

# Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2013

PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

## The Wishbird

By Gabrielle Wang  
ISBN 9780143307525  
\$14.99

Primary Fiction  
Book of the Month

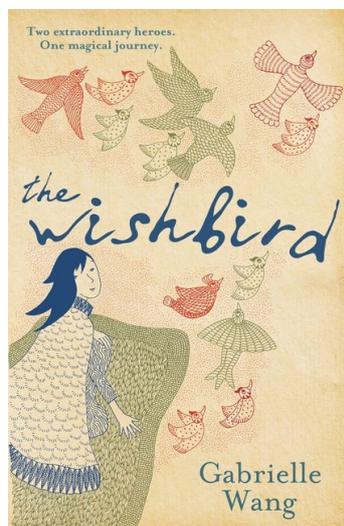
The girl's hands came up to the bars and she gripped them tightly. She was speaking to Boy with her eyes, pleading for help.

Then a strange and beautiful sound came from her throat, rising and falling like the wind. Boy had never heard anything like it.

And yet it was familiar.

Oriole's beloved Wishbird is dying and she must leave the Forest to save him. But in the City of Soulless there is danger everywhere.

Can Oriole and Boy save Soulless and the Wishbird, or will the city's darkness prove too great even for magic? *Publishers Blurb.*



Another magical book from Gabrielle Wang. This is the story of two extraordinary children - one raised by the magical wishbird and the other an orphan in the city of Soulless.

Can the two children save the city and its king and return music and birds to the city's streets?

I really enjoyed the bravery and compassion of the two main characters Oriole and Boy - they have such good hearts and risk everything to help each other.

A perfect book for your grade 5 & 6's, both boys and girls, as it is an adventure story first, with magic entwined throughout.

*Reviewed by Michelle.*

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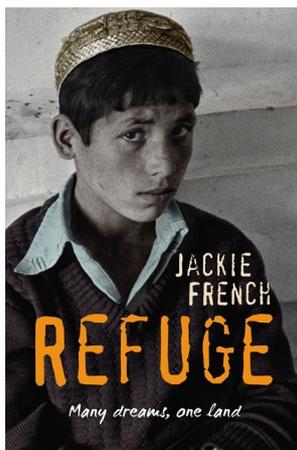
## Refuge

By Jackie French

ISBN 9780732296179

\$15.99

*Refuge* centres around a 14-year-old male Afghan who spent much of his life in Pakistan refugee camps before making the voyage from Indonesia to Australia. As the boat crashes against the rocks of Christmas Island he loses consciousness and awakes to find himself in the life he has always dreamed of in Australia, but with no memory of how he got there: not unusual, says his doctor father. As it is the school holidays he becomes one of a gang of kids who roam the beach, led by an older boy, although he slowly realises that the true power is wielded by ten year old Susanna - who has been ten years old for twenty years. Each of the children in the gang has come to Australia as a place of hope or refuge and they represent the times and places of Australia's greatest migrations. Their life is everything they have dreamed of, from the wonderful House of Women for Chinese Tien Ling to Irish Dairmid's farm, Luis's fishing boat, the library that goes on forever, and the musical concerts for German David Goldberg. Slowly our Afghan boy realises that each day he can make the choice: to stay in the dream or walk through the door on the beach, or to go back to the sea and the rocks and accept real life instead. *Publishers Blurb.*



An evocative look at the journey taken by an array of children from different times in history who were all close to death on their journey of hope to a new life in Australia.

The children escaped death only to land on a beach of their dreams in this new land.

However, that is the problem—the beach is only a dream and it never changes and they could have no new experiences, only the dream of Australia that they already had in their minds.

Most of the children are using this place as a resting place or a place to get their mind right, to face the adversity that awaits them on their return to the real world—the world that they should return to.

Covering many of the children's stories, including our main character Faris, who is from the present day, readers will gain an invaluable insight into the complex and constant questions involving immigration and refugees.

Another wonderfully told and researched novel by Jackie French that students 10+ will enjoy.

*Reviewed by Rob.*

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## Smooch and Rose

By Samantha Wheeler

ISBN 9780702249860

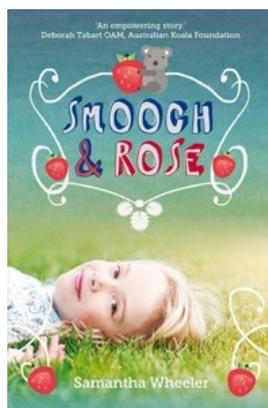
\$14.95

When Rose and Gran save a baby koala from a pack of blood-hungry dogs, they call him Smooch, because he loves to cuddle. With the help of wildlife carer, Carol, Rose and her dog Lizzie look after Smooch until he is old enough to make the trees on their strawberry farm his home. Rose is deliciously happy - living on the farm and looking after bush babies is her dream come true!

But things change for the worse when Gran gets a disturbing letter from the bank. Does this mean they have to sell? Then one terrible day, Uncle Malcolm mentions bulldozers and Rose realises it's not just her home that's at stake. She has to do something, and fast!

Rose has a voice and wants to make a difference but what can one girl and her koala do?

Like Gran always said – things don't have to be big to be special. *Publishers Blurb.*



A delightful story of courage in the face of oppression.

Rose lives on a strawberry farm where development is quickly encroaching on their land. She lives with just her Gran after the tragic accident in which her parents died.

Now with the farm struggling and her rich estate agent uncle wanting to sell it to developers, Rose has to make a stand.

A stand that could save Smooch the koala she found as a newborn and who lives in the gum trees down by their creek. A stand to stop the developers who want to remove his habitat.

This book covers the important lesson of sustainable development and the potentially positive outcomes if people work together.

A fantastic younger reader—the story is mostly suited to girls, but the issue is great for boys as well. But, given the cover, I think it is unlikely that the boys will be enticed!

*Reviewed by Rob.*

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## Extra Time

By Morris Gleitzman

ISBN 9780143307754

\$16.99

A young Aussie soccer genius and his 10-year-old manager take on the world. And win.

For a time.

A funny and moving story from one of Australia's most entertaining authors. *Publishers Blurb.*



Another Morris Gleitzman winner!

A wonderful story about following your dreams in the most unlikely manner.

Matt is a seriously good soccer player. His younger sister Bridie thinks he is wonderful and acts like his manager.

When they unexpectedly get whizzed away to England, they come face to face with the ugly side of sport. So Bridie decides it's time they all remembered that soccer is fun.

A fantastic look at sport through the eyes of kids, who really want to play for fun. A perfect way to teach your students that winning doesn't necessarily mean you will be happy, and that being true to yourself and your family and what you believe is right is the most important thing in life.

*Reviewed by Michelle.*

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## Don't Look Now Book 1: Falling For It and The Kangapoo Key Ring

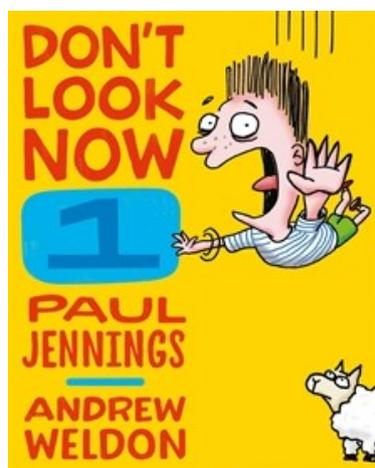
By Paul Jennings and Illustrated by Andrew Weldon

ISBN 9781743311233

\$12.99

The other kids don't see things the same way as me.

I spend a lot of time imagining things. I just don't get it. Inside my head I am not the same as other kids. *Publishers Blurb.*



Paul Jennings and Andrew Weldon have teamed up to produce the first of four books with two stories in it that your boys in particular will love.

Ricky is not your ordinary boy. In many ways he is just like lots of other kids - a bit dorky, a bit strange - but Ricky can fly! But only when no one is watching! He learns that his Dad has this special trait too. But their Mum must never find out. What good is having a special gift if you can't show it off?

In these two stories we start to see the real Ricky emerging - a good kid who often finds himself in trouble for trying to do the right thing.

The illustrations and light heartedness will add to the appeal for your reluctant readers.

*Reviewed by Sam*

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## The Four Seasons of Lucy McKenzie

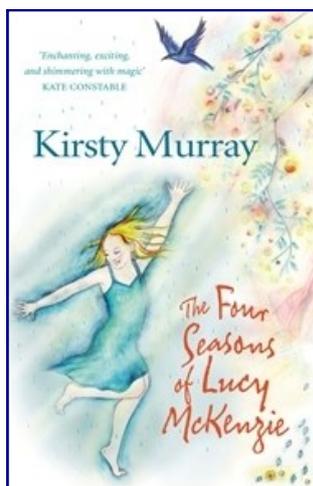
By Kirsty Murray

ISBN 9781743317020

\$14.99

The room was full of moon shadows and dancing light. But it was the wall around the window that Lucy couldn't stop staring at, the one with the painting of Spring. It was as bright as a sunny day and the tiny yellow flowers that covered the fields were moving, as if a breeze had blown through the painting and set all the petals dancing. Then she heard the voice again. It sounded like a child's voice coming out of the painting. She looked again and in the distance, on the far side of the painted valley she could see the tiny figure of a girl. And the girl was waving, beckoning to Lucy and calling her name.

Lucy McKenzie can walk through walls. After her sister's terrible accident, Lucy is sent to stay with her aunt in an old house in a hidden valley. At first, Lucy is lonely and scared. But one hot, dark night, Lucy hears a voice calling to her from deep inside one of the pictures painted straight on to the wall of the dining room. On the other side, Lucy meets three children who will change her life forever. In the painted world, April, Tom and the wild Jimmy Tiger introduce Lucy to a world of adventure. Racing horses through the bush, swimming in fast flowing rivers, battling bushfires and unearthing long forgotten secrets, Lucy discovers her true strength and a friendship that will last a lifetime. *Publishers Blurb.*



This is a delightful time-slip novel rich in Australia's harsh outback heritage where floods and bushfires could wreak havoc in alternating seasons.

Lucy's sister has a terrible accident in Paris and Lucy is sent to stay with her aunt Big (that's her name) for the summer holidays.

Lucy hates the idea of staying with this gruff old woman who never pays her any attention. But then Lucy is awoken by a voice calling to her from one of the magnificent wall paintings in the dining room where each wall depicts a season in their valley.

Suddenly her summer is transformed as she slips back in time to when her Aunt was her age. Lucy meets her young grandparents and forms a strong bond with the past and her family history.

With a lovely ending when the family is united in Paris for Christmas this is a great read for those 9 and up— particularly girls will love this story.

*Reviewed by Rob*

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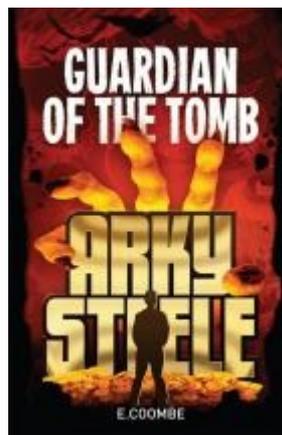
## Guardian of the Tomb: Arky Steele

By E. Coombe

ISBN 9780734411587

\$14.99

Arky Steele is a not your average 12-year-old: his mother is an adventurer and his father is an archaeologist. With them, he travels the world hunting for ancient treasures and trying to stay one step ahead of their nemesis, evil billionaire Goran Rulec. In *Guardian of the Tomb*, Arky accompanies his dad on a mission to Mongolia to find the lost treasure of one of the world's most infamous despots, Genghis Khan. But they are not alone: a band of criminals is determined to thwart Arky at every turn. E. Coombe's fast-paced writing in the Arky Steele Adventures is full of twists and turns, blending danger, suspense and humour. *Publishers Blurb.*



This is the first book in a new adventure series by Eleanor Coombe, who has also written the *Faraway Fairies* and *Dragon Blood Pirates* (under the name Dan Jerris).

This book is certainly not about fairies!

We follow twelve year old Arky Steele and his travelling party, including his Dad and the reluctant traveller, Bear, the stepson of Lord Wright who is the financial backer of their expedition to Mongolia. But once Bear realises the adventures and dangers that await them he soon warms to the idea!

Their trip is designed to discover the secret of Genghis Khan's treasures. But it does not all go to plan, and they face numerous hurdles in their quest—including caves, flooding and being kidnapped!

Boys aged 10+ will love this book and find themselves waiting to read Book 2.

*Reviewed by Sam.*