

Sunflower

By Ingrid Laguna
Publisher: Text Publishing
ISBN 9781922268754 SCIS: 1973634
\$14.99

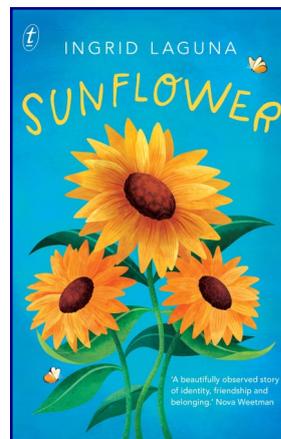
PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

Blurb:

Eleven-year-old Jamila is settling into her new life in Australia, along with Mama, Baba and baby Amir. She still misses her home in Iraq, but she's happy to have her whole family safe and together again. Jamila and her new best friend, Eva, sing side by side in the choir at school, and have picnics together on the weekend.

One day, Jamila gets some exciting news-her oldest friend from Iraq, Mina, has been granted a visa to come to Melbourne with her family. Jamila can't wait to see her. She and Eva make a list of all the things they want to show Mina when she gets to Melbourne. But when Mina arrives, things do not go as planned. Mina is tired and anxious all the time, and she and Eva don't get on.

Jamila feels torn between her two friends, and sad that Mina isn't the same funny, cheerful person she remembers. Can Jamila be a true friend to Mina, and help her feel happy in her new home?



Lamont Review:

Jamila has moved to Australia from Iraq with her Mama, Baba and baby brother Amir. She is safe and happy, and does everything with her new friend Eva - they make cakes, go to the park, and sing in the choir together. But Jamila still misses Iraq, and especially her friend Mina.

When Jamila's father tells her Mina and her family are coming to Australia, she can't wait for Eva and Mina to meet. There are so many things they will be able to do together! But things don't go to plan and Jamila feels torn all the time – will she ever be able to make everyone happy?

Jamila, Eva and Mina are wonderful characters that readers will love. This is a beautiful story of the struggles and joys of friendship. It's a story of growing up and making adjustments, and most importantly, being true to yourself. A thoroughly enjoyable read that will most appeal to girls aged 10 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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

Gemma Riley and the Fashion Fiasco

By Jules Van Mil

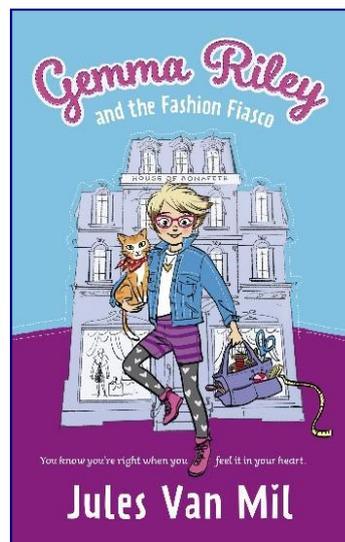
Publisher: Pan McMillian Australia

ISBN 9781760784201 SCIS: 1977815

\$16.99

Blurb:

She has a ginger cat, a sewing tote and plenty of imagination. Can Gemma Riley catch a thief and save the fashion day? Fashion is in Gemma Riley's DNA. She lives with her grandmother Cara Bonafete, a famous fashion designer, and dreams of creating her own collection. But there's big trouble at the House of Bonafete. The release of the Spring Collection is looming, Cara has had an accident and someone is stealing their Top Secret designs.



Lamont Review:

Gemma loves fashion - which is not surprising given she lives with her grandmother, the famous Cara Bonafete. The new spring collection is coming up, but when Cara breaks her wrist and a thief appears in their lives, Gemma and her best friend Hannah will have to solve this mystery and maybe rescue the design business as well!

This is a great story for any aspiring designers. Gemma is a wonderful character and so full of optimism and enthusiasm. With sewing projects scattered throughout the book, this will most appeal to creative upper primary girls.

Reviewed by Michelle

Across the Risen Sea

By Bren MacDibble

Publisher: Allen and Unwin

ISBN: 9781760526054 SCIS: 1973681

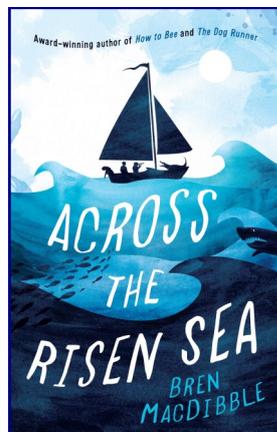
\$16.99

Blurb:

'It's one of them days when everything is off. A hot sweaty night in Rusty Bus means we kids is all grouchy-tired. Me and my best friend, Jaguar, is trying to cool down by taking turns at dipping in the sea pool. Him standing on the sea wall made from car frames and rocks on lookout for crocs, me swimming, then we'll swap places. We's always doing things as a team, him and me. We's gonna be the best fisher people and the best salvagers on the whole of the inland sea one day.'

Neoma and Jag and their small community are 'living gentle lives' on high ground surrounded by the risen sea that has caused widespread devastation. When strangers from the Valley of the Sun arrive unannounced, the friends find themselves drawn into a web of secrecy and lies that endangers the way of life of their entire community.

Soon daring, loyal Neoma must set off on a solo mission across the risen sea, determined to rescue her best friend and find the truth that will save her village. *Across the Risen Sea* is another thrilling adventure for young readers from the bestselling author of *How to Bee* and *The Dog Runner*.



Lamont Review:

Neoma, Jag and their families live on an island in a group that all live “gentle lives”, trying to lessen their impact on the environment after the seas rose and caused widespread destruction and isolated many communities.

But when people from the Valley of the Sun arrive unexpectedly on the island, it sets off a chain of events that will force Neoma to leave the safety of her community to try to save her friend and her village.

This is an action packed novel set in a post climate change world - a flooded alternative Australia. Neoma and Jag are great characters and the very best of friends. They are both forced to be brave and courageous and resourceful. Marta, who is the elder of the village, is a strong woman who expects the best of everyone and is not afraid to tell them.

Across the Risen Sea is an adventure story that will keep readers intrigued. Ultimately, it is a story of friendship, family and community that will most appeal to readers in upper primary and above.

Reviewed by Michelle

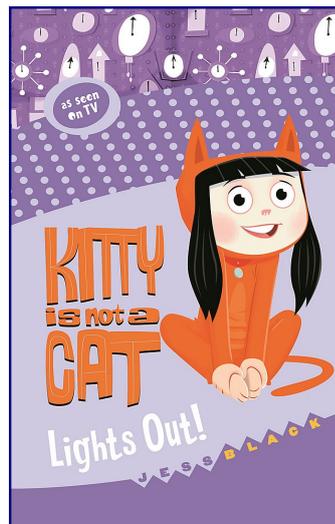
Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available for this title on our website.

Kitty is not a Cat: Lights Out

By Bogan Entertainment Solutions and Jess Black
Publisher: Lothian Children's Books / Hachette
ISBN 9780734419750 SCIS: 1973526
\$9.99

Blurb:

A warmly funny junior-fiction series about Kitty, a little girl who believes she can be anything she dreams - even a cat. When Kitty arrives on the doorstep of a house full of music-mad felines, their lives are turned upside down as they attempt to teach her how to be human. Some children hate going to bed. Not Kitty! Kitty falls asleep every night curled up snug as a bug in a bed box. That is, until one spooky night when Kitty's night-light goes missing and her fear of the dark comes creeping out. The cats, unfamiliar with the concept, try to settle her down but to no avail. In the end, it won't be a night-light that saves the day. Based on the Australian TV series that is enjoyed by kids the whole world over.



Lamont Review:

Kitty is a dreamer and thinks that she is a cat! So she decides to move into the old mansion that is home to a family of stray cats - The Nazz, Last Chance, King Tubby and Cheeta.

Kitty has settled in well to this unusual home and has had no trouble sleeping. Until now!

Whilst the cats are all trying to watch a scary movie, they keep being disturbed by Kitty's meows from upstairs. Why can't she sleep tonight? Could it be because her night-light is missing?

The concept of being scared of the dark is new to the cats. Or is it?

A fun story about facing your fears and helping your friends. It will thoroughly enjoyed by junior emerging readers.

Reviewed by Sam

A Clue For Clara

By Lian Tanner

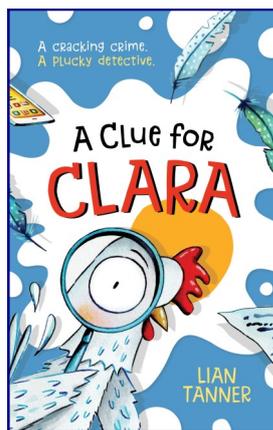
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760877699 SCIS: 1973646

\$16.99

Blurb:

'GREETINGS. AM LOOKING FOR A MAJOR CRIME TO SOLVE. PLEASE INFORM ME OF ANY RECENT MURDERS, KIDNAPPINGS OR JEWEL HEISTS IN THIS AREA.' Clara wants to be a famous detective with her own TV show. She can read claw marks, find missing feathers and knows Morse code and semaphore. There's just one problem. She's a small scruffy chook, and no one takes her seriously. But when she teams up with Olive, the daughter of the local policeman, they might just be able to solve the crimes that have been troubling the town of Little Dismal. A puzzling and hilarious mystery from bestselling author, Lian Tanner.



Lamont Review:

This is an absolutely delightful book!

Clara is one special chicken who dreams of being a famous detective. The only problem is she needs some crimes to solve. So when she gets the opportunity to live with Olive, the daughter of the local policeman, her chance might finally have come.

Although a chicken who thinks she is a detective might just sound like a fun story (and it certainly is), *A Clue for Clara* also touches on far bigger topics that are handled beautifully.

Clara has been bullied by the other chickens all her life, but this is her chance to shine.

Olive is also dealing with her own issues. Struggling to deal with the grief of losing her mother, and the impact that her death has had on family life and Olive's life at school, will the companionship and confidence that Clara brings be exactly what she needs to move forward?

This story, whilst touching on serious topics, is extremely humorous and will be thoroughly enjoyed by middle to senior primary students.

Reviewed by Sam

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

Beady Bold and the Yum-Yams: Monty's Island 2

By Emily Rodda & Illustrated by Lucinda Gifford

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

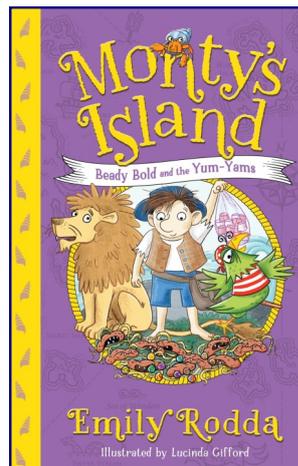
ISBN 9781760529864 SCIS: 1976420

\$14.99

Blurb:

On a tiny island far away, in a sea that ripples with magic, Monty never knows what he might find...

Everyone loves Bring-and-Buy Day, when Trader Jolly visits the Island with all the supplies Monty and his friends need. But this Bring-and-Buy day is different. Instead of Trader Jolly, there's a sneaky new trader called Beady Bold. And he's arrived with a boatload of trouble. The yum-yams are yummy, but they're hiding a very scary secret. All seems lost until Monty comes up with a daring plan. A charming and exciting series from beloved author Emily Rodda.



Lamont Review:

Following on from the wonderful first title in the *Monty's Island* series (which was Book of the Month in your April Standing Order selection), Emily Rodda has not disappointed in her return to the island for Book 2.

We once again follow Monty, Tawny, Marigold, Bunch, Clink and Sir Wise and the adventures they have on their island home.

Today is Bring-and-Buy Day - the day that Trader Jolly arrives and they swap things for the goods they need. But instead of Trader Jolly, Beady Bold arrives instead. And along with him, a whole lot of trouble!

Can Monty come up with a plan to save the day?

Another magical adventure that junior and middle primary aged readers will love.

Reviewed by Sam