

# Lamont Books Standing Order

September 2013

PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

## Stay Well Soon

By Penny Tangey  
ISBN 9780702249945  
\$14.95

Primary Fiction  
Book of the Month

From CBCA shortlisted author, Penny Tangey, comes a moving, funny and heartfelt coming-of-age story.

Stevie wants a pony or a horse more than anything. She dreams horses, draws horses and follows the girls at school who have horses hoping that one day she will have her own horse too.

But money doesn't grow on trees and Stevie's mother is a single mum looking after two kids and holding down a job. Some dreams seem far away when you are vacuuming, hanging out washing and going to school. Stevie has to learn to straighten out the hard things herself. Her mother is worried about her sick brother and her Dad Ben is working up north leaving Stevie rudderless in this family going round in circles. Reading between the lines, Stevie suddenly has to learn a lot about growing up.

A beautiful novel about the fine line between life and death. *Publishers Blurb.*



Horse mad eleven year old Stevie lives with her Mum and Year 7 brother Rhys. She misses Dad Ben (Mum's last boyfriend) who is working in Toowoomba, but Mum thinks this is for the best.

Her friendship group is being challenged as a new girl, April, who has her own horse, and her long term best friend Charlotte, who is just getting a horse, have teamed up and are leaving her out. Stevie thinks this to be temporary, as this will surely change when she saves up enough money to buy her own horse.

But then Rhys gets sick and is diagnosed with leukaemia, and much time is spent to and from and inside the hospital in Melbourne. It is here that she bonds with fourteen year old Lara, whose illness worsens as the story unfolds.

Without giving away the ending, I will say that it is a tremendous rite of passage novel, where a contemporary girl in an equally contemporary family situation, handles life and its challenges particularly well.

I found the storyline wonderful and the characters and their relationships insightful and inspiring.

A great read for upper primary, lower secondary children.

*Reviewed by Rob.*

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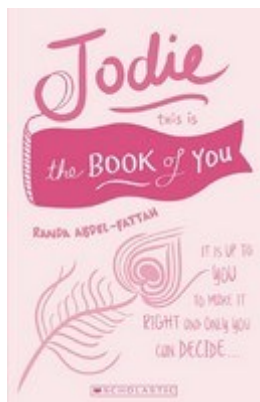
## Jodie this is the Book of You

By Randa Abdel-Fattah

ISBN 9781742990101

\$16.99

Best friends Jodie, Rania and Deyana can't believe what they have found in the school library-a mysterious book that writes itself, just for them. Jodie's life is difficult enough-her father is in a new relationship and she's trying to get used to having a step-sister. The advice the book is giving her is so confusing. Who is the ghostly writer? What does she want? *Publishers Blurb.*



Life isn't too easy for tall, clumsy looking Jodie Tayler.

Teased by the school bully and just recovering from her parents divorce are bad enough. Adjusting to weekends spent with Carla, Dad's new fiancé, and Samantha her daughter are awful. They are stealing her Dad and she must stop it.

With the help of her good friends Rania and Deyana, and the discovery of a mysterious book hidden in the walls of the school library, Jodie may learn some of life's lessons.

A enthralling read for those about Jodie's age, which is Year 6 level.

*Reviewed by Rob.*

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## Listening For Lucca

By Suzanne LaFleur  
ISBN 9780141336077  
\$16.99

'We're moving to your house - the one from your dream.'

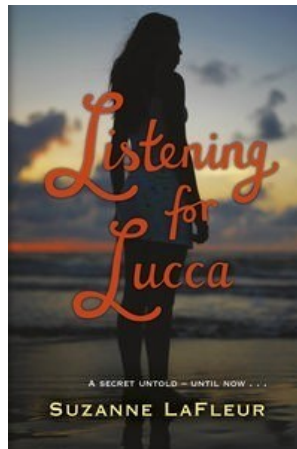
Siena sees what isn't there, collects what's left behind.

'Lucca led me to his room, and then just stood in the middle, waiting for me to notice something.'

Her brother Lucca hasn't spoken for over a year.

The doctors think he needs a fresh start, that's why her family left Brooklyn. But their new home feels hauntingly familiar - and when Siena finds an old pen the story she writes is not her own . . .

Can the secrets of the past help Siena break her brother's silence? *Publishers Blurb.*



Siena likes to collect discarded things. She sees what's left behind.

Her little brother Lucca hasn't spoken for over a year and she blames herself.

When doctors advise a fresh start, the family moves to a small seaside town into a house that Siena has already pictured in her dreams.

Here Siena uncovers a mystery from years before, as she is transported in her dreams to post-war times where as Sarah, who doesn't speak, she needs to help her confused brother who has returned from the war a different person.

To fix this problem will surely help Lucca.

With a touch of romance and an intriguing storyline, older primary girls will really feel for Siena.

*Reviewed by Rob.*

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## Accidental Adventurer: Ava Anne Appleton # 1

By Wendy Harmer

ISBN 9781742838755

\$9.99

Everything is A-OK in the world of Ava Anne Appleton. She lives with her mum, dad and her dog Angus, at number 3A Australia Avenue. Life is perfectly orderly-just how she likes it. But then, the Appleton family heads off on a grand adventure for a whole year. Ava is horrified! But when Ava meets the wild and zippy Zander, she starts to wonder - maybe this adventurous life, and a little bit of disorder, mightn't be so bad after all! *Publishers Blurb.*



Ava is young girl who likes everything in her life to be perfect and in order. To her, life is just right.

So when her parents announce they are going on a year long trip around Australia in a motor home, she does not share their enthusiasm! She really just wants to continue life as she knows it.

When she and her dog Angus get lost on the first day, she is even more convinced that this trip will be a disaster. But a chance meeting with a girl in the bush, who helps her find her way back to her parents, makes her realise that maybe being a bit more adventurous is not such a bad thing. Maybe she will enjoy this trip after all.

A lovely read for your junior girls.

*Reviewed by Sam.*

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## **Barking Mad: Lightning Strikes**

By Renae Hayward

ISBN 9781922077547

\$12.95

When Alex finds a cute dog for the charity Pet Parade, he thinks he's set. But he finds himself dealing with a scrabble-playing, calculating pooch with a vicious competitive streak. Can Alex control his cunning canine before he sends everyone barking mad?

*Publishers Blurb.*



Alex finds a dog on the way home from school - just when he needs one. The dog is extremely intelligent but also very naughty. Alex can't tell anyone, except his best mate Mitch, about the dog that's ruining his life because nobody would believe him.

When Alex's teacher fails one of his assignments, the dog decides that it's payback time. But this backfires when the teacher realises that the dog belongs to Alex. So the dog hires an actor to get Alex out of trouble and they all live happily ever after - with the dog studying calculus online.

It is always great to read new Australian authors (particularly new Australian children's and young adult authors) and Renae Hayward, the winner of the Ray Koppe Young Writers Residency in 2011, doesn't disappoint.

A very funny, easy to read story, and the latest in the *Lightning Strikes* series, this book is best suited to middle to upper primary students.

Classroom Ideas are available at [www.walkerbooks.com.au](http://www.walkerbooks.com.au).

Reviewed by Paul

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## Spooky House: A Billie B. Mystery

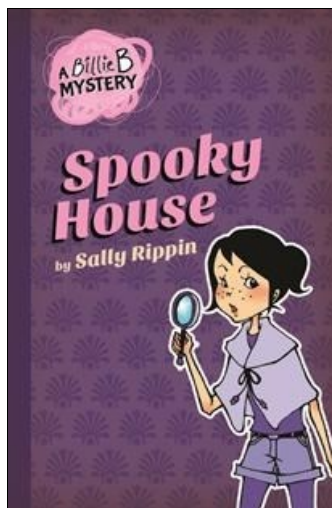
By Sally Rippin

ISBN 9781742976518

\$9.95

Billie and her friends dare each other to explore the spooky house at the end of the street. They are sure it's haunted. Sooo scary! But if anyone can handle ghosts, it's Billie B Brown!

*Publishers Blurb.*



This is the first in a new series of the fabulous Billie B. Brown books.

Billie convinces her friends Jack, Mika and Alex to form the 'Secret Mystery Club'. But what mystery can they solve?

Billie decides that the spooky house at the end of the street is a good place to start. But Billie gets far more than she bargained for and along the way, learns a very valuable lesson!

A great read for your younger girls, especially those who love the original Billie B. Brown books.

*Reviewed by Sam*

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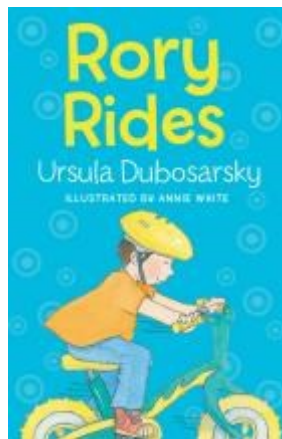
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## Rory Rides

By Ursula Dubosarsky  
ISBN 9780734413994  
\$9.99

Rory's bike has big yellow wheels, a bell ... and training wheels. Can he learn to ride without them? This exciting new series, written by Ursula Dubosarsky and illustrated by Annie White, offers children their first experience of reading real novels. *Publishers Blurb.*



A fun story for your beginning readers, that they will easily relate to.

Rory goes riding with his training wheels on his bike. When one wheel falls off, he keeps riding and soon realises that he doesn't need his training wheels any more.

Perfect for both boys and girls, grade 1 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle.