

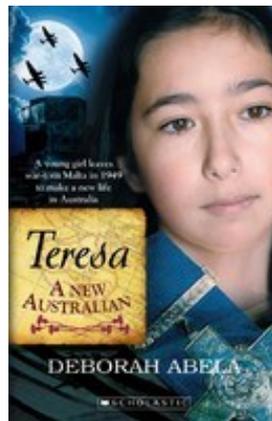
Teresa - A New Australian

By Deborah Abela
Publisher: Omnibus/Scholastic
ISBN 9781742990941
\$16.99

PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

Blurb:

Teresa and her family survived the bombing of their home and went hungry during the long siege of their island during the war. Life in peace time is still hard. Her parents want a better life, and so apply to migrate to Australia to find it. But after the long voyage to Sydney, there are more testing times ahead for Teresa as she tries to learn Australian ways, avoid the bullies and do well at school. She is not about to let anything stop her from making her family and her Nanna back in Malta proud of her.



Lamont Review:

Set firstly in Malta during WWII and then in Sydney, we follow the journey of young Teresa.

Her family have endured and survived the Germans bombing their beautiful homeland of Malta, but it has come at a cost. Their house has been destroyed and their future is bleak.

Teresa's parents decide to take up the opportunity given to them and move to Australia, however Teresa doesn't share in their excitement about the prospect of a new life. She is devastated that her beloved Nanna has chosen to stay in Malta and her best friend George and his family have not been accepted by Australia. How will she cope on this journey without them?

Teresa is a courageous young girl with a big heart who you will grow to love. Her ability to reach out to others in need, along with the love that she has for her family and friends are qualities that we can all admire.

This book gives young readers a wonderful insight into the difficult times and discrimination that new immigrants endured and how through the power of determination, hard work and compassion you can achieve your dreams.

This book is best suited for middle to upper primary students.

Reviewed by Sam.

The Family With Two Front Doors

By Anna Ciddor

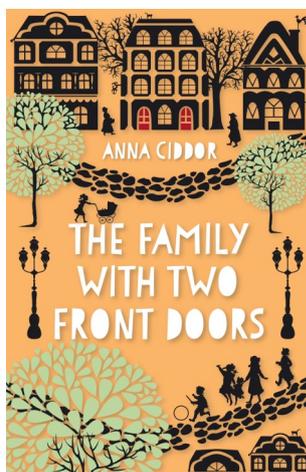
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN: 9781925266641

\$14.99

Blurb:

Meet the Rabinovitches: mischievous Yakov, bubbly Nomi, rebellious Miriam, solemn Shlomo, and seven more! Papa is a rabbi and their days are full of intriguing rituals and adventures. But the biggest adventure of all is when big sister Adina is told she is to be married at the age of fifteen - to someone she has never met...Based on the author's real family, the Rabinovitches dance, laugh and cook their way through an extraordinary life in 1920s Poland...In the classic tradition, this highly readable story is fascinating, engaging and as warm as freshly baked bread.



Lamont Review:

This is a move away from Anna Ciddor's usual fantasy books to one based on her orthodox Jewish ancestry in 1920's Poland.

Seen through the eyes of ten year old Nomi, it looks at many of the traditional Jewish customs, food and celebrations. Her father is the local rabbi and their local community revolves around the large Rabinovitch family leading up to the arranged marriage of their oldest daughter, 15 year old Adina.

It is a terrific tale that looks at Jewish life without even a hint of the holocaust, which is a nice change. It is certainly educational and will be used to show a very different culture to that understood by most Australian students.

Best suited to readers 9-12 years old.

Reviewed by Rob

Teacher notes are available for this title from www.allenandunwin.com

Magrit

By Lee Battersby
Publisher: Walker Books
ISBN 9781925081343
\$19.99

Blurb:

A wonderfully strange yet poignant tale about accepting the truth about oneself. Magrit lives in an abandoned cemetery with her friend and advisor, Master Puppet, whom she built from bones and bits of graveyard junk. She is as forgotten as the tiny graveyard world that surrounds her. One night as Magrit and Master Puppet sit atop of their crumbling chapel, a passing stork drops a baby into the graveyard. Defying Master Puppet's demands that the baby be disposed of, and taking no heed of his dire warnings, Magrit decides to raise the baby herself. She gives him a name: Bugrat. Magrit loves Bugrat like a brother, friend and son all rolled into one. But Master Puppet and the newly discovered skeleton girl know all too well what will happen when Bugrat grows up - that the truth about them all will be revealed. Something Magrit refuses to face.



Lamont Review:

Magrit lives in a small, abandoned cemetery. Surrounded by apartments, she remains hidden from everyone, except her friend Master Puppet.

She happily spends her days playing games that she makes up in her head. One day the stork comes past and drops a squealing baby boy in the cemetery. Master Puppet advises her to give it away but Magrit decides to keep him and so Bugrat enters her life.

This is a haunting yet poignant tale about trying to hide the truth from yourself and the freedom Magrit finds when she finally accepts who she is.

A perfect story for your Year 5/6 girls who like a good supernatural story with a twist.

Reviewed by Michelle

Ruby Wishfingers : Skydancer's Escape

By Deborah Kelly & Illustrated by Leigh Hedstrom
Publisher: Wombat Books
ISBN 9781925139631
\$9.99

Blurb:

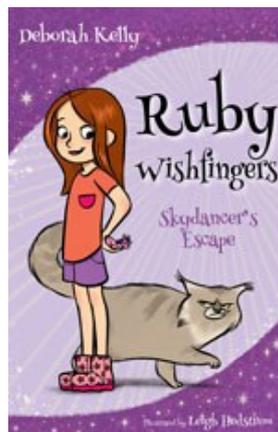
Ruby Wishfingers is an ordinary girl...except for her extraordinary name.

One day she wakes with a strange feeling in the tips of her fingers and discovers she has inherited a marvellous gift: the power to wish for whatever she wants!

But wishes don't always turn out quite how you expect...

Come with Ruby on a magical adventure. Meet a talking cat, experience jelly bean rain and chase a runaway, pocket-sized unicorn!

Life is *extraordinarily* fun with Ruby Wishfingers.



Lamont Review:

How would it be to have anything that you wished for? Fantastic, right? Or is it?

When Ruby Wishfingers, who had always wondered why she had such a magical name, discovers that she really has inherited the family's gift of 'wishfingers', she thinks it is the most amazing thing ever.

What will she wish for first? Her favourite toy, Skydancer the unicorn to be real of course! But not all goes according to plan and Ruby soon discovers that having everything that you wish for is not as good as it seems.

A great, fun read for your junior to middle year girls.

Reviewed by Sam