

Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2013

PRIMARY FICTION TITLES

Bad Grammar

By Nathan Luff

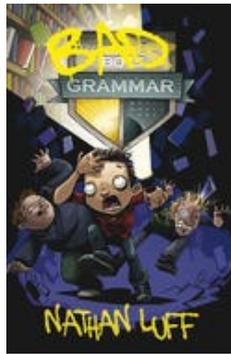
ISBN 9781921977862

\$16.95

Bad Grammar. This place is not a resort. It's a last resort.

A Warrior's Guide to Bad Grammar: "Bad Grammar, like a prison cell or a shopping centre on Christmas Eve, is a horrific place best avoided. If unlucky enough to serve a sentence at this remote boarding school, forget packing your toothbrush and a spare pair of undies. You'd be better off with your flamethrower and a suit of armour."

Marcus is a warrior in the game world - a legend. He is a shy nobody in the real world - a loser. But he's just been enrolled in Bad Grammar. This place is not a resort. It's a last resort. *Publishers Blurb.*



Marcus considers himself a great warrior. The trouble is that this is only while he plays online games, something he is now doing all the time, particularly since his best friend moved to India.

As a last resort, his parents send him to the remote Bourkely Boys Grammar, a school for boys having trouble fitting in.

What they don't tell him is that all of the boys are bullies and thugs, calling the teachers and staff weird would be complimentary and, most importantly for Marcus, there are no computers!

While Marcus is intent on escaping this terrible place, he soon befriends Fred and Trent and their exploits slowly form a bond—a bond that Marcus comes to realise he wants to keep.

Set in a school where bullying prefects rule, this novel shows that together with friends, good will overcome and maybe there can be more to life than computer games.

I found the setting harsh, the message highly appropriate and presented in a subtle and engaging way, where all readers will feel empathy towards Marcus.

Marcus is 12 years old and I think the target reading age would not be much younger than that, so probably best suited to 10-12 year olds, particularly boys.

Classroom Ideas are available for this title at www.walkerbooks.com.au.

Reviewed by Rob.

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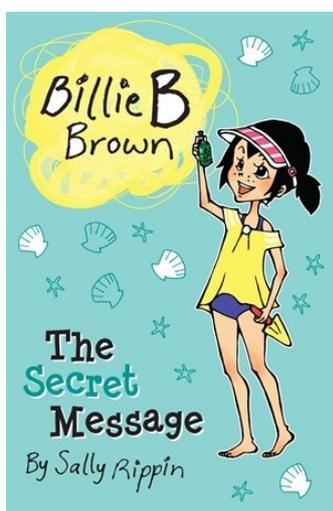
The Secret Message: Billie B. Brown

By Sally Rippin

ISBN 9781742974309

\$7.95

Billie's family is off to the beach! But when they get there, her mum and dad just want to read books and nap. Will this be the most boring holiday ever? *Publishers Blurb.*



Billie B. Brown is at the beach on her summer holidays. Her parents are content to just read, but Billie would like to have some fun!

She amuses herself by building a sandcastle. She then sees two other girls playing and building their own beautiful sandcastle. She would really like to play with them, but is too scared to ask. What if they don't want to play with her? She decides it is much safer to just play on her own.

The girls finally get together, but then Billie thinks she has ruined everything by destroying the girls sandcastle. Her day is turning out bad!

But in typical Billie B. Brown style, she bounces back and comes up with a plan to try and be friends again.

A lovely story for your emerging young readers about friendship and overcoming shyness.

Reviewed by Sam.

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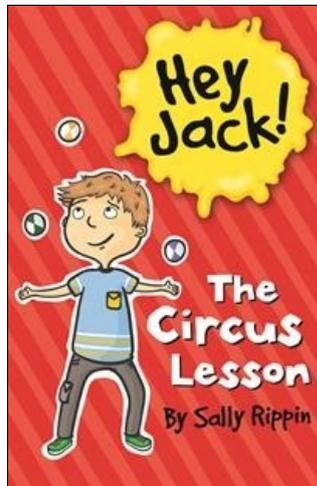
The Circus Lesson: Hey Jack

By Sally Rippin

ISBN 9781742974057

\$7.95

Jack's new babysitter is awesome, but a bit crazy. Pizza for dinner, juggling lessons and sleeping outside - with no tent! But will Jack let his worrying get in the way of having fun?
Publishers Blurb.



Jack likes things to be just right and he always likes to do things the same way. So how will he cope when Cousin Sue, who he has never met, comes to babysit?

Especially when Cousin Sue is not your typical babysitter. She is a circus performer!

At first, Jack does not want Sue to babysit him. He wants to be with his Mum and Dad. How could they leave him?

But Cousin Sue has fun in store for Jack! He just needs to open up his mind and not worry so much about things being just right and as they always are.

She shows him that it is ok to do different things, like sleep under the stars and eat pizza outside, and maybe one day he will end up being a circus performer, just like Cousin Sue!

Hey Jack fans will love this new book! It has a very good message about stepping out of your comfort zone and this series is a great introduction to chapter books for your younger students, particularly boys.

Reviewed by Sam.

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Meet Lina: Our Australian Girl Book 1

By Sally Rippin

ISBN 9780143307006

\$14.95

It's 1956 . . . and Lina dreams of being a writer, but her strict Italian parents have other ideas. Now that she's won a scholarship to an expensive girls school, Lina has other troubles, too. To fit in, she must keep her home life a secret, and even her best friend Mary can't know the truth. But how long can Lina keep her two worlds apart? *Publishers Blurb.*



While I haven't read every book in *The Our Australian Girl* series, picking this one reminded me of how wonderful they are and why these books always sell so well.

Meet Lina is set in Carlton, Melbourne in 1956. A daughter of an Italian immigrant at the time of the Melbourne Olympic Games, it highlights this important time in Australia's history.

Lina struggles to fit in after she receives a scholarship to a prestigious Catholic girls college. But with Lina's feisty personality, all is looking better as we prepare for the second book in Lina's story.

With a wonderful plot, this is a historically important, curriculum based, and simply a great book for middle to upper primary students.

Reviewed by Rob.

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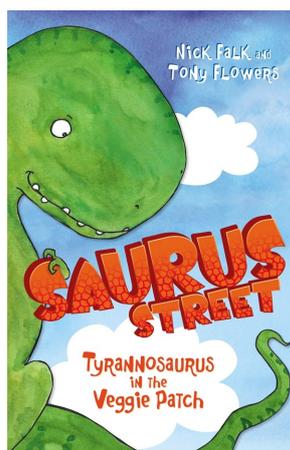
Tyrannosaurus in the Veggie Patch: Saurus Street 1

By Nick Falk & Tony Flowers

ISBN 9781742756554

\$12.95

Saurus St is just like any other street . . . except for the dinosaurs. When Jack wishes for his own Tyrannosaurus, he doesn't expect a real live one to turn up in the veggie patch. It's pretty cool, but there's no way he can keep it. It's far too big to hide in the shed, and it's bound to eat one of the neighbours sooner or later. With the help of local whizz kid Toby, Jack builds a time machine and sends the T-rex back to the dinosaur era. But when Toby, Jack and Charlie the dog get sent back to the Cretaceous period too, there's more than one troublesome Tyrannosaurus to deal with. *Publishers Blurb.*



Be careful what you wish for!

When a real life Tyrannosaurus arrives in Jack's garden, he knows he can't keep it. So with the help of his super smart best friend Toby, they build a 'time machine' (lots of watches for time and a few appliances like a toaster for the machine part) to send him back to the cretaceous period 60 million years ago.

With lots of over the top adventure and dinosaur information, including a dinosaur battle, this series will have your younger 7+ readers instantly engaged.

The use of appropriate varying text types and loads of quirky illustrations makes it a really easy read.

Reviewed by Rob.

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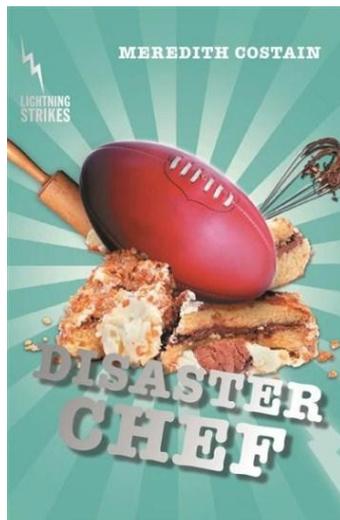
Disaster Chef: Lightning Strikes

By Meredith Costain
ISBN 9781921977794
\$12.95

Primary Fiction
Book of the

Ollie's life is a recipe for disaster.

Ollie and Julian are identical twins, but they couldn't be more different: Ollie love sports and is the local footy champ, while Julian is a quiet achiever who spends most of his time in the kitchen, cooking. Much to Ollie's surprise, Julian enters the Junior Maestro Chef competition and is going to be on national television. Ollie's used to being the centre of attention is their household so he's not happy when his parents spend all their time quizzing Julian on ingredients for recipes rather than watching Ollie play footy. But when Julian falls ill before the taping of the show's finale, it's up to Ollie to pretend to be his brother and cook up a storm. *Publishers Blurb.*



With the hype surrounding reality television shows and cooking shows, Disaster Chef will really hit the mark with middle and upper primary students. It tackles the issues of sibling rivalry particularly well as it depicts identical twins, where one has always been in the spotlight due to his sporting prowess. But how does he cope when the spotlight moves?

It portrays family balance really well and has the family going out of their way to help each other when help is really needed.

Other than that, this book is a lot of fun. There are scenes of trickery and lots of humorous situations that will have your students amused.

Classroom Ideas are available for this title at www.walkerbooks.com.au.

Reviewed by Rob.

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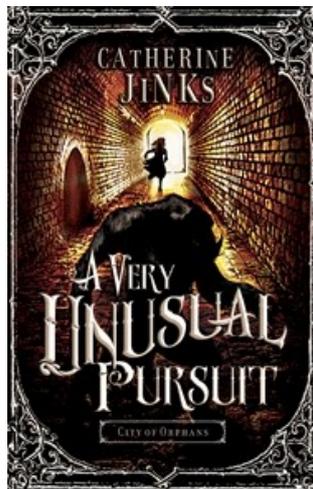
A Very Unusual Pursuit: City of Orphans

By Catherine Jinks
ISBN 9781743313060
\$14.99

Monsters have been infesting London's dark places for centuries, eating every child who gets too close. That's why ten-year-old Birdie McAdam works for Alfred Bunce, the bogler. With her beautiful voice and dainty looks, Birdie is the bait that draws bogles from their lairs so that Alfred can kill them.

One life-changing day, Alfred and Birdie are approached by two very different women. Sarah Pickles runs a local gang of pickpockets, three of whom have disappeared. Edith Eames is an educated lady who's studying the mythical beasts of English folklore. Both of them threaten the only life Birdie's ever known. But Birdie soon realises she needs Miss Eames's help to save her master, defeat Sarah Pickles, and vanquish an altogether nastier villain.

Catherine Jinks, one of Australia's most inventive writers, has created a fast-paced and enthralling adventure story with edge-of-your-seat excitement and chills. *Publishers Blurb.*



Set in Victorian London and with a certain Dickensian feel, our novel stars ten-year-old Birdie, a 'boglers' girl.

A bogle is a ghost of sorts that come in many shapes and sizes and lurk in various, but always dark, hiding places, and it is Birdie's job to lure the bogles out with her beautiful singing, so that her master can kill them with his spear.

We gain a tremendous insight into life in this period, where class structures and divisions will seem unusual to your students. There are a lot of accents and slang to contend with which adds to the storyline and the included glossary should provide a great help translating.

With pickpockets, a devious doctor and some truly scary scenes, this is a marvellous novel for 9-12 year old avid readers.

Reviewed by Rob.