

## The Use of Frame Story in Kashmira Sheth's Boys without Names

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### Abstract

Authors for young adult literature often present their tales directly through the voice of the story narrators. However, Kashmira Sheth, in her *Boys without Names*, seeks to present her tale, specifically the issue of child labor, through the use of frame stories which are recounted by two or more narrators. Through frame stories, the authors are able to raise the readers' awareness of child labor. This paper, through narrative theory, sets out to examine the function of frame stories in young adult literature and explores how Kashmira Sheth employs this literature to impart wisdom and the importance of being mindful of other people. The study found that frame stories have a remarkable impact on how the young readers comprehend the themes prevalent in *Boys without Names*. Frame stories also allow the author to convey moral messages and good virtues to the young adult audience. The use of fables also entertains and amuses the readers. Finally, by incorporating multiple narrators in this novel, the author is able not only to depict the issue of child labor from various perspectives; she also expands insights on child labor and confirms the credibility and reliability of the literary text.

**Keywords:** child labor, fables, frame stories, young adult literature

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against each other so each one is suspicious and fearful of the others. But Gopal slowly uses his skill as a storyteller to draw the boys together even as he remains fearful of how sharing kahanis might make him vulnerable. He also remains determined to escape and strategizes how to accomplish this successfully. As he grows closer to the other boys, he realizes that he can't just leave the other boys behind. The plight of the boys is compelling and full of suspense. For a discussion guide to *Boys without Names*, visit Kashmiri Sheth's website. One can also listen there to an audio recording of Sheth pronouncing the characters' names. Advertisements. In **BOYS WITHOUT NAMES**, author Kashmiri Sheth takes readers into the world of child labor and exposes the unbearable conditions and incredible horrors suffered by millions of children around the world. Economic conditions drive Gopal and his family from their tiny village into life in the city of Mumbai. Gopal, his mother, and his twin brother and sister are forced to live for several days on the street when Gopal's father goes in search of the uncle who was supposed to meet them at the train station. Not able to read directions and street signs, Gopal's father is lost, leaving the remaining family to struggle on without him. When they finally find him, Uncle Jama is able to provide food and shelter for them while he begins the search for Gopal's missing father.