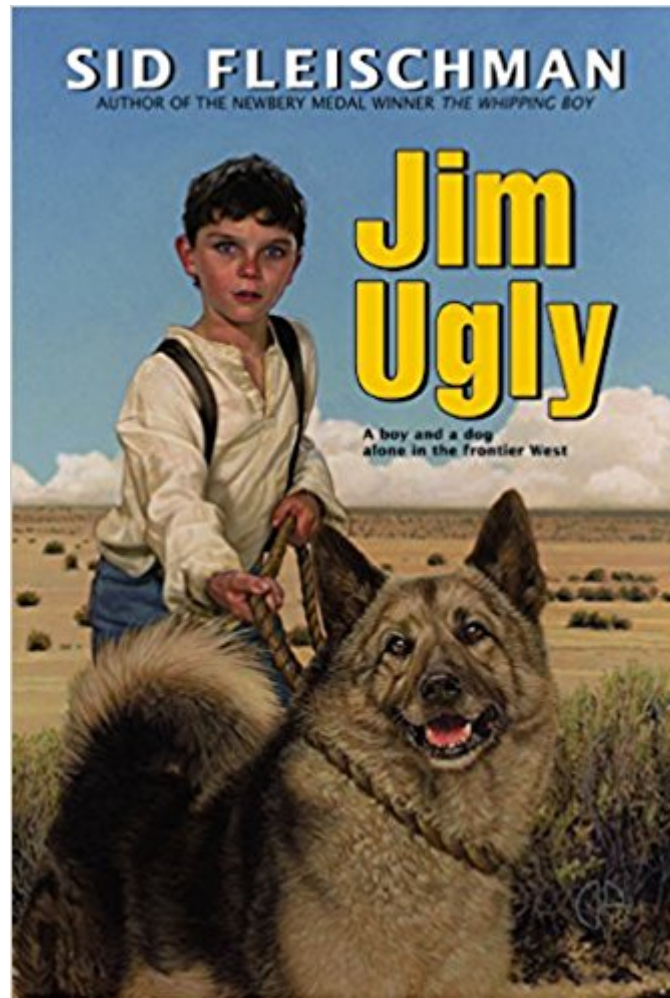




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# Jim Ugly



## Synopsis

A one-man dogPart wolf and fiercely independent, Jim Ugly is a dog who answers to only one person. Unfortunately, that man -- Sam Bannock -- has disappeared. Rumor has it that Sam is dead, but to his son, Jake, something about that doesn't sound quite right. So Jake and Jim Ugly embark on a wild journey into the frontier West, where they find themselves pursued by a pretty lady, a theater troupe, and one very ornery yellow-legged man. And they all want to know one thing: Where is Sam Bannock?

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

In this comic, suspense-laden Western adventure, Jake searches for his supposedly dead father, an itinerant actor, with the help of Jim Ugly, his father's wolf-like dog. The hunt takes them from Blowfly, Nev., to San Francisco, with Jim Ugly reluctantly accepting Jake's authority. Their grudging but dogged teamwork helps them fend off a beautiful actress, a money-hungry cousin and a bounty hunter--all seeking out Jake's father and the fortune in diamonds they believe he has. Finding work with a theater company, Jake is reunited with his father on stage. The pursuers give up when Dad returns the diamonds in the craws of hundreds of chickens and the curtain falls on a happy scene, with Jake making peace with Jim and his father marrying the beautiful actress. Fleischman's ( The

Whipping Boy ) light, tautly constructed genre piece is like the hair-raising melodramas in which Jake appears: certain to entertain, with all plot lines neatly tied together at the end. Illustrations not seen by PW. Ages 8-up. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Grade 4-8-- With a little silent-movie piano accompaniment, this rollicking parody of Western melodrama would effortlessly unfold across any stage. It is 1894, and Jake Bannock's actor father, Sam, has just been buried. The 12-year-old boy is seemingly left an orphan with no inheritance except for an unnamed, one-man dog, "part elkhound, part something else, and a large helping of short-eared timber wolf." Jake calls him Jim Ugly. Mystery arises immediately . Where are the diamonds his dad is accused of stealing? Was that really Dad buried there in the Nevada Desert at Blowfly? Jake sets out in search of the answers, aided by Jim Ugly's keen nose. The two travel by baggage car from one town to another, trying to avoid a bounty-hunting, former cavalry sergeant who villainously skulks around the story's corners. Jake tells his own adventurous story--how he meets Wilhelmina Marlybone-Jenkins, an actress who was Sam's sweetheart; how he plays the apple-balancing role of William Tell's son with a traveling theatrical troupe; and how his search pays off when he sees his father--alive and well--on a San Francisco trolley. The climax and resolution make for a wonderfully improbable, mesquite flavored, farce. Jake's voice is simple and direct, made vivid by Fleischman's command of simile and metaphor. --Katharine Bruner, Brown Middle School, Harrison, TN Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is the first book I bought ever! When I was a kid, my grandma took me to California State University in Sacramento (CSUS). While there, she took me to the campus and showed me their book selection. I chose it because one, I am a boy, and two because they had dogs that look just like them. Of course, I was young then and all I could really do is judge the book by its cover because my reading was so fresh, and so young. Over the years, I read this book over and over again, and in my later years felt it was time to add it to my collection for a future family. A subtle reminder of what it was and is to be young, adventurous, and exploring. Also, what it means to move through death and a part of life, and the suspicions of our gut that tell us something is not right, or that something is happening but we just can't seem to put words to. It's a well written piece of work, and I appreciate Sid sharing his thoughts and his story. Thank you!

Good story, a little slow at times.

My son loved this book. It was very interesting . He didn't want to put it down.

This is a book review for the book Jim Ugly, By: Sid Fleischman. Have you ever wondered if people pronounced dead were actually dead? Jake Bannock's dad is suddenly dead and all he has left is his dad's wolf like dog and the talk of a fortune in missing diamonds. Jake doesn't believe his dad is actually dead so, he and his new dog Jim Ugly run away from the farm (in the desert) they live on to try and find his dad and the diamonds. Along the way Jake and Jim Ugly meet Wilhelmina, Sam Bannock's wife. Jake and Jim Ugly travel along the deserts and the Western Coast of the United States in search for Sam Bannock. As they search for Sam, Jake realizes that Jim Ugly isn't just his dad's dog but also his dog. The main characters of this book are Jake Bannock, Jim Ugly the dog, Wilhelmina, Cornelius, and Sam Bannock. Jake Bannock is a 12 year old boy whose father is suddenly pronounced dead. Jim Ugly is a wolf like, grey dog whose owner is dead and left with his son. Wilhelmina is an actor from San Francisco, California who was secretly married to Sam Bannock until he was pronounced dead. Cornelius is a theater manager from San Francisco, California who accused Sam Bannock of stealing a fortune of missing diamonds. Sam Bannock is a male that is pronounced dead but is still thought to be alive, by his son, is accused of stealing a fortune of diamonds and is the father to Jake Bannock. He is also the owner of Jim Ugly. These are the main characters in the book Jim Ugly. The theme of the story is that you don't always need to believe what you hear. Sometimes the things people say are not the truth and are false. You can't assume something from hearing it, you also need the facts. The author writes, "Your gems, Cornelius, are in the gizzards of the dispossessed poultry." This is a perfect example of the theme because everyone thought that the diamonds were in the pine box that Sam Bannock was "buried" in. Everyone thought this because of what one person said/thought. This shows don't believe everything you hear. This was a very good book. I would recommend this book to everyone I know. If you are looking for a good, quick mystery book to read this would be a good book for you. I believe this because, I love to read mystery books and I would say this is one of the best mystery books I have read. This is not your normal, stereotypical mystery book you would read. This book is an amazing representation of how anything could happen and how you never fully know something about a

person, even if they're your own father. Just remember you can't believe everything you hear, if you don't know all the facts.

Jim Ugly Sid Fleishman Review by Stergios Dinopoulos What if you thought your father was dead, but found out his coffin was filled with ice? Read Jim Ugly to find out about a boy named Jake whose father faked death because of a bounty on his head. Jake embarks on an adventure to find his father. He takes Jim Ugly, his father's grey, unfriendly husky with him. Jim will not listen to Jake, making it harder for them to find Sam, Jake's father. There's also Aurora, Jake's aunt who wants the diamonds that Sam stole. There's another problem, D.D Skeats, the bounty hunter, didn't fall for "Sam's funeral play act" and is trying to catch him. Jim Ugly is a great book for young readers who enjoy suspense and mystery and are okay with some frustration when Jim Ugly will not obey. I personally enjoyed this book a lot, but I did get frustrated. The message in Jim Ugly is that you can make friends when you least expect it. ... Will Jim Ugly and Jake get along and find Sam or will they never see him again?

Jim Ugly is a book about a boy named Jake and his dog named Jim Ugly. When Jake's father dies he has to stay with his aunt and his uncle but his aunt hates Jim Ugly. She said that she would shoot him after Jake fell asleep. Jake was going to let him go until he heard of a treasure that was said to have been stolen by his father. Instead of letting Jim Ugly go he decided to run away because he suddenly did not think his father had really died...I really liked this book and would recommend it to everyone who likes to read. Jim Ugly is kind of like a mystery because it gives you clues to figure out what happens next but half of the time I was wrong and that the exact opposite happened. It also leaves you hanging for a few chapters. I could not put the book down once I started re-reading. The part that I thought was the funniest was that Jake's aunt kept on and on about that she wanted Jim Ugly gone and his uncle kept telling her that she was not going to kill him and that he told Jake to run away so that she would not kill Jim Ugly.

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