

An overview of The Smart Kid by Bob Miller
Bob@ChrysalisChronology.com 507-281-2213

Genre:

This is a “soft sci-fi” novel because there is really only one fantastical characteristic of the main character that drives the entire plot. Part 1 is a mystery, with much emotional drama. Part 2 is a thriller/chase/origin story. Part 3 is the final climax that pulls the other two parts together.

But it also has a hint of a maniacal company of societal manipulators who desire world domination and will be further developed in four sequels. But this company, ‘Chrysalis Chronology, Int’ is only mentioned in one chapter as being the impetus and support for the antagonist in Part 2.

It could best be described as a *thriller* with chase scenes, abductions, escapes, and surprises.

Book Divisions:

Part 1:

After a chase scene in chapter one that introduces the main character (Michael Shale using the pseudonym *Tom Howardson* in this first chapter), his cleverness, and the stakes for him, then Part 1 begins. Although the over-riding antagonist for the entire book (Senator Perkins) is mentioned in Part 1, he does not play a role in it. The antagonist in Part 1 is the main character, the boy, (using the pseudonym *Matthew Janson* in Part 1) and his mystery, and the protagonist is the elementary school counselor (Charleen Therry) who is trying to uncover the mystery of a 12 year old boy prodigy who seems to have no past. Most of Part 1 is written from the POV of the Counselor.

Part 2:

Once Charleen solves the mystery of Matt Janson at the halfway point in the book, then Part 2 is about the Senator, who is the antagonist responsible for chasing, arresting, and abducting the main character, Michael Shale. Part 2 is an origin story that shows how the protagonist, Michael/ Matthew, grows, develops and out-wits the shadowy government organization that is chasing him. And, because the reader already understands who Matthew is, the origin of how he became that way will have greater meaning.

Part 3:

Part 3 covers the final confrontation which brings the main antagonist (the Senator), against the protagonist (Michael/Matthew), his brother (Mark), and the counselor (Charleen Therry).

The timeline of Part 3 covers only two days.

The origin of the chase to the final climax of the book covers about 20 years and 1000 miles.

And it is this combination of the epic origin story and the more personal mystery that combine to add great depth and meaning to the final climax and epilogue.

Intended Audiences:

So the intended audience of the entire Pentalogy is Sci-Fi readers. However, The Smart Kid can

be used as a cross-over book because it will appeal to readers of thrillers and mysteries. Sub-audiences that may have an interest in it would be people living around St. Cloud, MN or any of the other IA cities mentioned. Another sub-audience is elementary school counselors and teachers. Other interested readers may be people who care about children and the problems that they face, such as death of parents, abuse, and self-esteem. Another potential audience is readers who like the nostalgia of the 60s and 70s. Of interest to these readers will be the historical background which covers major events and minor characteristics of the 60s and 70s.

Historical Events discussed are:

- World War 2 against the Germans
- Japanese internment camps
- The cold war against Russia
- Alger Hiss and communist subversives
- Racial injustices
- J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI, and COINTELPRO
- The assassination of JFK
- Vietnam War
- Nixon
- Moon Landing
- Popular music of the 50s, 60s and 70s: Buddy Holly, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Peter, Paul & Mary, Elvis, The Eagles, Journey
- Media of the 50s, 60s, & 70s: Dr. Kildare, Dr. Who, WKRP in Cincinnati, Happy Days, Robert A. Heinlein,
- Comic Book superheroes: Superman, Captain Marvel, Batman, The Hulk
- Pop Culture: A&W, price of food, cars, VCRs, Studebaker, creation of Interstates, marijuana.

Bob@ChrysalisChronology.com 507-281-2213