love stories is that they retain the destined lovers forever young". Despite the fact that Ruskin Bond has a genuine concern for people, many of his love stories end in tragedy. Despite having seen the misery of a fractured family, Donne disapproved of Bond's support for marital love since he too had felt the pain of a broken family. He is troubled by marriage since it signifies the end of happiness. Ruskin Bond, a former classmate, claims that after suffering the disappointment of his parent's divorce, he would never consider the pleasures of marriage. He regarded marriage to be both an unfulfilling necessity and a miserable condition and as a result, he saw his own relationship as lacking in true devotion, which is why his stories always ended on a depressing note.

### **The colonial dilemma in the work of Bond**

During colonial and post-colonial times, Bond witnessed the passing of both the British and Indian empires. In addition to his Indian colonial and post-colonial periods, he also spent some time in post-colonialism and globalisation. Due to this, he has gained a sense of connection to several cultures and has been able to incorporate it into his writings. Rather, he tends to be wary of and attempts to avoid, syncretism and assimilation. His childhood and adolescence were spent in India where he intimately watched both the agricultural and industrial revolutions. The issue faced by colonial people is narrated in the stories of Bond. The facts are, even though he is of British blood, Bond loves India, much more than his homeland of Great Britain and does not wish to live in the West. Many of Bond's articles described how the revolution for independence had an influence on the lives of both colonised and colonisers. For Bond, India and Indians are, if anything, better than Western society's civilised people. In several of his stories, he attacks Western culture and civilisation, all done in a humorous way.

### **Thematic concerns in Bond's short stories**

Bond is a renowned Indian author who has been writing for several decades. His works often focus on themes that are close to the human experience and are relatable to a wide range of readers. Some of the recurring thematic concerns in his short stories include

nostalgia and longing for simpler times, childhood memories and experiences, the beauty and significance of nature, the complexities of human relationships and the loss of innocence. Bond also explores social issues such as poverty and class differences and highlights the beauty and imperfections of life in small towns and villages in India. His stories often feature elements of magic realism, which adds to their charm and makes them unique. Through his writing, Bond invites readers to reflect on the world around them and the human experience, making his stories timeless and memorable. The reader is influenced by Bond's anecdotes because of how successfully he was able to capture their viewpoint on the world and characterise different characters. He uses a variety of thematic writing techniques. They discuss matters relating to love, family, kids, pets and natural occurrences. His downcast attitude significantly impacted his daily habits. Bond's thematic concerns, in which he covers a broad range of topics and never runs out of material, are also thoroughly examined

### **Bond's cherished nature**

Bond's affinity appears to have an odd connection to the natural world. Being in a loving relationship ensures that you never become bored. There is always something fresh to learn about nature. The more one gets close to nature, the more curious they become. Because of nature's fertility, a person who is in love with it will never be pessimistic. According to Bond, nature offers an endless supply of perspectives and subject matter for writers. He preferred to live a simple life surrounded by nature rather than in a busy city and he was quite comfortable with this arrangement. The descriptions of how Bond found his favourite places to go birdwatching serve as illustrations of his love of nature. Everyone who paid attention to her details would experience a power of healing and recovery, he discovered. He inherited his love of nature from his father, who instilled it in him when he was a little child. It was as if nature had taken him in as a protector since he had been brought up in this manner since the death of his father.

### **Conclusion**

Ruskin Bond is one of the most popular Indian writers who has contributed a lot to Indian literature. He is known for his simplistic style of writing and his ability to capture the essence of life in the hills of North India. His writings are imbued with an autobiographical element, which is a major theme in his work apart from love for nature and human relationships. In conclusion, the autobiographical element is a significant feature of Ruskin Bond's writing. His ability to draw from his personal experiences and use

them in his writing is what makes his work so relatable and impactful. The analysis of his selected works reveals that Bond's writing is characterised by simplicity and a sense of nostalgia, which is a reflection of his personal experiences. The study concludes that the autobiographical element is instrumental in making Bond's writing relatable and impactful.

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