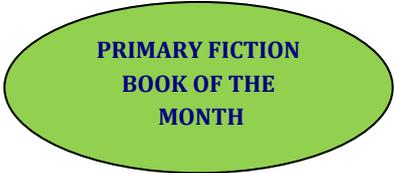


The Pony Question

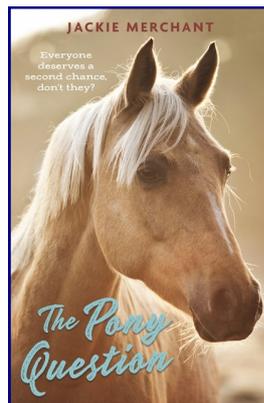
By Jackie Merchant
Publisher: Walker Books
ISBN 9781760651640 SCIS: 1973487
\$16.99



Blurb:

The happiness of a young girl and a pony in desperate need of saving depends on the other. Essie doesn't believe in signs or wishing on stars. She likes facts, and the fact is, she's left her love of horses firmly in the past. She doesn't want a new horse and she certainly doesn't need one, not with the price she'd have to pay. That's a line she just won't cross. But the universe has other ideas.

Essie may not need a pony, but there's a pony that needs her. But taking on a pony without a past brings a lot of unanswered questions, and in searching for answers Essie is going to have decide if to go forward, she is able to forgive the past.



Lamont Review:

Twelve-year-old Essie is establishing a new life in the country with her Mum, Francesca, whose furniture recycling business is just starting to take off.

Then along comes an accidental purchase at auction of a neglected pony.

Essie used to love riding, but that was two years ago - before her super-competitive Dad gave Essie's horse a drug that got Essie banned from competition for a year.

But now her Dad has remarried and moved on to a new life. Her Dad always wanted the best and the newest things. This neglected pony is far from that. Can Essie overcome her fear of being discarded too, and can the neglected pony help with that?

This is a fantastic, horse story with so much more. It does touch on horsemanship and competition, but it is also a story of family values and seeing the goodness in people and animals.

It has wonderful characters and a hopeful story with a great ending. Will most appeal to horse lovers aged 9 - 13 readers.

Reviewed by Rob

The Mummy Smugglers Of Crumblin Castle

By Pamela Rushby

Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781760651930 SCIS: 1967963

\$16.99

Blurb:

A crumbling castle, a moat full of crocodiles, a catastrophe of kittens, and let's not forget the villains and the mummies!

1873 England - Orphaned Hattie goes to live with her great uncle and aunt in their crumbling castle in the English Fens. There, Great Aunt Iphigenia hosts flamboyant mummy-unwrapping parties to save her home from ruin – until the mummy supply runs out. On a dangerous search for more, a thousand miles up the Nile, Hattie is haunted by these ancient souls and tries to free them with unexpected consequences. A potent blend of fantasy and history, this rambunctious story has it all!



Lamont Review:

Hattie had only really known life at boarding school. Her parents disappeared on an Egyptian adventure when she was only three, and her last seven years had been spent under the guardianship of her always absent Uncle Heracles.

Little did Hattie know that she even had a Great-Uncle Sisyhus, or his sister Great-Aunt Iphigenia, until she was sent to Crumblin Castle to live with them.

They are experts on Egyptology and Hattie immediately shares their fascination. Hattie becomes her Great Aunt's assistance during ceremonies to unwrap Mummies. Even better, Hattie gets to go on an adventure of a lifetime down the Nile to purchase more Mummies, which are then supposed to leave Egypt with them. At least, that's the plan until the ancient souls start haunting Hattie.

Things get even worse when Hattie becomes suspicious of Edgar and Edwina Raven, who take care of all the financial matters for her Uncle and Aunt. Hattie is determined to reveal their thieving.

This is a great history and fantasy novel with a charming and fun main character. With many twists and turns, some magic cats and seriously good adventure, this book will be loved by readers aged 9 - 12 years.

Reviewed by Rob

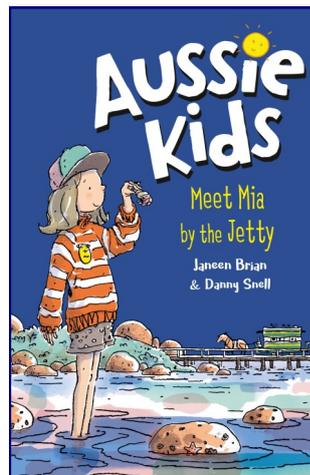
Aussie Kids: Meet Mia by the Jetty

By Janeen Brian & Illustrated by Danny Snell
Publisher: Penguin
ISBN 9781760893668 SCIS: 1967975
\$12.99

Blurb:

Hi! I'm Mia
Jim is coming to stay with us soon.
I want to show him the jetty, beach and island.
But I don't want my bossy sister Alice to take over.
So I have a plan . . .

Aussie Kids is an exciting new series for emerging readers 6 - 8 years. 8 characters, 8 stories, 8 authors and illustrators from all 8 states and territories!



Lamont Review:

The next instalment of the fantastic *Aussie Kids* series that has proved very popular so far, we are introduced to Mia, her sister Alice and their house guest Jim, who is visiting them at their home in Victor Harbor, South Australia.

Mia loves where she lives and is keen to show Jim around. So she comes up with a plan that involves her being the tour guide.

Together they explore what she loves about Victor Harbor, including the beach of Encounter Bay and the fairy penguins of Granite Island.

This is a lovely story about having a passion for where you live, and sharing it with others.

Reviewed by Sam

Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek

By Paul Seden & Illustrated by Brenton McKenna

Publisher: Penguin

ISBN 9781760894122 SCIS: 1967973

\$12.99

Blurb:

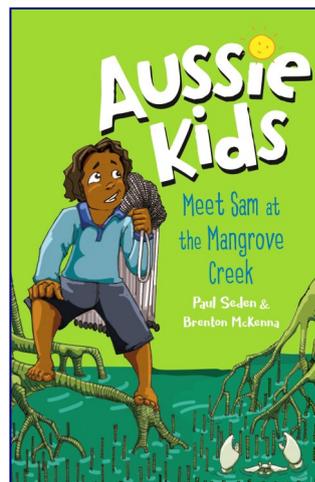
Hi! I'm Sam

I have a new throw net.

My cuz, Peter, and I can't wait to try it out.

We want to catch a BIG barra!

Aussie Kids is an exciting new series for emerging readers 6 - 8 years. 8 characters, 8 stories, 8 authors and illustrators from all 8 states and territories!



Lamont Review:

In this title in the *Aussie Kids* series, we meet Sam and Peter, and their loyal dogs Bazza and Patch, as they head out to the mangroves of the Top End in search of fish.

Sam has a new fishing net and is so excited to be able to use it. He is sure that they will catch some fish with it. But when Peter brings out some banana lollies, Sam is not so sure, as he has always been told that bananas on a fishing trip are a curse!

Will the help of a wise old man sitting on the beach be what they need to turn their luck around?

This is a fabulous story of life in the Top End, and has a lovely, heart-warming ending!

Reviewed by Sam

Edie's Experiments Book 2: How to be the Best

By Charlotte Barkla & Illustrated by Sandy Flett

Publisher: Puffin / Penguin

ISBN 9781760891763 SCIS: 1974098

\$14.99

Blurb:

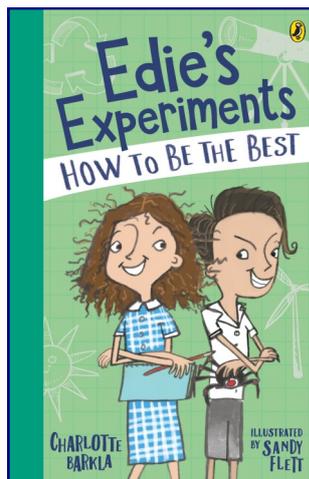
I'm Edie and I'm obsessed with science.

So I was sure that Annie B and I would win the Eco Fair competition.

Then Dean Starlight arrived and started sabotaging our project.

Now the competition has become an epic science battle of robotic spider attacks, exploding foam and sneaky spying.

Dean thinks he's the best scientist of Class 5Z, but we'll show him..



Lamont Review:

Edie just loves science, experiments and conservation! And although her heart is in the right place, those around her don't always appreciate her efforts.

In her latest adventure, we see Edie and Annie B team up to try and win the Cedar Road Primary Year 5/6 Eco Competition - with the first prize being the TEL-5X Telescope that Edie desperately wants! Edie is determined that they will win.

But Dean Starlight, returning to Cedar Road Primary after attending the Science Academy, has a different idea.

This is a wonderful story about believing in yourself, having a go, family, friendships and things not always being as they seem. Throw in some pranks and you have the making of a great read for those in upper primary.

Reviewed by Sam

The Secret Library of Hummingbird House

By Julianne Negri

Publisher: Affirm Press

ISBN 9781925870497 SCIS: 1968922

\$16.99

Blurb:

Hattie Maxwell is trying to make sense of her life since the Big Split. It used to be the four of them - Mum, Dad, Ivy and Hattie - against the universe. But now it feels like she's a lone star in a big galaxy. And to make matters worse, her favourite place, Hummingbird House, is going to be demolished! Determined to stop the development, Hattie throws herself into uncovering the secrets of the house. Under a special full moon, she discovers that there is much more to the grand old mansion than first meets the eye... But will it be enough to save Hummingbird House? Or her family? A classic time-slip novel with a contemporary twist, THE SECRET LIBRARY OF HUMMINGBIRD HOUSE celebrates standing up for what you believe in, dealing with change and the unstoppable power of friendship.



Lamont Review:

This is a wonderful timeslip novel that is beautifully told and full of contemporary issues.

Hattie's life hasn't been going so great since her parents split up. And now it seems that the run-down local mansion that Hattie's family have a strong connection to, Hummingbird House, is set to make way for high rise development.

When Hattie visits the house in the middle of the night, she skips back to 1970 - back to a time when a girl her age, Hypatia, lived there. Hypatia is an incredible wordsmith, or keeper of lost words, and together they work to solve each other's problems.

Filled with great cast of characters like Ms Guide, the new librarian, and Ivy, Hattie's five-year-old sister, who likes ghosts and maybe even lets them talk through her.

This is a novel about standing up for what is right, trusting your friends and learning to adapt to change, as well as cleverly illustrating the importance of family and history. Hattie is such a warm, hopeful character who will appeal to readers 9 and older.

Reviewed by Rob

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available for this title on our website.