

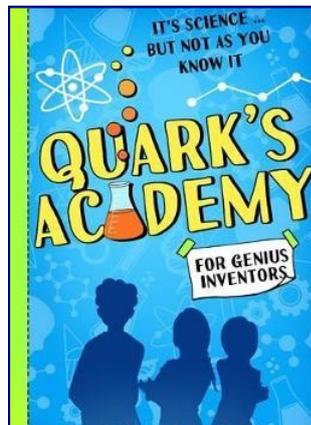
Quark's Academy

By Catherine Pelosi
Publisher: Lothian/Hachette
ISBN 9780734417800 SCIS: 1844973
\$15.99

PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

Blurb:

SCIENCE IN PROGRESS - ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK! Junior science geniuses Augustine, Celeste and Oscar can't believe their luck when they're accepted into an elite and mysterious science academy summer camp run by the elusive Inventor Quark. From the moment they step inside the gates of Quark's Academy at the end of Molecule Drive, they know they're in for a week they'll never forget. But things at the academy are not quite what they seem, and the three quickly realise that they'll need to put their squabbles aside and their heads together if they're ever to get out of there alive...



Lamont Review:

Part Hogwarts, part Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory; Quark's Academy is an elite school that admits just 15 students each year for a week-long crash course in emerging technologies and scientific development. For Augustine, Celeste and Oscar, Quark's Academy represents the opportunity to change the world: Augustine is an engineer who wants to help the environment, Celeste is a physicist who is on the brink of inventing a time machine, and Oscar is... not entirely sure what he's doing there.

With classes in gene splicing, futuristic technologies, and almost-magical chemical compounds Quark's Academy seems to be a dream come true, but there's something sinister going on behind the scenes, and the three rivals must put aside their differences and apply their combined know-how to figure out what it is before it's too late.

Sydney-based author Catherine Pelosi's entertaining middle fiction novel is a well-conceived adventure with one foot planted squarely in reality and the other in science-fiction. Quark's Academy is perfect for both boys and girls aged 8+, and especially those with an interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

Reviewed by Lian

Life of the Party! The Susie K Files #1

By Shamini Flint & Illustrated by Sally Heinrich

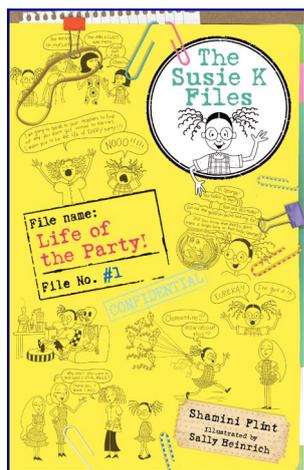
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760296681 SCIS: 1845543

\$9.99

Blurb:

Susie K likes science instead of netball and has the class goldfish for a best friend. But Susie's mum finds it hard to believe that she's happy that way. She's constantly trying to push Susie (with the best of intentions, of course!) to be something she's not. And the last thing Susie wants is to disappoint her mum. Susie's mum is thrilled to hear that Susie is going to Clementine's party... except she hasn't been invited yet. So even though Susie would much rather stay home to read about endangered animals, she uses all her problem-solving skills to become the life of the party! In this fresh new series find out how Susie's unconventional problem-solving skills + Mum's optimistically high expectations = hilarious results.



Lamont Review:

Acclaimed author Shamini Flint is launching a new series aimed at reluctant middle year girls. Full of great illustrations and speech bubbles, this is a really fun and fast read.

Susie K is a bit dorky and she doesn't make friends easily. She is blessed with a Mum who is the opposite and wants to push Susie to be just like her... this is never going to happen.

How Susie, the amazing problem solver, deals with her issues is the highlight of the series. In this first book she needs to get an invitation to the super popular Clementine's birthday party, and you will love the inventive way that she approaches this problem!

Girls from ages 7-11 will love Susie K, and be awaiting her next problem to solve.

Reviewed by Rob

Stephanie Chiocci and the Cooper's Hill Cheese Chase

By Matt Porter

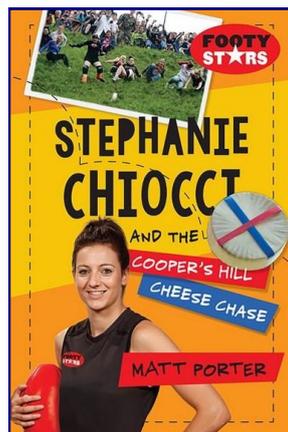
Publisher: Ford Street Publishing

ISBN 9781925272888 SCIS: 1850705

\$12.95

Blurb:

Standing at the summit of Cooper's Hill in England, Stephanie Chiocci prepares to barrel down a slope steeper than the MCG grandstands. But winning the annual Gloucester Cheese-Rolling Race is just one of her objectives. The Collingwood AFLW captain has also taken it upon herself to save the family cheese-making business of one of her biggest fans. To do so Stephanie must defeat local toff Neville O'Shea in one of the world's most dangerous foot races. Full of footy skills and references this hilarious book sees Stephanie Chiocci jetting to England to take on a local bully in the world-famous Gloucester Cheese-Rolling Race. Tasked with winning the race to save a family cheese-making business, Stephanie must call upon her elite football abilities and also utilise the help of an inventive fan.



Lamont Review:

This book will be a hit with sports loving students.

Stephanie Chiocci is the captain of the AFLW team Collingwood, but can she use her footy skills to win the Cooper's Hill Cheese Chase? She is up against a feisty and sneaky opponent, and Stephanie has never raced a cheese wheel down a hill before!

Stephanie has answered a call for help from one of her biggest fans, and now finds herself on the other side of the world, trying to save the fan's family cheese business. To do so though, she must beat Neville O'Shea. It is going to call on all her football experience, skill and determination to win this one.

This is a great read for mid—upper primary students. It is full of fun footy talk and humour, and also has a great messages about backing yourself and having a go.

Reviewed by Sam

Teacher notes provided by the publisher are available from our website.

The Endsister

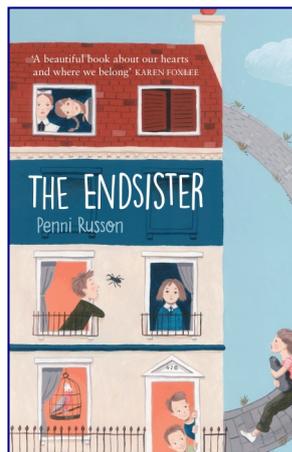
By Penni Russon

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781741750652 SCIS: 1844972

\$16.99

'I know what an endsister is,' says Sibbi again. We are endsisters, Else thinks, Sibbi and I. Bookends, oldest and youngest, with the three boys sandwiched in between. Meet the Outhwaite children. There's teenage Else, the violinist who abandons her violin. There's nature-loving Clancy. There's the inseparable twins, Oscar-and-Finn, Finn-and-Oscar. And then there is Sibbi, the baby of the family. They all live contentedly squabbling in a cottage surrounded by trees and possums... until a letter arrives to say they have inherited the old family home in London. Outhwaite House is full of old shadows and new possibilities. The boys quickly find their feet in London, and Else is hoping to reinvent herself. But Sibbi is misbehaving, growing thinner and paler by the day, and she won't stop talking about the mysterious endsister. Meanwhile Almost Annie and Hardly Alice, the resident ghosts, are tied to the house for reasons they have long forgotten, watching the world around them change, but never leaving. The one thing they all agree on - the living and the dead - is never, ever to open the attic door...



Lamont Review:

When a struggling but happy Australian family with five children suddenly inherits an old mansion in London, the Outhwaite's world is turned upside down.

The chapters show the views of all the five Outhwaite children as the family decides to move, and how they each settle into or struggle with their new surroundings. The inhabitants of the mansion, Almost Alice and Hardly Alice, have been walking its halls for over a century and the ghosts are not sure how they will get on with this large family.

But both the new and old inhabitants all agree that the attic door should remain sealed to keep its sinister mysteries inside. How a family survives such a big change is the crux of the story, and when their world starts to disintegrate it's how they cope, and whether they can stick together as one that keeps you enthralled.

The Outhwaite family certainly find out what is important in life in this well-written, wonderful story that is ideal for upper primary students.

Reviewed by Rob.

Sam's Surfboard Showdown

By Allayne L. Webster and Amanda S. Clarke

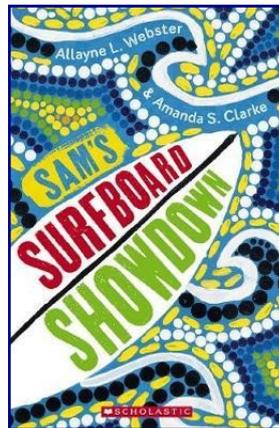
Publisher: Omnibus Books/Scholastic

ISBN 9781742991894 SCIS: 1844008

\$12.99

Blurb:

Ten-year-old Sam Sumner is the best sportsman at Robe Primary School. He loves Nippers surf club the best. That's until Finn Hester moves to town. Finn is good at everything and Sam isn't happy about it. Likewise, Sam's mum feels a bit intimidated by Finn's mum's cooking - she used to be the best cook in town! Finn joins Nippers, much to Sam's displeasure. A special competition is announced: a chance to win a surfboard signed by Mick Fanning. Sam has his heart set on it, but so does Finn. Who will win the big race? Will Sam and Finn remain sworn enemies? And who is the best cook in town? A story about rivalry and friendship.



Lamont Review:

Sam's world is pretty good. He is a member of the Robe Surf Lifesaving Club in the Nippers where he is the best swimmer, great at school, and he can burp awesomely on command. But when the new guy Finn arrives he seems better than Sam at all of these things, and Sam's world is threatened.

Then the announcement of a competition to win a signed Mick Fanning surfboard really intensifies their rivalry.

In the end, Sam learns that there are other things in life that are far more important than just being the best at everything.

With themes of friendship, family and life values, this is an excellent easy to read short novel that will best suit boys aged 8-12.

Reviewed by Rob