

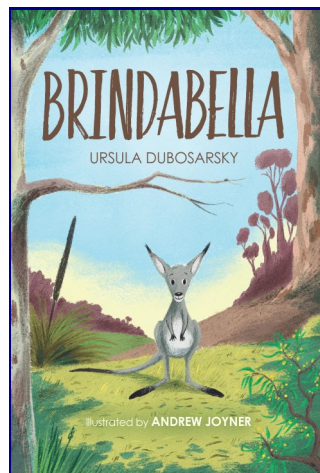
Brindabella

By Ursula Dubosarsky & Illustrated by Andrew Joyner
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
ISBN 9781760112042 SCIS: 1851693
\$16.99

PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

Blurb:

This is a story about a boy called Pender and a kangaroo called Brindabella, about how they became friends, and all the things that happened to them because of it. Pender and his father live in an old house made of honey-coloured stone in the bush by the river, with only the company of his father's paintings and the loyal dog, Billy-Bob. Then, on one winter morning, a gunshot amongst the trees changes everything. When Pender rescues Brindabella from the pouch of her murdered mother, an unusual friendship blossoms between the lonely boy and the orphaned joey. But Brindabella is no ordinary kangaroo. And though Pender has saved her life, the untameable wildness of the bush--and freedom--call to her... Lyrical and unforgettable, Brindabella explores the brutal beauty of the Australian bush.



Lamont Review:

This really is a very powerful story.

Pender is a gentle, lonely young boy who lives with his father in the bush, surrounded only by their animals and the local wildlife. So when Pender rescues a baby joey, Brindabella, he throws himself wholeheartedly into looking after her and raising her as his own.

But there is a longing in Brindabella to be free, and all the human love and care from Pender cannot stop her need to go. But will she make it on her own and find the adventure that she longs for?

The voices of all the animals will stay with you long after putting the book down. It is a story that will get your students thinking about and discussing the relationships between humans and animals, and how the interaction between the two can work harmoniously.

This story will be enjoyed by all readers aged 8 and above.

Reviewed by Sam

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available on our website for this title.

Fearless Frederic

By Felice Arena

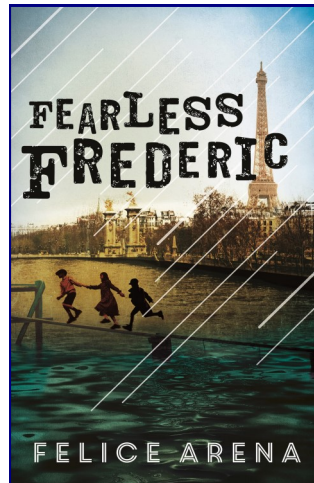
Publisher: Puffin/Penguin

ISBN 9780143786757 SCIS: 1851697

\$16.99

Blurb:

When the river rises and the city of Paris begins to disappear under water, Frederic decides to help those who can't help themselves. But as his heroic acts escalate, so does the danger. Frederic will have to battle an escaped zoo animal and fight off pickpockets and looters but, as the waters subside, can he find justice for his father and find out what courage really means?



Lamont Review:

It is great to have such an accomplished Australian author writing independent middle-grade stories with meaning.

Inspired by the Paris floods of 1910, this adventure has a young Frederic, whose father was murdered during a robbery at the Louvre, tackling many difficulties.

Together with his new found friends, Claire and Thierry, they encounter pick pockets, store robbers and even the thief who murdered his father. Lucky Frederic was a trained junior boxer!

Even an encounter with a crocodile that has escaped from the zoo doesn't stop our hero from trying to help.

This is a fantastic adventure filled story that is based on real historic events. It has strong themes of friendship, justice and doing your best. It is ideal for middle-grade readers, Years 5 - 8.

Reviewed by Rob

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available on our website for this title.

The Extremely Weird Thing That Happened In Huggabie Falls

By Adam Cece & Illustrated by Andrew Weldon

Publisher: Text Publishing

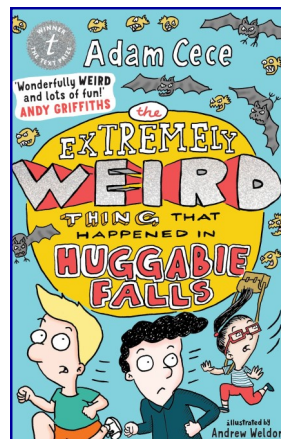
ISBN 9781925603484 SCIS: 1859528

\$14.99

Blurb:

Kipp Kindle and his friends Tobias Treachery and Cymphany Chan live in Huggabie Falls, the weirdest town on Earth. Weird things happen all the time - that's normal. But when an extremely weird thing happens Kipp and his friends know that something is wrong. They embark on a fast-paced, action-packed, hilarious adventure to find out what is making everything turn normal, and to return the weirdness to Huggabie Falls.

With an evil villain, Felonious Dark, a creepy scientist and a fierce wand-wielding teacher, who has turned Cymphany into a baby hippopotamus, to contend with, not to mention killer vampire bats, vegetarian piranhas and a Portuguese-speaking lab rat called Ralf, Kipp, Tobias and Cymphany have quite a task ahead of them.



Lamont Review:

'Weird' really is one word that you would use to describe Huggabie Falls!

Kipp, Tobias and Cymphany have all gravitated together as friends, as they found themselves isolated, due to the unique 'weirdness' of each of their families. But in Huggabie Falls, 'weird' really is normal.

Where else would you find a mean witch as a teacher, every street with the same name, and everyone's first and last names starting with the same letter?

But then even weirder thing starts to happen. The 'weirdness' is being replaced by normality, and Cymphany's family who was considerably normal (which made them weird compared to everyone else in town), is becoming weird!

At first, the changes seemed to be everything that the three friends have ever wanted, but now they aren't so sure. Can they get to the bottom of the mystery?

This is a fun, adventure packed story, full of interesting characters, that will be thoroughly enjoyed by all of those 8+.

Reviewed by Sam

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available on our website for this title.

The Long Class Goodnight

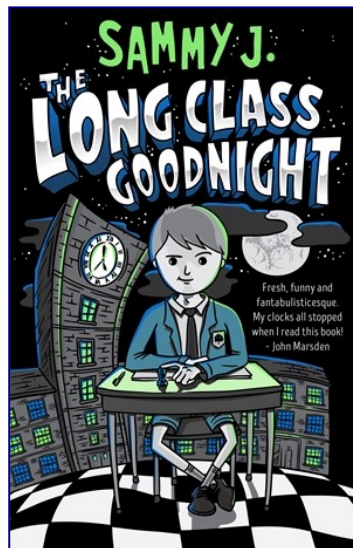
By Sammy J.

Publisher: Five Mile Press/Bonnier Publishing

ISBN 9781760409531 SCIS: 1861027

\$16.99

Meet Justin Monaggetti. He is destined to be a loser. But Justin isn't going to accept his fate without a fight. To survive his first horrible day of high school, he'll need a few tricks, a bit of luck - and an ingenious plan to mess with the rules. A super-weird story of overcoming odds and defying your destiny.



Lamont Review:

Justin is about to start high school when his parents tell him he is born to be a loser. It's unfortunate, but it runs in the family and he just needs to blend in with the crowd. Justin, however, has other ideas! So begins the longest and weirdest first day of high school ever.

This is the perfect book for students in Years 5 and 6. You will fall in love with Justin and Eliza, and their attitude to life. They are wonderful characters and the story is very fast paced, funny and thought provoking.

It's a book about being true to yourself and believing in yourself - even when the school bully is throwing a spitball at your head!

Highly original, very funny, and sure to be a hit.

Reviewed by Michelle

Touch the Sun: The Freedom Finders

By Emily Conolan

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760294922 SCIS: 1860688

\$16.99

Blurb:

To find freedom, you must leave behind everything you've ever known. It is 2011. You want nothing more than to be a journalist in Somalia like your aunty. But the truth can be dangerous - and when you and your little sister are left alone, you find yourself facing life-and-death choices at every turn. Can you escape a terrorist organisation and find a safe place to call home? You'll be asked to cross a desert on foot, hide below deck in a leaky boat, and put your life in the hands of people smugglers. At every turn, the choice is yours. How far will you go for freedom?



Lamont Review:

This is a 'choose your own' story where all the choices you make are life and death ones.

Set in Somalia and Kenya, we mostly follow the lives of two young orphans, who are brother and sister, as they struggle to find a way to a new life in Australia. They both want to follow in the footsteps of their aunty and become journalists, but first they have to survive to tell their story. How far would you go to protect each other and find freedom?

This is a great new series which will perfectly suit readers in the upper primary and lower secondary years. The choices the children make are very challenging, and some have deadly consequences. A perfect book to introduce the difficulties faced by refugees and people living in war torn countries across the globe, as well as how wealthy countries can manage this and where they can help.

The back of the book has fact file pages, where different aspects of the story are explained in detail, which helps clarify the story.

Reviewed by Michelle