

Lamont Books Standing Order

September 2012

PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

Clementine Rose and the Surprise Visitor

By Jacqueline Harvey

ISBN 9781742755410

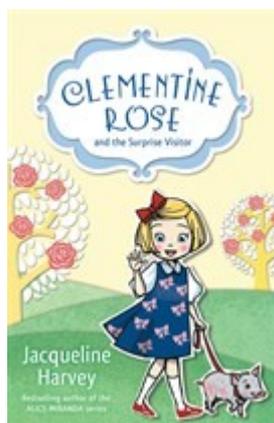
\$12.95

Clementine Rose was delivered not in the usual way, at a hospital, but in the back of a mini-van, in a basket of dinner rolls.

So begins the story of a lovely little girl who lives in Penberthy Floss in a large ramshackle house with her mother, Lady Clarissa, Digby Pertwhistle the butler and a very sweet teacup pig called Lavender.

When her scary Aunt Violet arrives unexpectedly, the household is thrown into disarray. What is it that Aunt Violet really wants and what is she carrying in her mysterious black bag?

Publishers Blurb.



Jacqueline Harvey has produced a wonderful introduction to a series that the Australian market is terribly short on.

A sophisticated novel with a marvellous young girl as the lead character, and all the necessary support characters to make for an intriguing storyline.

Set in the old family mansion with the return of her treacherous Aunt Violet, Clementine Rose's adventures and quirky polite nature, make this a tremendous novel for those clever emerging readers.

My daughters, when around six years old, would have loved it.

Reviewed by Rob.

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Miss Understood

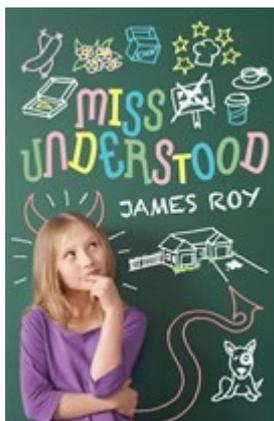
By James Roy
ISBN 9781864718607
\$16.95

Lizzie doesn't mean to do the wrong thing . . . she's just misunderstood.

Lizzie has a history of misunderstandings, but the latest one is bad enough to get her expelled from Our Lady of the Sacred Wimple College. So now she's going to be homeschooled.

That's right – from now on her mum will be her teacher. No friends, no playground, nothing but homework. What will Lizzie have to do to prove that she's mature enough to be allowed back to Sacred Wimple? She's prepared to give almost anything a go, but will it end up the same way it usually does – with her being misunderstood all over again?

Publishers Blurb.



A moving story that tackles many current issues is a thoughtful way.

Our main character, Lizzie, has a history of misunderstandings, where she seems to create the problem.

The last straw occurs when she sets fire to a cardboard version of the school principal, which was a project for the Grade 2 class. She is subsequently expelled and is then home schooled by her teacher-mother.

Here she discovers a man, who works in the display-home village that finishes at the house next door, is actually homeless and staying in that house.

She also gains an understanding of her fathers growing depression or 'black-dog'. Lizzie helps her Dad to begin to see the good in life. She also takes on a volunteer job at the Helping Hands Opportunity Shop, with the hope of being able to return to her old school and friends.

We know that life isn't always easy and this book tackles some really tough topics very well, at a level that will best suit senior primary students.

Reviewed by Rob.

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PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

Liar & Spy

By Rebecca Stead

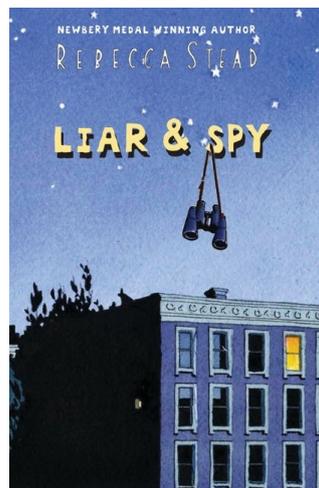
ISBN 9781921922947

\$16.99

From the Newbery Medal–winning author of *When You Reach Me*.

When Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building, he meets Safer, a twelve-year-old coffee-drinking loner and self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy club recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: how far is too far to go for your only friend?

Publishers Blurb.



Georges' Dad has lost his job and they have to move to a new apartment building. When he responds to a Spy Club meeting notice, he meets Safer and his little sister Candy (from a rather alternative family where names are given when the child's character has presented itself).

How far will the Spy Club go on their adventures and how far will Georges, a particularly good if somewhat nerdy boy, go to please his new best friend?

A fantastic portrayal of life, particularly in mind of recent Global Financial Crisis issues that are affecting families. It delves into people's insecurities, facing bullies as part of a group and subtly deals with illness in the family unit. We only find out late in the story that Georges Mother, who often works double shifts as a nurse in the hospital, is actually currently a patient due to a nasty virus and Georges is having difficulty facing this.

It is full of fascinating characters and presents the reader with an array of intelligent questions which is common for a Newberry Award winning author Rebecca Stead novel.

I loved this story and hope many upper primary students will also. It certainly presents itself as a discussion starter for middle year issues and reading groups.

Teacher Notes available from www.textpublishing.com.au.

Reviewed by Rob.

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PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

A Mutiny In Time: Infinity Ring #1

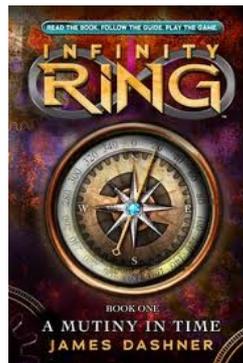
By James Dashner

ISBN 9780545386968

\$14.99

When best friends Dak Smyth and Sera Froste stumble upon the secret of time travel, a hand-held device known as the Infinity Ring, they're swept up in a centuries-long secret war for the fate of mankind. Recruited by the Hystorians, a secret society that dates back to Aristotle, the kids learn that history has gone disastrously off course. Now it's up to Dak, Sera, and teenage Hystorian-in-training Riq to travel back in time to fix the Great Breaks...and to save Dak's missing parents while they're at it. First stop: Spain, 1492, where a sailor named Christopher Columbus is about to be thrown overboard in a deadly mutiny!

Publishers Blurb.



This is the first in a wonderful new adventure series.

We follow Dak, who loves history and loves sharing his thoughts about it with others, as well as his best friend Sera, a real science buff.

Together they uncover the life-long work of Dak's parents—the Infinity Ring. They now must travel back in time to not only save Dak's parents, but also to fix history.

This story will have your students questioning things about their own lives and how different things would be if certain events didn't happen, along with the ripple effect that changes to the past make for the present and future.

Boys and girls, 8 and up will thoroughly enjoy it, and I am sure they will be eagerly awaiting the next book.

Reviewed by Sam.

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PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

My Hamster is a Genius: Stinky & Jinks

By Dave Lowe

ISBN 9780734413437

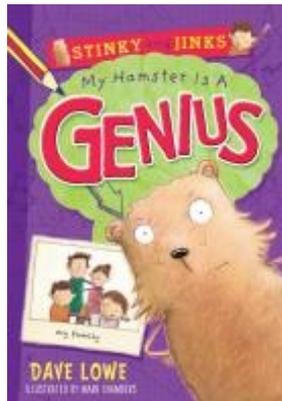
\$12.99

My mum had a long history of unusual punishments. And now, thanks to the sticky-taping incident she announced that she was buying me a pet.

Meet nine-year-old Benjamin Jinks and his grumpy hamster, Jasper Stinkybottom. Benjamin is a very normal boy who hates maths. Stinky is a genius hamster, who likes carrots. Together they are an unstoppable team! But can they overcome the evil scheming of Ben's maths teacher, Beardy McCreedy?

New talent Dave Lowe's first adventure is brilliantly brought to life by illustrator Mark Chambers in this hilarious read.

Publishers Blurb.



What nine-year-old wouldn't want a talking, maths wiz of a hamster doing their homework every night? I know my nine-year-old would!!

Ben can't believe his luck when his new pet, the one that was brought for him as a punishment, turns out to be a genius. With the help of Jasper Stinkybottom, he is suddenly getting all his maths homework right. But his maths teacher, Beardy McCreedy is suspicious. His parents are too, but they are trying hard to believe that he isn't cheating.

This is when Ben's dad and Beardy McCreedy have a bet. Ben must pass a test in class or suffer the consequences of the bet. How is Ben going to get away with this one?

With the help of Stinky now as his teacher, maybe he might just get maths after all, and have his revenge on Mr McCreedy.

A very humorous book that junior to middle primary students, both boys and girls will find a fun read. It also has a very good message in there too, that cheats never prosper!

Reviewed by Sam.

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PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

Hercules Champion of the World

By Nigel Gray & Illustrated by Heath McKenzie

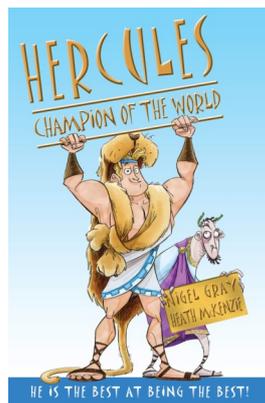
ISBN 9781921529894

\$14.95

He was the best at being the best!

Hercules is the best at everything. He's the best at fighting, the best at running and the best at being good-looking. King Eury is jealous. He wants to get rid of Herc. So he sends him on a series of deadly missions. Will Herc be the best at surviving?

Publishers Blurb.



A wonderful younger novel that in an hilarious way teaches the ancient Greek myths of The Twelve Labors of Hercules.

Each chapter follows the path of Hercules as he performs one of the increasingly difficult tasks set by the envious King Eurystheus.

Hercules' fame increases as he, in his no fuss way, goes about his business and achieves each miraculous feat.

It is packed full of historical notes and childish witticisms that will have 8-12 year old boys enthralled.

Reviewed by Rob.

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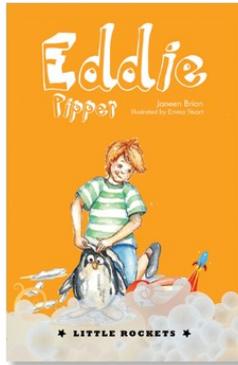
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PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

Eddie Pipper

By Janeen Brian & Illustrated by Emma Stuart
ISBN 9781921928215
\$12.95

Eddie Pipper loves penguins. But he doesn't have one of his own . . . yet. He has to make do with a special papier-mâché penguin. Will he ever get a real one?



Eddie knows everything about penguins and he just loves them.

His whole focus is on the upcoming pet day at school. He would love to be able to take a real one, but he knows this won't happen. He is hoping to get one for his birthday, but that is after pet day at school.

He has a wonderful idea to make a papier-mâché penguin to take to school. However, making it doesn't all go according to plan, and in the process, he does something that really upsets his Dad.

Can Eddie get over his constant forgetfulness and prove to his family that he has what it takes to look after a pet?

A great new read in the *Little Rockets* series. It also includes some interesting facts about penguins that boys and girls 7 and up will enjoy.

Reviewed by Sam.