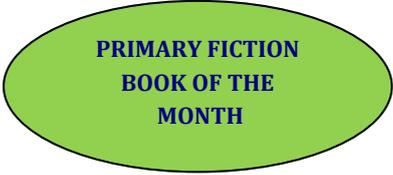


**A Great Escape**

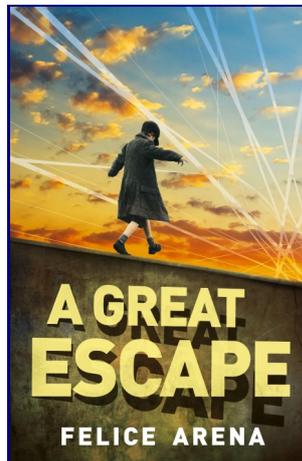
By Felice Arena  
Publisher: Puffin/Penguin  
ISBN 9780143794042 SCIS: 1896772  
\$16.99



*Blurb:*

It's a great escape, but will Peter survive it?

When Peter's family leaves for a trip across the border, he stays behind. So when the government builds a wall through the city, guarded by soldiers, tanks and ferocious dogs, he's trapped. Everyone says he might never see his family again. But Peter has a courageous plan . . .



*Lamont Review:*

When Peter decides to stay and hang out with his friend Hubert instead of going with his mother to the west, little does he know it will be the last time he sees her.

While Peter's mother, father and sister are visiting West Berlin, the government closes the border and erects the wall that will divide the city.

Many families are left separated and unable to be re-united. Peter is left in East Berlin with his grandparents, Oma and Opa. Peter is determined to escape so he can be with his Mum and Dad, but what are the risks and who will look after Oma and Opa?

This is another wonderful story from Felice Arena that will keep readers spellbound. It opens a door on the heartbreak that many families face when separated through no fault of their own, as well as giving an historical glimpse of life in Germany when the Berlin wall was built.

This is a story of heroism, friendship, loyalty and most of all, family - 'the true love of family can never really be divided.'

Perfect for those in Year 5 and up, and would make an ideal class novel.

*Reviewed by Michelle*

## **Catch A Falling Star**

By Meg McKinlay

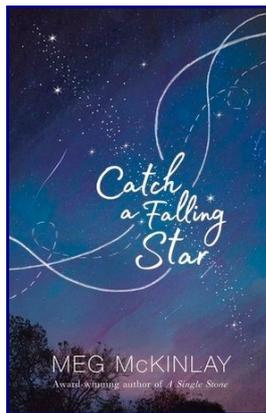
Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781925381207 SCIS: 1893129

\$17.99

### *Blurb:*

It's 1979 and the sky is falling. Skylab, that is. Somewhere high above Frankie Avery, one of the world's first space stations is tumbling to Earth. And rushing back with it are old memories. Things twelve-year-old Frankie thought she'd forgotten. Things her mum won't talk about, and which her little brother Newt never knew. Only... did he? Does he? Because as Skylab circles closer, Newt starts acting strangely. And while the world watches the sky, Frankie keeps her own eyes on Newt. Because if anyone's going to keep him safe, it's her. It always has been. But maybe this is something bigger than splinters and spiders and sleepwalking. Maybe a space station isn't the only thing heading straight for calamity.



### *Lamont Review:*

This is an incredible story by multi-award winning author Meg McKinlay.

Set in 1979 at the time of the imminent Skylab re-entry into our orbit, and how people dealt with the fears associated with Skylab coming crashing back to earth.

Twelve year old Frankie's Dad disappeared six years ago - on the day Skylab was launched. He was a super keen astronomy enthusiast, and Frankie shared his passion. But then his plane crashed, and his body has never been found.

Frankie's little brother Newt is an eight-year-old science lover who never knew his Dad. Newt seems to think that somehow his Dad's disappearance is linked to the Skylab launch, and that therefore his Dad may return when it does.

This is much more than a science story, as it is filled with themes of loss, family, adjusting to change, friendship and hope.

Historically based, it would be a great classroom read for Year 5 and 6 students. Junior secondary students will also love it.

*Reviewed by Rob*

## **Noah and Blue's Zooniverse - The Speedy Spidersaurus**

By Nova Weetman & Illustrated by Chris Kennett

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

ISBN 9781760503994 SCIS: 1897208

\$9.99

### *Blurb:*

With the help of a magical book, Noah Wriggle and his best friend Blue like to design weird and wonderful animal mash-up creations – and then bring them to life! But sometimes their mash-imals love being alive just a little TOO much...

In *The Speedy Spidersaurus*, a scary T-Rex is mashed up with a tiny spider, creating an eight-legged dinosaur!

But when Spidey gets loose at school, can Noah and Blue track him down before their teacher does?



### *Lamont Review:*

Noah loves inventing. And with the help of a mysterious book called “Zooniverse”, that once belonged to his inventor grandfather, Noah can create some awesome things...

Every Thursday, when his parents leave for work early, Noah’s best friend Blue arrives and they design and bring to life amazing creatures. On this adventure, they create a T-Rex crossed with a small spider that forms a hungry eight legged dinosaur.

An eight legged dinosaur sounds great, but when Spidey gets loose at school, mayhem erupts. Can the boys find Spidey?

This is the first book in a new series by fantastic Australian author Nova Weetman, and it is sure to get readers hooked and wanting to read them all!

This is an action-packed zany adventure that is ideally suited to younger readers 8+, particularly boys.

*Reviewed by Rob*

## **Noah and Blue's Zooniverse - The Outstanding Octokey**

By Nova Weetman & Illustrated by Chris Kennett

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

ISBN 9781760504007 SCIS: 1897210

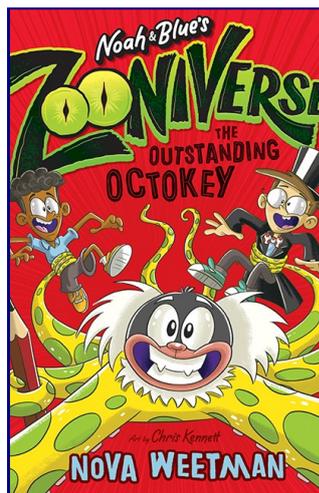
\$9.99

### *Blurb:*

With the help of a magical book, Noah Wriggle and his best friend Blue like to design weird and wonderful animal mash-up creations – and then bring them to life! But sometimes their mash-imals love being alive just a little TOO much ...

In *The Outstanding Octokey*, a marmoset monkey is mashed up with an inky octopus, creating a swinging sucker!

When Ocky escapes into the canteen, can Noah and Blue find him before he inks the entire school?



### *Lamont Review:*

Noah loves inventing. And with the help of a mysterious book called “Zooniverse”, that once belonged to his inventor grandfather, Noah can create some awesome things...

In this adventure, friends Noah and Blue set out to create *The Outstanding Octokey* - a mix of marmoset monkey and an octopus.

When the boys decide to take their new friend Ockie to school, what could possibly go wrong?

This really is a great new series about inventing, friendship and imagination, but it isn't all just fun. There are numerous facts about each of the different animals scattered throughout the story, and readers are sure to learn a thing or two about each of them!

This is an action-packed zany adventure that is ideally suited to younger readers 8+, particularly boys.

*Reviewed by Sam*

## **How Not to be Popular**

By Cecily Paterson

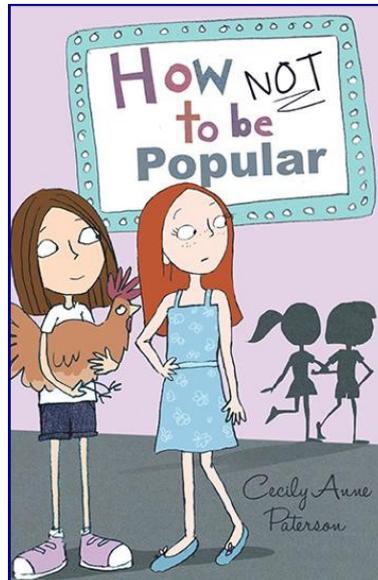
Publisher: Wombat Books

ISBN 9781925563658 SCIS: 1904116

\$16.99

### *Blurb:*

Maddie tries to be nice to everyone. Even weird, chicken-obsessed Tahlia. BUT she would way prefer to hang out with the cool K-girls at Year 6 Camp. The only problem is that they don't seem interested in her. That's when Maddie has a decision to make: how far will she go to be popular? Will she be able to live with the guilt when she finally has everything she's been hoping for?



### *Lamont Review:*

This story will certainly resonate with any primary school aged girl who has tried to fit in with the so-called 'cool' girls.

Maddie is in Grade 6 at a small school called Kangaroo Valley Public School. Everyone knows everyone and Maddie has always tried to be a nice, caring girl.

Maddie's class are all excited about the Year 6 camp, but when Maddie is not in a cabin with the cool girls, she feels left out. What she then does to try and impress them is completely out of character for her, and she is wracked with guilt.

How will she ever be able to face Tahlia? Maddie has known her since they were little, but she has never really taken the time to get to know the real Tahlia. And worse, Tahlia certainly didn't deserve what happened to her at camp, all at the hands of Maddie. What will Maddie do?

This story has themes of friendship, acceptance, trying to fit in, guilt, forgiveness, honesty and owning and accepting your mistakes.

It will be enjoyed by senior primary girls.

*Reviewed by Sam*