



children's literature

FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.
Tūāpapa Tuhituhī Tamariki o Aotearoa

Christmas

List

2000

Recent releases and re-issues recommended by committee members Frances Plumpton, Wayne Mills, Louise Clark, Helen Beckingsale and Carol Ardern. The selection is listed in age appropriate order, however parents and teachers should be conscious that they have a responsibility to check on suitability for particular children or classes.

Here Comes Mother Goose

Iona Opie, editor
Ill. Rosemary Wells
Walker
ISBN 074455554X

This large sized hardback is a welcome companion to *My Very First Mother Goose* also by the incomparable team of Opie and Wells. Once again this is a selection of familiar and unfamiliar nursery rhymes with a variety of energetic animals romping through the bold bright illustrations. Great value for a book to be read endlessly.

Happy Christmas Maisy

Lucy Cousins
Walker
ISBN 0744575737

Maisy, that adorable rodent, is preparing for Christmas, buying and wrapping presents, baking, and decorating her Christmas tree. When her friends arrive Maisy, wearing an I love Christmas T-shirt, is there to welcome them. This simple Christmas tale with sturdy flaps

and tabs and eye catching holographic inserts in the illustrations should appeal to very young children. FP

All For the Newborn Baby

Root, Phyllis
illustrated by Nicola Bayley
Walker, ISBN 0744540860

An exquisitely produced Christmas lullaby based on Phyllis Root's fascination with the Christmas miracle tales which she has woven into a cradle song that Mary might have sung to her newborn baby "... Hush now, baby./ In the manger/ Donkey shares/ His sweetest hay/ Oxen breathing /Warm beside you./ keep the winter/ cold away ...". Nicola Bayley has used varying shades of mottled brown backgrounds in contrast to her ornate golden-framed illustrations. There is much detail to be pored over in her medieval-like illustrations, which shine out of the page. The endpapers too, are clues to many of the small creatures and plants within her illustrations. A gem to treasure.

My Goose Betsy

Trudi Braun

Ill. John Bendall-Brunello

Walker

ISBN 0744572819

This is a striking example of effective information in picture book format with just the right amount of fact to intrigue young readers and listeners. Betsy's soft feathers not only keep her warm and dry, but the fluffy down she carefully pecks from her breast lines her cosy nest ready to receive her eggs. While William the gander guards the nest, Betsy waits to gather her newly hatched goslings under her wing. Trudi Braun's affection for her own geese is obvious in this lovely large-sized paperback. Pre-school. FP

Mrs Wishy-Washy

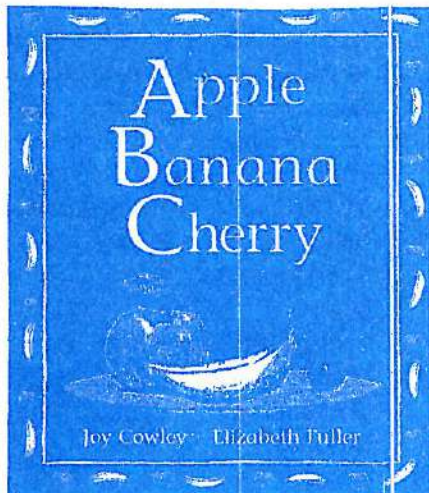
Joy Cowley

Ill. Elizabeth Fuller

Penguin

ISBN 0140567348

This beloved reader makes a very successful and satisfying board book. The onomatopoeic text and humorous illustrations will delight toddlers as well as emergent readers. FP



Hedgehog Howdedo

Lynley Dodd

Mallinson Rendel

ISBN 0908783558

Hedgehogs abound in Lynley's own neighbourhood and are the somnolent stars in her latest picture book. A well-wrapped lass explores her garden, discovering hibernating hedgehogs in a variety of snug places. As to be expected there is wonderful use of language with phrases that children will repeat with delight '... horde of hibernators in this hedgehog howdedo..' As well as no doubt their conjecture of the chaos when they all eventually awake. Pre-school to seven years. FP

Apple Banana Cherry

Joy Cowley

Ill. Elizabeth Fuller

Scholastic 2000

ISBN 1-86943-460-9

Children three to seven will love this brightly coloured and lively alphabet book. It has delightful original text that will also appeal to the parents and teachers who will be asked to read it again and again. Children will enjoy the rhythms of the alphabet sounds and the alliterative rhymes. CA

Days Like This

A collection of small poems selected and illustrated by Simon James

Walker Books 2000

PB ISBN 0 7445 7799 3

This collection will delight young listeners, and parents will enjoy sharing the moments that are captured so well. Fresh action packed illustrations in the style of Quentin Blake provide wonderful settings for these small poems. Warmly recommended for 4 to 6 year olds. CA

Simply Delicious

Margaret Mahy

Ill. Jonathan Allen

Puffin

ISBN 0141308737

Jonathan Allen's illustrations hit exactly the right note for Margaret Mahy's quirky tale of Mr Minky's determination to bring a double-dip-chocolate-chip-and -cherry ice cream with rainbow twinkles and chopped-nut sprinkles home to his son Finnegan. To do this he must bike along a jungle track beset with predators longing to taste the simply delicious treat. Read this and try to avoid the tempting array of treats in the supermarket freezer - somehow the comparison of trying to protect your own ice cream from the envious glances of family members becomes quite vivid! Four to six year olds. FP

Foggy Friday

Phyllis Root

Ill. Helen Craig

Walker Books 2000

HB ISBN 0 7445 5675 9

The rooster has lost his cock-a-doodle doo. Other farm animals try to crow instead! Wonderful for shared reading with 5 and 6 year olds. They will love to provide the sound effects and will enjoy the alliterative language "peered into the pig pen", "hunted in the hen house". The illustrations are colourful and expressive. Pre-schoolers will love this book too. CA

A New Room for William

Sally Grindley

Ill. Carol Thompson

Bloomsbury Children's Books 2000

HB ISBN 0 7475 4489 1

A well structured story about a young child settling into a new home. His fears are acknowledged and gradually he develops a friendship with the boy next

door. It is not until the very last page that it becomes apparent that the adjustment to the new situation is necessary because of his parents separation. The issue is well handled. The colourful expressive illustrations are an important part of the success of this book. Suitable for 5 to 7 year olds. CA

Granny MacGinty

Marita Conlon-McKenna

Ill. Leonie Shearing

Orchard Books 2000

PB ISBN 1 84121 573 2

The MacGinty's are worried about their Granny who lives alone. Manus suggests a pet, but in turn the dog, parrot, rabbit and snail "have to go". However, a tiny ginger stray cat that arrives in the garden captures Granny's heart. Meanwhile the rejected pets create chaos at the MacGinty's! A lively, lighthearted story with colourful, busy illustrations that will be enjoyed by 5 to 7 year olds. CA

Rover

Michael Rosen

Ill. Neal Layton

Bloomsbury Children's Books 2000

PB ISBN 0 7475 4689 4

The vibrant cover and wonderful endpapers make a great start to this book. The storyline is a dog's view of his human family, with very perceptive observations of their behaviour. The bright illustrations are in strong colours with astute comments in speech bubbles to complete the effect. Will be thoroughly enjoyed by 5 to 7 year olds and their parents. CA





The Puriri Tree

Merito Tawhara
 Ill. Nikki Slade Robinson
 Huia Publishers
 NZ 2000
 PB ISBN 1 877266 27 2

Hemi found something small in the garden. His koro told him to plant it. As the seed grows into a puriri, the boy grows to an old man, whose grand-daughter asks about something small she finds in the garden. "Plant it. You'll see," he replies. A simply told story with colourful, expressive illustrations. Suitable for 5 to 7 year olds. CA

The Lighthouse Keeper's Breakfast

Ronda and David Armitage
 Scholastic
 ISBN 043901350X

The lighthouse is 200 years old and the villagers decide to celebrate with an all-night fancy-dress party with a breakfast to follow. Mr and Mrs Grinling, who are to be the special guests, finally decide on pirate costumes and practice with great enthusiasm. Mrs Grinling turns out to be a natural at swashing and buckling, but poor Mr Grinling is dreadfully inept with his pirate attire. However the night of the party does not turn out as the Grinlings had expected - they are captured by pirates and challenged with a range of incredibly difficult tests. Of course the Grinlings are made of stern stuff and rise to the occasion. Ronda and David have

managed to maintain the essence of the Grinlings, in both text and illustration, throughout six books over a spread of twenty-three years. Five to seven year olds. FP

Inside Mary Elizabeth's House

Pamela Allen
 Viking 2000
 ISBN 0-670-89133-9

The bullies don't believe Mary when she tells them a monster lives at her house (but the reader / listener can see parts of him through the windows) When they come to "number eleven at seven" they meet him - a scary encounter! But most five to seven year olds love to be scared. CA

The Big Milly-Molly-Mandy Storybook

Joyce Lancaster Brisley
 Ill. Clara Vulliamy
 Kingfisher
 ISBN0753404834

Those who have long treasured the stories of the little girl in her pink and white striped dress should enjoy the opportunity to introduce a new generation of children to the everyday busyness of Milly-Molly-Mandy, her extended family and her friends Susan and Billy Blunt. Clara Vulliamy's own enjoyment of the stories is evident in this lovely edition that contains a selection from the Milly-Molly-Mandy books. Six to eight year olds. FP

Hettie's Christmas Gift

Bernice Screech
 Ill. Rita Parkinson
 Scholastic NZ 2000
 ISBN 1-86943-486-2

Just before Christmas, Hettie an artist, hears of the birth of her first grandson on the other side of the world. She decides to paint a picture, but has difficulty deciding on a subject. The picture she eventually

sends is very appropriate. This book highlights the differences between the Christmas celebrations in the northern and southern hemispheres. A clever idea that will make a good gift for family here and overseas. Five to eight year olds CA

30 New Zealand Stories for Children

Ed. Jo Noble

Ill. David Elliot

Random House NZ 2000

HB ISBN 1 86941 437 3

Following the success of 100 NZ Poems for Children, the same team has produced this wonderful companion book. Jo has selected a variety of prose from the work of 27 talented NZ writers. These short stories are lively and engaging, well suited to class or one to one read aloud, as well as for individual reading by 8 to 10 year olds. David Elliot's black and white illustrations are a delight and certainly highlight the humour of many of the stories. This book will have wide appeal. It is a wonderful resource for primary school teachers and every NZ family should own a copy to enjoy together. It would also make a great gift for offshore family and friends. CA.

A Sudden Puff of Glittering Smoke

ISBN 07497-0254-0

A Sudden Whirl of Icy Wind

ISBN 07497-0255-9

A Sudden Glow of Gold

ISBN 07497-0256-7

Anne Fine

Ill. David Higham

Mammoth 2000

These titles originally published in 1989, 1990, 1991 have now been re-issued by Mammoth newly jacketed in a style that hints of the mysterious and magical theme that is so popular at present. In each book, a dissatisfied child unintentionally releases a genie – one from a ring, the next from a bottle and the other from a lamp. As well as an adventure into foreign and exciting times, each child develops an understanding of a life truth. Light easy to reads with pen illustrations that will be enjoyed by both boys and girls eight to ten. CA

Ralph S Mouse

Beverly Cleary

Ill. Paul Zelinsky

Harper Trophy 2000

ISBN 0-380-70957-0

The re-issue of Beverly Cleary's work will give another generation of children the opportunity to enjoy the antics of Ramona, Beezus, Henry and of course Ralph! The new soft back format includes larger sized print and the addition of Paul Zelinsky's pen and ink illustrations. Eight to ten year olds will enjoy the humour and insight Beverly Cleary has into their world. CA

Frankel Mouse

Odo Hirsch

Ill. Ron Brooks

Allen & Unwin 2000

ISBN 1-86508-249-X

A funny story about the antics of four very different mice as they experience life in the stations of the underground train system. Lots of dialogue and a few soft



pencil sketches throughout make this book a great opportunity for younger children to enjoy the wonderful writing style of Odo Hirsch. Eight to ten year olds. CA

Call of the Cruins

Elizabeth Pulford
Scholastic
ISBN 1869434714

Emelmine's father and brother are away at sea for days at a time earn a living hunting seals and whales. When she discovers an injured seal cub on a windswept beach not far from their cottage, she is determined to save it, well knowing that both her parents will disapprove of her actions. This very readable historical novel is set on the Otago coastline. Nine to eleven year olds. FP

A Whistle from the Blunder

Diana Noonan
Longacre Press 2000

Otago writer Diana Noonan's latest book, *A Whistle from the Blunder*, is a mystery story for competent readers of around ten years and upwards. When Cadence goes to stay with her uncle and aunt in a little rural town, she finds herself drawn into a fifty year old tragedy involving a fatal accident on the railway line. Although the railway has long been pulled up, Cadence has hear the whistle of the steam engine, and it seems that the events of the past may be happening again, with Cadence herself as an unwilling participant. The plot isn't always totally unconvincing, but the story moves along at a good pace and there is enough excitement and tension to keep readers wanting to turn the pages to find out what happens next. Readers ten to twelve year olds. LC

Leon

Frances Cherry
Mallinson Rendel 2000

A sympathetic portrayal of a young girl caught in a nightmare situation. It is written in Clarissa's words as she deals with adjustments to a new school, and a new man in her mother's life who has far from fatherly intentions. Readers can share her feelings of helplessness and also rejoice in Leon's unmasking at the end. Twelve plus readers could find themselves learning some useful strategies for dealing with similar situations. LC

A Handful Of Magic

Stephen Elboz
Oxford University Press 2000

The hero of this book is a boy wizard, tall and thin with a mop of unruly dark hair. No, not Harry Potter, but Kit Stixby who is the son of Queen Victoria's witchdoctor. He lives in an alternative Victorian age where magic is still an important force, though it appears to be under threat from the Royal Superintendent of Scientific progress who wants to replace witchcraft with electricity. The plot is a convoluted one, and the action is non-stop. An entertaining story, which should appeal particularly to boys ten to twelve. LC

It's A Try

Vince Ford
Scholastic 2000

This book is a good choice for children who enjoy rugby. Hamish is made honorary ball-boy at the All Blacks versus Wallabies Test match. Remembering a ploy that could have won a match for his team, Hamish urges Emosi to throw the ball to Macrocarpa Mullins who scores a last minute, match winning try. Hamish gets celebrity treatment, but at a cost. Look out for the clever names of the players and especially the interview with

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Paul Holmes. I preferred this book over some other sports titles as it didn't get too immersed in the minutiae of the game. Ten plus readers. WM

Shadrach Girl

Joy Cowley

Puffin 2000

ISBN 014-130899-0

Shadrach Girl is the final book in the trilogy that began with *Bow Down Shadrach* and *Gladly, Here I Come*. In *Shadrach Girl*, the children are older and when their mother Sophie becomes ill, the family is thrown into turmoil. It takes a series of dramatic events (and the intervention of Gladly) to bring a happy resolution. Joy Cowley has created an exciting, touching and very credible story. Puffin has re-issued the two earlier books in a uniform edition, so that fans can enjoy reading all three together. Eleven plus readers. LC

The Little White Horse

Elizabeth Goudge

Lion 2000

This is a delightful story, which won the Carnegie Medal in 1946 and is making a reappearance on the strength of being J.K. Rowling's favourite book as a child. It will appeal to fantasy lovers who like a good solid read and features a conflict between forces of light and darkness, the resolution of an ancient feud, the reconciliation of several pairs of lovers of varying ages and a very satisfying happy ending. Eleven plus. HB

A Year Down Yonder

Richard Peck

Hodder Moa Beckett 2000

In 1938, during the American Depression, fifteen year old Mary Alice is sent from Chicago to stay with her Grandma Dowdel

until her father can find a job. She is not looking forward to living in a hick town and attending the tough local school. Even more scary is Grandma Dowdel who is big, mean and a law unto herself. Mary Alice's year is much more eventful than she could ever have imagined, but when it is time to go home she doesn't want to leave. Beautifully written, highly original and by turns thoughtful, moving and hilarious. *A Year Down Yonder* is an absolute gem. Eleven plus readers. LC

Crash! The Story of Poddy

William Taylor

Scholastic 2000

Poddy has Downs Syndrome, but it doesn't prevent him from saving both his brother and father after a car crash on an isolated country road. The novel questions stereotypes, and the responsibilities each family member bears. A note by the author at the end of the book will prove helpful. The major and secondary characters all have an unmistakable Taylor touch about them. Eleven plus readers. WM

Finn's Quest The Queen-Seekers

Eirlys Hunter

Scholastic 2000

A computer game titled *Ultimate Adventure* thrusts Finn into another time where he meets Gala. Finn is not your typical male hero and Gala appears fearless. The quest involves danger, and the novel rollicks along taking the reader with the action. Two secondary characters stood out in particular for me, Colonel Crum with his appalling halitosis, and Sproggin, a dwarf with a wonderful way of speaking. I felt the novel had a slow start but increased its pace after the first few chapters. Eleven plus readers. WM

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Stormbreaker

Anthony Horowitz
Walker Books 2000.

14 year old Alex is recruited into MI6 and armed with secret gadgets to discover the truth about free computers which have been given to every school. Action and humour for early teens. HB

Looking for Alibrandi

Melina Marchetta
Penguin 1993

A reprint of this award winning Australian novel to coincide with the film released this year. Seventeen year old Josie confronts the issues common to all teenagers as well as her own Italian heritage and illegitimacy. 13+ HB

The Sterkarm Handshake

Susan Price
Scholastic 1998, 2000

This fascinating novel will appeal to adults as well as teenagers who are keen readers of fantasy. The scene moves between the 16th and 21st centuries as arrogant 'Elf-landers' attempt to exploit the uncontaminated resources of the 16th century while completely underestimating and failing to understand the Sterkarm clan whose landscape they have invaded. Plenty of action and also an unrequited love story. 13+ HB

24 Hours

Margaret Mahy
Harper Collins 2000

Ellis has just left school when he encounters Jackie, an old acquaintance, who draws him into an inescapable drama which changes his life. Thirteen plus. HB



What's Hector McKerrow doing These Days?

Catherine Jinks
Pan Macmillan 2000

Written in the email format which is so popular at the moment this is the story of a 12 year old fan who tries to make contact with a 1960s heartthrob and triggers a worldwide Internet search with numerous other dubious characters also trying to find Hector McKerrow. HB

