

Help Around The House

By Morris Gleitzman
Publisher: Puffin/Penguin
ISBN 9780143793236 SCIS: 1874878
\$16.99

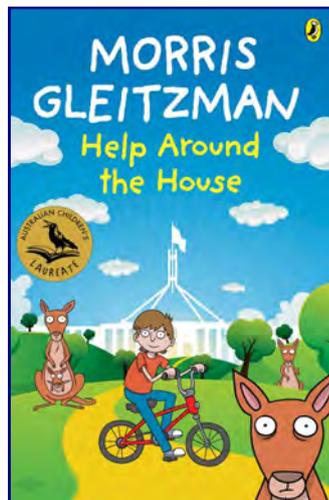
PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

Blurb:

Ludo helps other people. It's how he was brought up.

When Dad is elected to Federal Parliament, Ludo grabs the chance to make Australia an even better place.

But he soon discovers it's not the homeless of the national capital who most need his help - it's the rich and powerful.



Lamont Review:

This is an absolutely wonderful story by master storyteller Morris Gleitzman, that will make a fabulous classroom discussion starter about many topics.

When Ludo's Dad finds himself elected to Federal Parliament, life for Ludo changes enormously. He now finds himself living in a massive house in Canberra and being driven around in Commonwealth cars.

But Ludo just likes to help and he has a very caring attitude. And he can see that his Dad, who likes to help others just like Ludo, is going to need Ludo's assistance to change the perception of politicians being just 'fat cats'. But Ludo gets far more than he bargained for, and finds himself having to deal with his Dad's political adviser and caught up in the mystery of the former politician who was shot. To help him get through all the craziness, Ludo just keeps reminding himself of what his mother would have said, if she was still here...

This book touches on many themes, including dealing with change, grief, friendship, corruption and justice (just to name a few) and will be thoroughly enjoyed by all those in Year 4 and up.

Reviewed by Sam

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

Lemonade Jones

By Davina Bell & Illustrated by Karen Blair

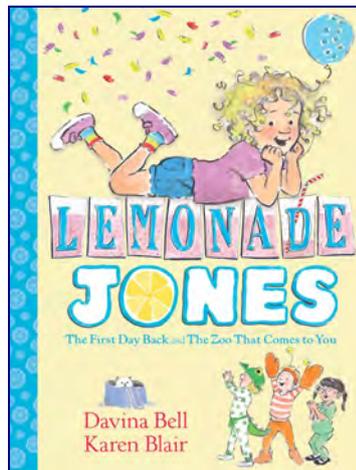
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781925266733 SCIS: 1875118

\$19.99

Blurb:

There are a lot of rules that don't interest Lemonade Jones. No running in the classroom, not even in an emergency. Dangerous animals should be in cages. No biting. (Not even your worst enemy.) But it's especially hard to stick to the rules when you're making life loud and exciting. And Lemonade Jones likes it when loud and exciting things happen. Two delightful stories about Lemonade Jones - a feisty girl with a lot of fizz!



Lamont Review:

This is the delightful first book in a new series, that contains two stories in one.

Lemonade Jones is a young girl who doesn't like rules and likes to ask questions. She is full of character and enthusiasm and she will quickly win your heart.

In the first story, Lemonade Jones finds herself starting at a new school in Year 1, as her previous school has shut down. But Lemonade isn't worried! Unfortunately, things don't quite go to plan and she learns some very valuable lessons.

The second story centres around Lemonade's sixth birthday and she is so excited as this is the first party that she has ever been allowed to have and it is going to be the best party ever! Or is it?

These stories will be thoroughly enjoyed by emerging readers, especially junior girls.

Reviewed by Sam

Kensy and Max 2: Disappearing Act

By Jacqueline Harvey

Publisher: Random House

ISBN 9780143780632 SCIS: 1875109

\$16.99

Blurb:

Kensy and Max are now agents-in-training at Pharos, a covert international spy network. Christmas break sees the twins back at Alexandria for training and a celebration like no other, but where are their parents and why can't they come home?

Thankfully, a school trip to Rome provides a welcome distraction. Amid the history and culture of Italy's capital, they discover a runaway boy and whisperings of Mafia involvement. It looks like Kensy and Max's harmless excursion may just turn into their very first mission.



Lamont Review:

It is not often that we put the second title of a series on our Standing Order selections, but as the first title, *Breaking News*, was our Book of the Month in March this year, we just had to include it! Jacqueline Harvey has not disappointed with this second title.

Kensy and Max now find themselves as Pharos agents in-training, and are spending Christmas with their Grandmother, who heads up the Pharos spy network. But their parents are still missing and Kensy and Max are desperate to know where they are and what happened to them. Could their upcoming trip to Italy put the pieces of the clues that they have together?

But Italy brings far more adventure and danger than they ever thought! With their powers of observation and inquisitive nature, Kensy and Max find themselves caught up in an international political and kidnapping drama.

This is fast paced and a great read for senior primary students, with enough back story included that you can easily read and enjoy this adventure without having read the first one!

Reviewed by Sam

Fairytales for Feisty Girls

By Susannah McFarlane & Illustrated by Beth Norling, Sher Rill Ng and Claire Robertson

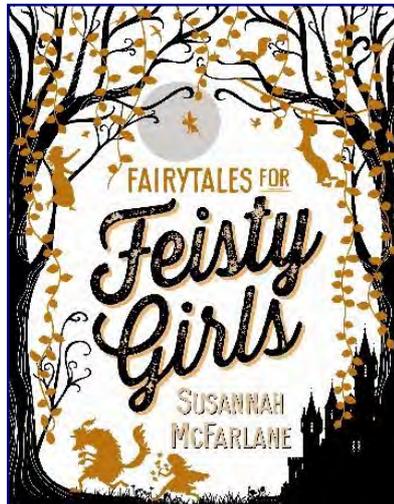
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760523541 SCIS:1874870

\$24.99

Blurb:

Feisty: typically describes one who is relatively small, lively, determined and courageous. Girls can rescue themselves - just watch Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Thumbelina create their own happily ever afters in this beautiful and emboldening bedtime book. A glorious treasury for young girls - and boys - featuring artwork from four leading Australian illustrators: Beth Norling, Claire Robertson, Lucinda Gifford and Sher Rill Ng.



Lamont Review:

This is a brand new take on the classic fairytales of Rapunzel, Little Riding Hood, Cinderella and Thumbelina and will hit a real note with girls aged 7 –10.

There are no princes coming to the rescue in this book! All our beloved characters use their skills to get themselves out the situations they find themselves in.

Rapunzel uses her engineering and building skills, Little Red Riding Hood uses her knowledge of flowers, Cinderella's courage and caring attitude shines through and Thumbelina's love of a good joke helps her find her way.

These girls really are all 'feisty', and will have you looking at these classic fairytales in a whole new light! The accompanying illustrations make this a wonderful read.

Reviewed by Sam

There is a colouring sheet available on website for this title.

A Different Boy

By Paul Jennings

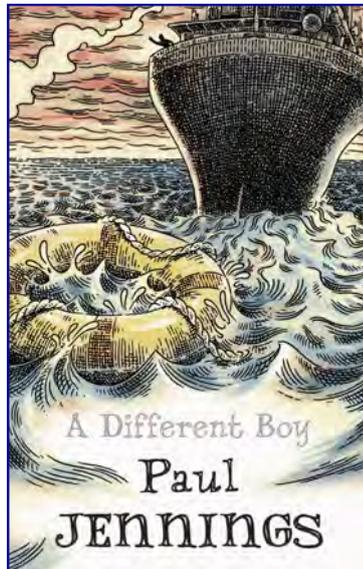
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760523503 SCIS: 1874886

\$14.99

Blurb:

'If you've got a bad deal,' his father used to say, 'get out of it and move on.' When he finds himself in a cruel orphanage Anton does just that, and hides on an ocean liner. Fear and desperation are his only companions. And this time there is no escape. Or is there? Two other passengers have secrets of their own. When nothing is what it seems, can they help each other? Or will they sink into a sea of troubles? You'll never know. Until the last page. Another top story from Australia's master of the trick ending.



Lamont Review:

This marvellous book tells the story of the journey to Australia by two quite different boys.

Anton, an orphan finds himself a stowaway after fleeing an orphanage. Christopher is leaving his war torn land with his mother after the death of his brother, Max.

The novel is too concise to give away any more of the story, but I will say that there are wonderfully gripping twists and turns that are typical of Paul Jennings.

A truly heartbreaking and heart warming story by an incredible wordsmith!

Covering themes of loss, migration, resilience and courage, this is a tremendous novel that is suitable for all readers 10 and older.

Reluctant lower secondary readers will also find the content fabulous, whilst being satisfyingly short.

Reviewed by Rob