



children's literature

FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.
Tūāpapa Tuhituhi Tamariki o Aotearoa

Christmas List Term Four 2001

Contributors to this booklist are Kerry Aluf, Carol Ardern, Anne Coppell, Wayne Mills, Lorraine Orman, Frances Plumpton and Rosemary Tisdall.

A Small Miracle

Peter Collington

Red Fox 1999

Pb ISBN 0-09-968071-8

A beautiful pictorial story (no words) of an old woman on Christmas Eve who is so exhausted by her efforts to make money for food that she collapses in the snow after being robbed of what little she has. Christmas is a time of giving and miracles - tears come to the reader's eyes to see a miniature version of the Nativity scene come to her aid. A wonderful story of the meaning of Christmas to share with children of any age. RT

The First Christmas

Marcia Williams

Walker, 2000.

ISBN 0744568463

A simple, lively and colourful retelling of the Christmas story, illustrated in comic strip form. A wonderful story to share with children 3 years and older. AC.

Laura's Christmas Star

Klaus Baumgart

Koala Books 2000

HB ISBN 0 86461 286 9

It's Christmas Eve and Laura and Tommy are very excited! They can't wait to get to Aunt Martha's house for Christmas. She has promised them a tree that glitters like a zillion stars. When the car breaks down on the way it looks like Christmas will be ruined - they won't be able to get to Aunt Martha's after all. Laura hopes that her own special, magic star she once rescued (in the book "Laura's Star" by Klaus Baumgart) will help cheer them up. Magical things can happen at Christmas! A tender story that 3 - 7 year olds will enjoy, especially with the glittering metallic star appearing!RT

Cat in the Manger

Michael Foreman

Andersen Press 2000

HB ISBN 0 86264 927 7

Yet another version of life in the Stable at Christmas. This is from the cat's point of view - he lives in the stable with a variety of animals that he tolerates with such an air of disdain. He is meant to catch mice, but with the birth of a baby, he begins to see life in a different way! Michael Foreman brings a fresh and humourous style to the Nativity story, which may appeal more to the older children, say 8 - 10, and adults!RT

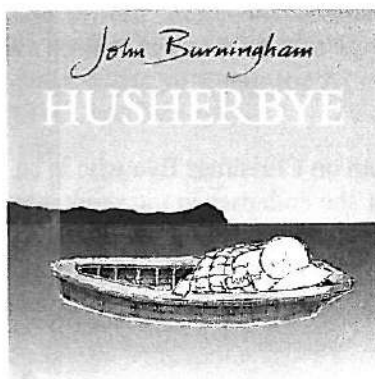
booklist

Ten in the Bed

Penny Dale
Walker

Bdb ISBN 0744575249

My 14 month old grand daughter Ellen sings away in her inimitable fashion to this board book edition of a favourite picture book. The sturdy pages are just ideal for the constant inspection that this book entails. Penny Dale's endearing child and company of soft toys mirror a familiar world for our toddlers. A great stocking filler. FP



Husherbye

John Burningham
Red Fox 2000

Pb ISBN 0099408643

This captivating lullaby is classic John Burningham. With gentle rhythmic text – *'There are three tired bears, who are climbing the stairs...and a fish in the sea, it is weary you see'*. Everyone is looking for a place to sleep and from mother cat to tired frog, all are able to slumber in a variety of settings. Winner of the Smarties Book Prize Award 2000. KA

Maisy's Farm: a pop-up and play book.

Lucy Cousins
Walker

ISBN 0744575877

Maisy is currently the great favourite with preschoolers and they delight in acting out her adventures. This book opens out into a freestanding barn, garden and farmyard with cutouts of Maisy, Eddie, Charley, Cyril and Tallulah ready for endless adventures. There will be hours of fun here, but this book is more suitable for three year olds

onwards whose dexterity is less likely to destroy the flaps, tabs and small pieces. FP

Oliver in the Garden

Margaret Beames, illustrated by Sue Hitchcock.

Scholastic

Pb ISBN 1869434668

A welcome paperback edition of the adventures of Mrs Bundy's cat Oliver, who refuses her call for him to come in for the night, opting for the exciting outdoor life. Sue Hitchcock's illustrations add just the perfect (purrfect?) tone as Oliver encounters the nightlife in his garden. Not just for children, buy this for cat-lovers of all ages. FP

Alfie's Numbers

Shirley Hughes
Red Fox

Pb ISBN 0099407922

Alfie and Annie Rose star in their very own counting book – but, as with all Shirley Hughes stories, there is much to pore over. Children familiar with the Alfie stories will recognize scenes from some of them – Alfie's precious Noah's Ark, his cat Chessie, bubble blowing at Bernard's birthday party, and the aftermath of the burst pipe. FP

Dig Dig Digging

Margaret Mayo, illustrated by Alex Ayliffe
Orchard

ISBN 184121745X

The endpapers of the brightly coloured hardback picture book display the variety of machinery on the double-paged spreads – from diggers through fire engines, rubbish trucks and transporters – all the machinery to warm a small boy's heart. A simple rhyme outlines the activity and is extended by the somewhat stylised illustrations. This book works well reading aloud to groups of children as well as being pored over by the individual child. Other books to delight this audience would be Tony Mitton's Dazzling Diggers,

Flashing Fire Engines and Terrific Trains. (Kingfisher). FP

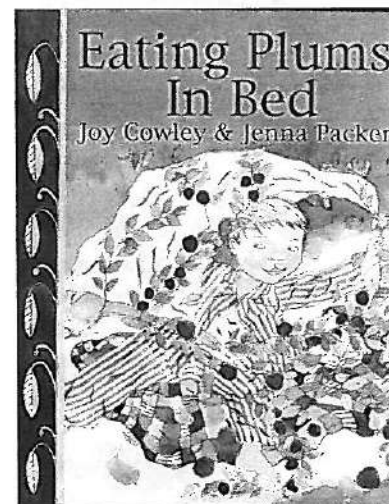
Little Baa

Kim Lewis

Walker Books 2001

Hb ISBN 0744575443

Little Baa gambols far away from his mother, and then lies down to sleep. Poor old Ma can't find him, and wanders everywhere crying for her lost lamb. But then the shepherd arrives, and his dog wakes Little Baa. Very soon Ma hears a familiar cry coming across the meadow... In gentle pastel-toned illustrations and brief straightforward text the author perfectly conveys the distress of the ewe – but at the same time she retains the essential animal quality of the creatures. Preschoolers will love it. LO



Eating Plums in Bed

Joy Cowley

Ill. Jenna Packer

Scholastic NZ 2001

Pb ISBN 1869435362

Not heeding his mother's warnings about eating plums in bed propels a young boy into the daunting predicament of living on his bed in a plum tree. The delightful illustrations follow the antics of the parents as well as the experiences of their son. An imaginative story for 3-5 yr olds. KA

HOLLY

Ruth Brown



Holly

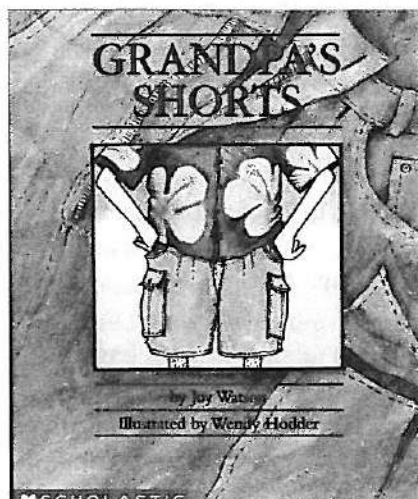
Ruth Brown

Red Fox 2001

Pb ISBN 009941345

The Red Fox paperback edition of Holly has recently been released in NZ. Based on a true story, which Ruth Brown relates in a letter to the reader at the beginning of the book, this book describes the new life of an abandoned kitten. A carefully crafted phrase under each full page illustration describes Holly as she delights in developing from a scared kitten into a much loved family pet. Ruth Brown's realistic and detailed illustrations capture so well the universal antics and attitudes of cats. A lovely book for 4-8 year olds and a must for all cat loving adults. CA

checked dressing gown. A fun read aloud for preschoolers. Older children will also be amused. KA



Grandpa's Shorts

Joy Watson

Ill. Wendy Hodder

Scholastic NZ 2001

Pb ISBN 1869435079

Another delightful story from an award winning team. That 'best loved' grandpa is off to the beach with the grand-children. He finds his old khaki shorts and bright print shirt are back in fashion. Will be loved by preschoolers to 7yr olds. CA

My Brown Bear Barney at the Party

Dorothy Butler, illustrated by

Elizabeth Fuller

Reed 2001

ISBN18694889X

Barney goes along to Harold Hinkel's birthday party where Harold's little sister, Poppy, commandeers him. In the meantime, his owner, her friend Fred and Harold play wildly exciting games that drive Harold's over-protective mother to despair. Barney, inevitably has adventures of his own, and Mrs Hinkel is quite worn out by the time everyone is collected at the end of the party. Elizabeth Fuller, as always, illustrates the busy chaos behind the deadpan storyline in yet another adventure in the life of this beloved bear. FP



Gwenda Turner

Penny and Pocket



Penny and Pocket

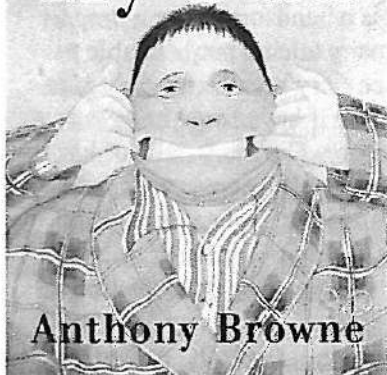
Gwenda Turner

Penguin 2001

Pb ISBN 0140568549

Gwenda Turner's last book relates the story of an abandoned kitten adopted by a family's fox terrier (who even manages to nurse the tiny stray). Gwenda's carefully detailed illustrations portray the warmth of this unusual relationship and the caring concern of the humans, too. Sadly this was published after Gwenda's untimely death - there will be no more of her meticulous chronicles of the everyday events that contribute to the New Zealand way of life. FP

My Dad



My Dad

Anthony Browne

Picture Corgi 2001

Pb ISBN 13579108642

A humorous romp through various qualities of his Dad, from a child's perspective. Anthony Browne's brilliant illustrations feature a recurring theme of the Dad's



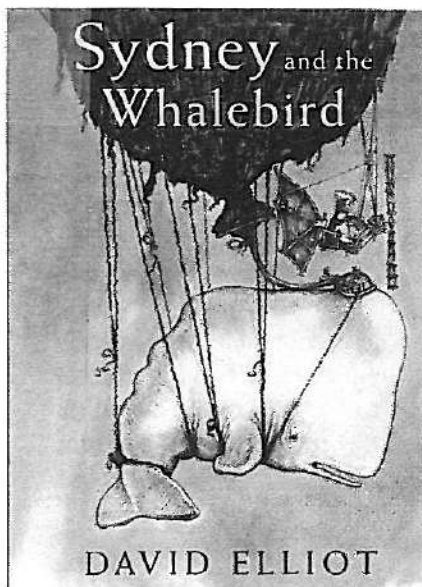
Scarface Claw

Lynley Dodd

Mallinson Rendel 2001

Hb ISBN 0908783620

Is Scarface Claw afraid of anything? Certainly not spiders, fire engines, lightning and thunder or even that pesky pack of dogs! There's just one thing that sends the indomitable cat reeling! Young children delight in the exploits of their favourite cat, now the focus of his very own book. FP



Sydney and the Whalebird

David Elliot

Random House NZ 2000

Pb ISBN 1869414594

Sydney the penguin returns for another adventure with Bill the whale. Sydney's latest madcap invention goes awry and ends up with the beaching of poor Bill. Sydney thinks up an ingenious solution to return Bill to the ocean, but will it work? David Elliot's expressive illustrations star in this tale that will delight young children 4-7 years. KA

The Lighthouse Keeper's Tea

Ronda and David Armitage

Scholastic

ISBN 0439999456

Mr Grinling is bored now that he only works part-time at the lighthouse, and when Mrs G complains that he is always under her feet he decides to take up a hobby. His attempts at cooking, birdwatching and even rollerblading are dismal failures but Mrs Grinling's teasing comment that "...perhaps old dogs can't learn new tricks. . ." makes him resolute. The final story of the endearing couple. FP

In the Beginning

Peter Gossage

Scholastic NZ 2001

Hb ISBN 1869434611

This is a fresh boldly illustrated telling of the legend of the coming of light to Aotearoa. The forced

separation by their children of Papatuanuku and Rangi introduces the Maori gods of the forest, sea, wind and storms, war, peace and food. Peter Gossage uses stylised Maori patterns and strong colour on either black or white background. The text is brief and well placed making this an attractive book for 5-8yr olds. It would also be useful for schools, public libraries, kohanga reo and kura kaupapa Maori. CA

Meet the Barkers: Morgan and Moffat go to school

Tomie De Paola

Putnam, 2001.

ISBN 0399237089

Morgan and Moffat are twins. Morgie's bossy and almost always goes first. Moffie's easy-going. When they start school Morgie shows she's smart and earns gold stars. Moffie makes lots of new friends. But which one is doing better at school? This book is good for reading aloud to 4-7 year olds, while 6-7 year olds could read it for themselves. AC.



I will not ever NEVER eat a tomato

Lauren Child

Orchard Books 2001 pb

Hb ISBN 1841213977

Pb ISBN 184121602x

Charlie's little sister Lola will not eat her dinner but he thinks of a plan. 'One day I played a good

trick on her'. He renames all the food that she dislikes with zany alternatives. There are photographs of the food used in collage effects and cleverly expressive coloured line drawings of the characters. The use of a variety of font for the text and the interesting visual layout make this an eye catching book. The story line is funny and the punchline terrific. Children 5-9 will love this book as will the parents of picky eaters. CA. P.S. For 8-11yr olds look out for the Lauren Child picture books featuring Clarice Bean (they have nothing to do with food).

The grapes of math.

Greg Tang.

Illustrated by Harry Briggs.

Scholastic, 2001.

ISBN 043921033X

This is a colourful and witty book, which uses riddles, rhymes and fantastic illustrations to teach you to solve math problems in a sneakily creative way. It has lots of clever tricks to help you to understand numbers, and even to enjoy them. Suitable for 6-8 years. AC.

IGNIS

Gina Wilson

Ill. P.J. Lynch

Walker Books 2001

Hb ISBN 0744575281

Ignus is a handsome young dragon with many talents but is unable to produce fiery breath and so begins to wonder if he is some other sort of creature. The story tells of his journey of self discovery. The illustrations are outstanding. P.J. Lynch is able to create wonderful detail and amazing atmosphere for the variety of settings and emotions in the story. The book has the polished Walker touch with a classy matt finish loose jacket, text boxed in tones to complement the illustrations and superb double page layout. This fantasy picture book will be a lovely gift for 6-8yr olds. CA

Judy Moody

Megan McDonald
Candlewick, 2000.
ISBN 0763606855

Judy Moody was in a mood. Not a good mood, a bad mood. And it's the first day of the new school year! She hadn't done ANYTHING exciting in the holidays. And she won't have her old teacher, or her old desk, or the class pet. A fantastic book for initiating discussions about changes at school.
Suitable for 7-9. AC

I am a spider

Dr Simon Pollard
Reed, 2001
ISBN 1869488873

A fantastic book for all those budding entomologists. Full of facts and bright colourful photographs. The best thing is that the author doesn't talk down to his audience, but leads them into understanding the facts presented. The book begins with basic spider facts, and then has separate entries for individual spiders, e.g. daddy-long-legs, katipo. A good mixture of New Zealand and overseas spiders.
Suitable for 7-9. AC

Baloney (Henry P.)

J. Scieszka
Ill. L. Smith
Viking 2001

Hb ISBN 0670892483
Henry P. Baloney is late for school. His excuse is the text of this very funny picture book that will be thoroughly enjoyed by 7-10 yr olds. The space pages are full of wacky illustrations. The majority of the text is white capitals on black background with the 'foreign' in deep yellow. The earth pages are strong blue with a white text. The afterword and decoder lists show just how clever the idea is. CA

Backyard Science

Chris Maynard
Dorling Kindersley 2001
Hb ISBN 0751362522

This book will make a great gift for 7-10 yr olds. It contains a range of activities to stimulate their enquiring minds. The page layout is interesting with clear photographs of children enjoying the activities. Science facts are boxed and a shaded panel on the right hand edge of the double paged spreads contain additional information. Good quality paper with strong binding, a contents page and an index make this a very child friendly production. CA

Walter's Planet

Richard & Pamela Wolfe
Random House 2001
Hb ISBN1869414632

Walter McWhirter is a collector of junk - his bedroom is one huge mess. But he invents a planet detector out of the junk, and identifies a planet that no-one knew was there. Walter now has a planet named after him! The story is told in bouncy rhyming text, and the brightly-coloured illustrations are packed full of fascinating detail. Just the present for a young junk collector aged about eight or nine... LO

Wacky Wizard's Handbook

John Byrne
Puffin, 2000.
ISBN 0141309288

There are many important things that you need to know if you are planning a career as a wizard - none of them are in this book! This book will help you have some fun while you are studying, as well as teaching you some really neat tricks to share with your friends. You can also share some jokes around like? Why did the wizard drop his playing cards in the mud? So he could play some dirty tricks.
Suitable for 8-10 years. AC.

The Riddle of the Frozen Phantom

Margaret Mahy
Collins 2001
Pb ISBN 0007113749

Sophie Sapwood, the young daughter of an explorer, finds a whalebone pendant at the back of a drawer of photographs. This event 'wakes' the ghost of the Captain of the Riddle, a ship trapped in the Antarctic ice. His cries for help set in motion a series of fast moving, funny and mysterious incidents. Margaret Mahy's experiences while part of the Artists in Antarctica programme have an obvious influence with authentic descriptions of landscapes. Eight to ten year olds will love the lively language, the crazy characters and the zany humour of this Antarctic adventure. CA

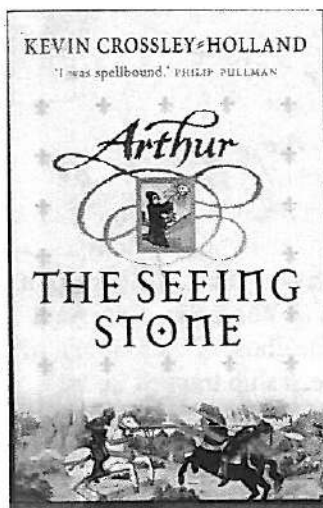
Awesome archaeology

Nick Arnold
Scholastic Hippo, 2001.
ISBN 0439999081

One of *The Knowledge* series of books, by the author of the very popular *Horrible Histories*, this is a fun introduction to the world of archaeology. It's dead interesting! If your boy is interested in non-fiction, then explore this series - and the related ones, like *Horrible Histories*, *Horrible Science*.
Suitable for 8-12 years. AC.

The Christmas Rat

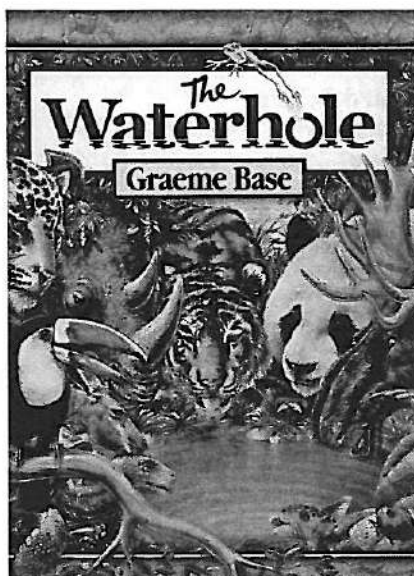
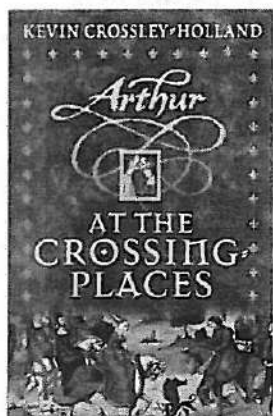
Avi
Atheneum 2000
Hb ISBN 068983425
Eleven-year-old Eric is home alone over the Christmas break while his parents work. A weird rat exterminator called Anje Gabrail knocks on the door, and starts to involve Eric in his war against the rat that lives in the basement. But Eric ends up on the same side as the rat, and even risks his own safety to save it. Spooky, funny, a bit way-out, and very fast-paced - keen readers of nine and ten should enjoy it.
LO



Arthur: The Seeing Stone
 Kevin Crossley-Holland
 Orion Children's Books 2001
 Pb ISBN 0752844296

Arthur: At the Crossing Places

Kevin Crossley-Holland
 Orion Children's Books 2001
 Hb ISBN 1858813980
 Books one and two in a trilogy, these titles are an absorbing blend of history and fantasy. Arthur lives in medieval England, and he has been given a magic stone which enables him to watch the life of another Arthur who lives in an earlier time. Of course, the second Arthur is the legendary king. The details of medieval life provide a fascinating background to Arthur's life as he discovers his true parentage and prepares himself to go to the Crusades. The easy style and short chapters would suit nine to twelve-year-olds. LO



The Waterhole
 Graeme Base
 Viking 2001
 Hb ISBN 0670889288

Graeme Base's distinctive and highly original style features in this multi layered work. It has something for all - a simple counting storyline, quirky translations of the animals' language, wonderfully complex illustrations and a thought provoking message of the delicate balance of nature. The production is outstanding, each double page spread has border bands which silhouette further creatures which can be discovered in the main illustration. A clever idea has the waterhole gradually diminishing and leaving what at first glance appears to be just a desolate scene but holding very much more. And after the rains come, be sure to take a close look at the form of the puddle. A magnificent book that will be treasured in many homes. CA

Jack Black and the ship of thieves

Carol Hughes
 Pb. Bloomsbury, 1997.
 ISBN 0747534861
 Hb. Random, 2000.
 ISBN 0375804722
 Young Jack Black is allowed to travel on his father's airship - the largest ever - when disaster strikes. He ends up onboard a pirate ship - the Hyperion. And the only way to save his father, and his father's

crew, is to venture into the polar seas and confront the *Nemesis* - an automated war machine. Adventure abounds in this alternative history novel. Suitable for 10-12. AC

The Paper Bag Baby

Ruth Thomas
 Random House 2001
 Hb ISBN 0091761468
 A riveting and fast-paced thriller for upper primary and intermediate ages. Edward finds an abandoned baby in the park, and decides to make some money by selling it. He persuades two girl classmates to help him look after it. But of course Alice can't keep a baby hidden in her playhouse. The neighbours find out - and kidnap the baby! Alice and Edward and Miranda go on a long train journey to get the baby back ... Believable characters and a very tidy plot - keeps you reading to the end. LO

The wizard's dilemma

Diane Duane
 ISBN 0152025510
 Finally, another in the Young Wizards series! This book follows immediately after Nita's Irish adventures, detailed in *A wizard abroad*. Back home Nita is confronted with choices and change. Her relationship with Kit is changing as they both move into the teen years. And her mother's illness leaves Nita with a terrible dilemma: when is it right to use her powers, particularly when the only way may be by coming to terms with the Lone Power. The other books in the series are: *So you want to be a wizard*, *Deep wizardry*, *High wizardry*, *A wizard abroad*. Suitable for Harry Potter fans, and others, aged 10+. AC

An interview with J. K. Rowling

Lindsey Fraser
Mammoth, 2000.
ISBN 0749743948

A brief interview with the author of Harry Potter, including how the publicity and fame has affected her, and about why she chose Warner Brothers to make the movie. Also of interest are her thoughts on what influenced Harry Potter, including her favourite books. One of them, *The Little White Horse* by Elizabeth Goudge, has undergone a surge in popularity! Suitable for Harry Potter fans of all age groups. AC

Fantastic beasts and where to find them by Newt Scamander

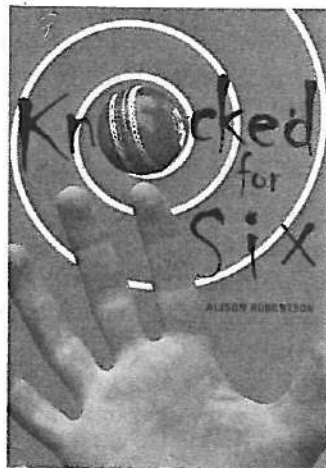
J. K. Rowling
Bloomsbury or Scholastic, 2001.
ISBN 0747554668 or 0439284031
Written to raise funds for Comic relief this fun book disguises itself as a copy of Harry Potter's school textbook - with his (and Ron's) additions! Did you know that New Zealand's dragon is an Opaleye? These and other amazing facts can be right at your fingertips! Wonderful and quirky, and more light-hearted than the Harry books. Suitable for Harry Potter fans of all ages. AC



Aquamarine

Alice Hoffman
Scholastic, 2001.
ISBN 0439098637

The story of two friends and their last summer together before they have to move away from each other. Finding a mermaid in an abandoned pool they learn about love, friendship and the separations that life brings. Suitable for 10-14. AC



Knocked for Six

Alison Robertson
Scholastic, 2001.
ISBN 1869433130

Tony REALLY wants to be on the cricket team to a tournament in Taupo, but he has to visit his dying grandmother and missing the trials. Then he falls off his bike, runs away from home, hitch-hikes, his best friend's going to boarding school, he gets in trouble at school, and his mum wants to start singing - in public!!! Tony's life has been knocked for six - can it get better? Winner of the 2000 Tom Fitzgibbon Award for best children's fiction by a previously unpublished writer. Suitable for 10-14 years. AC.

The Whitby Witches series

Robin Jarvis
Book 1: The Whitby Witches.
ISBN 0340788682
Book 2: A warlock in Whitby ISBN
0340788690
Book 3: The Whitby child. ISBN
0340788704
All Hodder, 2000.

Jennet and Ben have moved from foster home to foster home since the death of their parents. Now they have to make another new start in Whitby. But things aren't always what they seem. Especially to Ben, who has "The Gift" - the Gift of seeing things others can't - like ghosts or the "mythical" aufwaders. Throw into the mix witches (good and bad), warlocks, and creatures of darkness and life in Whitby is anything but dull. The books are full of facts about Whitby, which is famous for many

things in real life, like the fact Captain Cook lived there once. Also Hilda, mentioned in the books, was real as was the poet Caedmon. A wonderful blend of fantasy and reality, but with dark undertones. Suitable for 10-14 years. AC.



LOVE THAT DOG

Sharon Creech
Bloomsbury 2001
Hb ISBN 0747556164

It's sensitive, funny, poetic - Ben Zephaniah got it right when he could not categorize this very original book from Sharon Creech. If you work with children, like poetry and encourage individual and original expression of ideas then you will love this book. Will be enjoyed by all from 10 to adult. CA

The Princess Diaries

Meg Cabot
Macmillan Children's Books
2001
Pb ISBN 033048205X

The movie is currently showing in the cinemas, and there are also two more titles in the series to track down - *Take Two*, and *Third Time Lucky*. Mia thinks she has problems - she can't do algebra and she's flat-chested. But then she finds out that she's the heir to a small European principality - and her formidable Grandmere arrives to give her how-to-be-a-princess lessons. Mia is not impressed, to put it lightly. Very modern, very slick, and very funny. Best for eleven to thirteen-year-olds. LO

**The Princess Diaries II:
Princess in the Spotlight**

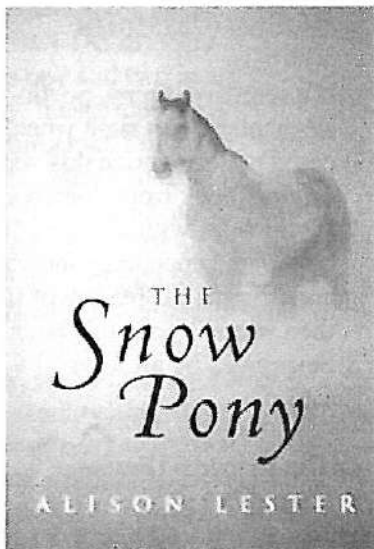
Meg Cabot

HarperCollins, 2001

ISBN 0060294655

The sequel to *The Princess Diaries*, recently released as a movie starring Julie Andrews. Further adventures and travails of Mia, heir to the principality of Genovia. These books are light and fun, and addictive. Mia is a total drama queen with a quirky outlook on life. In this instalment Mia's mother elopes with Mia's algebra teacher, to whom she is pregnant, and Mia gets a boyfriend.

Suitable for 12+. AC



The Snow Pony

Alison Lester

Allen & Unwin 2001

Pb ISBN 1864489308

The Riley family is under severe stress. Continuing drought conditions in rural Australia are straining relationships and the father's drinking compounds their problems. During a mustering trip in the mountains dramatic situations arise and early teen Dusty and her brumby Snow Pony are put to the test. Alison Lester's own photographs in matt finish black and white are used occasionally as illustrations and create a genuine atmosphere.

A well written and well paced story for both girls and boys 11 – 13. CA

Also recommended is Alison Lester's earlier book *The Quicksand Pony* ISBN 1863739319 An interwoven story of a young girl's first experience of a muster and the mysterious 'wild child' she discovers while searching for her pony that was trapped in quicksand. This adventure story will be enjoyed by both girls and boys 9-11. CA



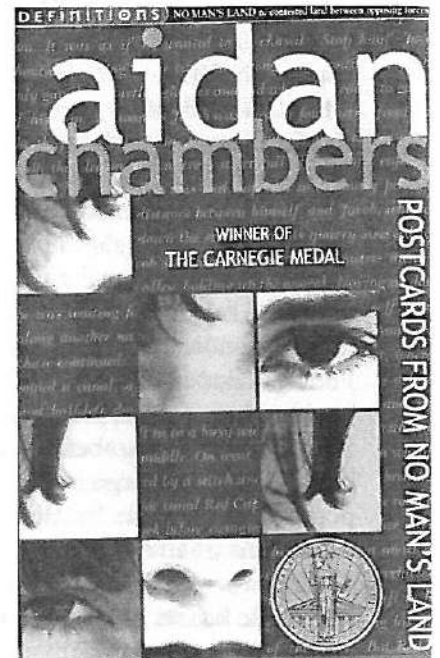
CAUGHT ON A TRAIN

Carlo Gebler

Mammoth 2001

Pb 0-7497-4623-8

The novel recalls an incident remembered by Archie (sixty years ago) when he was a young lad in Ireland. The incident occurred while he was working on a train travelling from Dublin to Achill. Archie is paid handsomely by one of the passengers to adjudicate the best oral tale as told by each of three men. The tales are fascinating (even I could not decide) and quite ingenious in the way each pulls the reader into the text. Archie's choice of winner was inspirational. Give this book to any child and ask them to act as judge. WM



Postcards from No Man's Land

Aidan Chambers

Random House 1999

ISBN 0099408627

Jacob lives with, Sarah, his grandmother. She's never remarried after the death of her husband during the Battle of Arnhem. Jacob, who is named after his grandfather, has been asked to attend the fiftieth anniversary of the battle in place of Sarah.

In Holland Jacob meets the woman who befriended his grandfather, Geertrui Wesseling, during the war. Geertrui is dying of cancer but there is also another cancer eating away at the characters- one of an unspoken truth.

This novel is multi-layered and intertextual. Many thorny issues are discussed for example euthanasia, bisexuality. Thus making it appropriate for secondary school readers This book won the Carnegie Medal in 2000. WM