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Dust City

Author:
Robert Paul Weston

Reading Level: Grades 7+

In this futuristic post-fairies fairy tale world, companies mine fairy dust residue in the earth from long-ago magic to sell as minor first aid remedies. Henry seems to be the only citizen unwilling to use this somewhat makeshift fairy dust, as his mother was killed in an accident involving a truckload of the stuff.

Our main character Henry?s father is **the** Big Bad Wolf, and when Henry has *one* little teenage slipup (a broken window), he is sent to the St. Remus Home for Wayward Youth (aka wayward animalians & one hominid, Henry?s best friend Jack).

Through Jack?s nimble fingers, Henry comes into possession of a series of letters written to him by his incarcerated father. The letters contain secrets ? important secrets that could exonerate his father and bring them back together. All Henry has to do is get in with a guy named Skinner, by competing for a job in a dust drug-fueled and vicious race; then gather proof of his father?s semi-innocence. But in working for Skinner is no walk in the park; Henry now is a runner of nixiedust, a much more powerful and dangerous version of corporately mined fairy dust.

Many well known fairy tale characters are featured in the story, such as Detective White, who has a lingering cough due to being raised by miners, and Cindy Rella, a secretary type for St. Remus?, who has a fancy pair of heels. Some are blatant, like Ms. Rella, some subtle ? Detective White ? and others much less obvious ? Jack, for example, is a kleptomaniac who escapes from St. Remus? via plant.

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