March 2014

Secondary Fiction

Two Wolves

By Tristan Bancks Publisher: Random House Australia ISBN 9780857982032 \$16.99 Secondary Book of the Month

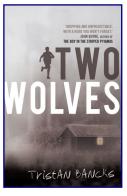
Blurb:

An old man tells his grandson that there is a battle raging inside him, inside all of us. A terrible battle between two wolves. One wolf is bad – pride, jealousy, greed. The other wolf is good – kindness, hope, truth. The child asks, 'Who will win?' The grandfather answers simply, 'The one you feed.'

One afternoon, police officers show up at Ben Silver's front door. Minutes after they leave, his parents arrive home. Ben and his little sister Olive are bundled into the car and are told they're going on a holiday. But are they?

It doesn't take long for Ben to realise that his parents are in trouble. Ben's always dreamt of becoming a detective – his dad even calls him 'Cop'. Now Ben gathers evidence and tries to uncover what his parents have done.

The problem is, if he figures it out, what does he do? Tell someone? Or keep the secret and live life on the run?



Lamont Review:

Thirteen year old Ben Silver faces some of life's biggest questions in this gripping action packed novel.

Ben is always asking questions - his father even calls him 'Cop' for his detective skills. Out of the blue, the police come knocking on Ben's front door. So when Ben's parents arrive home a few minutes later and tell Ben and his little sister to quickly pack for a surprise holiday, Ben's suspicions are aroused.

Over the course of the next few days many more things occur that confirm Ben's suspicions that all is not right in the world.

And therein lie the big questions:

Are we destined to become like our parents? What should you do if you uncover a crime? Can money buy happiness? Could you survive against the odds?

With these huge conversation starters and bonus teacher resources at the back of the book, this a wonderful class novel and English text for all secondary students. If not used in the classroom, it is a great and enlightening read anyway.

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

Saving Thanehaven

By: Catherine Jinks Publisher: Allen & Unwin ISBN 9781743317747

\$14.99

Blurb:

Imagine if you discovered your whole world was actually in a computer...

Noble is a knight with a heart that's true and, well, noble. He must fight everything he encounters in his quest to reach the castle and free the princess. But he's tired... Then one day Rufus comes along and turns his world upside down. Rufus has his own ideas about how to get ahead: don't fight, negotiate! Don't play by the rules! Suddenly, life is more interesting - and less painful - than ever before. But the new rules are harder to live by than the old ones. And can it be true what people are saying: that Noble actually lives inside a computer (whatever that is), and that Rufus is a computer virus?

A fast-paced story with a hilarious combination of characters that pushes the boundaries of space and time.



Lamont Review:

This is a perfect book for Years 7 - 9.

Combining a great adventure story with modern technology, Catherine Jinks has written another wonderful book.

With an amazing collection of fascinating characters and a plot that twists and turns, this is a really hard book to put down.

By the end of the story you will love Noble, Lorellina and Yestin and you will never look at your computer in quite the same way!

Reviewed by Michelle

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

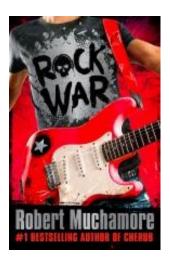
Rock War

By Robert Muchamore Publisher: Hachette Australia ISBN 9781444914535

\$24.99

Blurb:

Meet Jay, Summer and Dylan. Jay plays guitar, writes songs and dreams of being a rock star. But his ambitions are stifled by seven siblings and a terrible drummer. Summer works hard at school, looks after her nan and has a one-in-a-million singing voice. But can her talent triumph over her nerves? Dylan is happiest lying on his bunk smoking, but his school rugby coach has other ideas, and Dylan reluctantly joins a band to avoid crunching tackles and icy mud. They're about to enter the biggest battle of their lives. And there's everything to play for. A spectacular



Lamont Review:

An exciting new series for teens from the hugely successful Robert Muchamore.

The story follows four different groups of teenagers who are finding their way in the world, growing up in different parts of England. The groups all have varying degrees of interest in being rock bands.

Then they discover a new and interesting reality TV show is coming - and the bands on the show will be battling it out to win a fantastic prize.

This is the first title in what will be another great series by Robert. It is best suited to middle and upper secondary students, as it is edgy and quite raw at times.

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

Kokoda: My Australian Story

By Alan Tucker

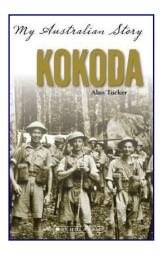
Publisher: Scholastic Australia

ISBN 9781743622056

\$16.99

Blurb:

In his diary, Archie records his own battles at home, against the local bully Beefy; how Townsville copes as it becomes a base for the Pacific campaign; and the Australian east coast reels under Japanese bombs. Archie's two brothers are fighting in the battlefield of World War II. There is nothing between Australia and a Japanese invasion except a small band of brave soldiers, fighting rain, mud, malaria and machine guns.



Lamont Review:

Written in diary form, this is the story of life during the Kokoda campaign, through the eyes of thirteen year old Archie McLeod and the impact of the war on his family, particularly his two older brothers who were part of this battle.

Archie's brothers write letters home that set the scene for much of the diary and depict a particularly harsh and brutal battle.

It becomes almost a documentary of the period from October 1941 to November 1942, showing how Australian life and psyche was changed and moulded during this time.

With a trip to Kokoda becoming a ritual for many Australians in recent years, this is a good beginning point for discussions on this important moment in Australia's development, one that still evokes much feeling today.

Best suited to older primary and younger secondary students aged 10—14.

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

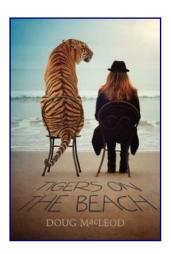
Tigers On The Beach

By Doug MacLeod Publisher: Penguin Australia ISBN 9780143568520 \$17.99

Blurb:

Have you heard the one about the guy who lost a grandfather, but found a girlfriend? It's funny. It's also kind of sad. And some of the bits that are sad are also kind of funny (but only if you laugh at that sort of thing).

Adam thinks Samantha could be the one for him. But first he has to sort out his parents' crumbling marriage, stop getting into embarrassing situations involving public nudity, find out what's making his gran so angry, stop his little brother doing something really, really dangerous and work out what's so funny about two tigers on a beach. It can't be that hard, can it?



Lamont Review:

Thirteen year old Adam's life is pretty good. Helping his family run the Ponderosa, a ten cabin holiday resort in a small coastal town, everything is okay.

But Adam's life changes quickly when his Grandpa dies suddenly and his Grandma comes to stay in one of their cabins.

But this story is more than that - it is a story of first love, dealing with disability, learning that it's okay to be different, family struggles. And, finally, knowledge that everything will work out.

Told in an always humorous style, you gain a real understanding of the characters and hope for their success. An underlying theme throughout the story is jokes that not everyone gets. The book is scattered with these sort of jokes making it best suited to the middle secondary students, particularly, but not only, boys.

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

The First Voyage

By Allan Baillie Publisher: Penguin Australia ISBN 9780143307679 \$17.99

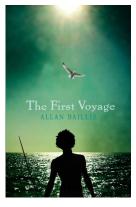
Blurb:

30,000 years ago, before the pyramids are built, before the Ice Age comes and goes, and before Neanderthals become extinct, the Yam tribe live in peace on Bird Island. But the Crocodile tribe have other ideas . . .

The ferocious Crocodile warriors have already killed Bent Beak's pa, and now they seem determined to take out his whole tribe. The only way to survive is to flee the island. But where will they go?

As the Yam tribe brave the perils of the sea, will they survive the voyage into the unknown, and what awaits them just over the horizon?

An enthralling story about the plight of the very first boat people, of their desperation, bravery and hope.



Lamont Review:

This book provides an interesting and insightful look into the possible reasons and some of the turmoils that may have faced the first arrivals in Australia.

The story follows a treacherous journey across water some 30,000 years ago that ultimately sees the Timorese travellers land in the north of Western Australia.

Whilst this is a purely fictional account, the story and its characters give the reader a human insight into our unique past and give us a better understanding of what may have taken place in the earliest human existence in Australia.

An intriguing story that will best suit lower secondary students.

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

The One and Only Jack Chant

By Rosie Borella Publisher: Allen & Unwin ISBN 9781743311387 \$15.99

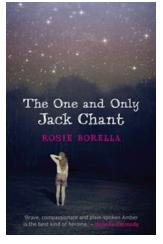
Blurb:

Sixteen-year-old Amber never expected to find romance while working in an old people's home but then Jack Chant is not what she expected either. He's young, exciting and enigmatic - and deeply troubled by something that happened in his past, something he can't quite remember.

Gradually Amber suspects that Jack's past might be a whole lot further back in time than he realises. Is he solid flesh and blood, or just some kind of dreamy fantasy?

A sweetly romantic coming-of-age story in which Amber learns more than most teens about getting old,

falling in love and letting go.



Lamont Review:

An exciting new Australian author, Rosie Borella has produced a marvellous time-slip novel.

Amber has just starting work at a nursing home. This would be hard enough, but then the elusive and charming Jack Chant starts appearing to her and the elderly patients, who are all aflutter about how he is helping them.

But Jack Chant hails from long ago and still has some of his own issues to sort out.

Meanwhile Amber, whose close friend and neighbour, the elderly Vera, has been placed in the care of the nursing home, is seeing life with a whole new meaning.

A funny and heart warming tale of growing up and growing old that would best suit the 14+ age group.

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

Tribute

By Ellen Renner Publisher: Hot Key Books ISBN 9781471400315 \$16.95

Blurb:

What if your greatest enemy was yourself? Zara is a mage, one of the elite in a world where magic is power, and the non-magical majority are oppressed and enslaved. When her Tribute slave and best friend is killed for the crime of literacy, Zara vows revenge by spying for the rebel Knowledge Seekers.

But her bravery and magical skills are tested to the limit when a hostage from the other side of the Wall arrives at her palazzo. Sensing a kindred spirit, she promises to help him - but before she can, her secret is discovered. Hunted by her own kind, she must convince the Knowledge Seekers she is really on their side. But can she convince herself?

Pain, romance, defiance and revenge combine in this powerfully written - and breathtakingly envisioned fantasy.



Lamont Review:

Zara is a mage, the daughter of the arch mage who rules with an iron fist.

But when her father kills her Tribute child and best friend, Zara begins to turn her back on the world she belongs to.

This is a wonderful fantasy story, full of adventure, a first romance and the search for who you are and what you believe in.

Great characters and a fast paced storyline will keep readers intrigued.

Perfect for all fantasy lovers Year 7 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

March 2014

Secondary Fiction

Naveed: Through My Eyes

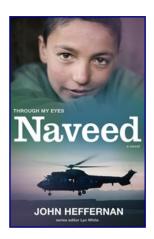
By John Heffernan Publisher: Allen & Unwin ISBN 9781743312483 \$15.99

Blurb:

The explosion jolts him awake. He sits up, gasping for air, heart thumping. Was the blast real? Perhaps it had only happened in his head, a bad dream. Demons of the dark, his father had called them. 'Push them away. They'll only poison your thoughts. Seek the light and they can't hurt you.'

Naveed is sick of war - of the foreign powers and the Taliban, the warlords and the drug barons that together have torn Afghanistan apart. He's had to grow up quickly to take care of his widowed mother and little sister, making what little money he can doing odd jobs and selling at the markets. When he adopts Nasera, a street dog with extraordinary abilities, he has a chance to help rebuild his country. But will a new friend's betrayal crush his dreams of peace forever?

From the winter of war comes the spring of hope.



Lamont Review:

This is a moving story set in modern day Afghanistan and follows the life of young Naveed who lives in poverty near the Bagram air force base.

His father died in a blast. His younger sister Noosh also lost her legs, but with a positive outlook Naveed finds work each day to provide food for his mother and Noosh.

But life takes a turn for the better when Naveed is befriended firstly by a local, fairly wild dog named Nasera and then by Jake, an Aussie soldier. Jake sees in Nasera a dog with extraordinary loyalty and ability to train to smell explosives. This is the work Jake and his dog Stingray perform daily in detecting land mines.

Through many twists and turns and a rebellious uprising by the locals against the air force base, we gain a fabulous insight into what life could be in war torn Afghanistan. John Heffernan writes a truly believable story that provides hope that one day the Afghani people may unite and together build a country where their people can live in peace.

Suitable for all children 11 and up, and a great topic opener for younger secondary students.