



children's literature
FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.
Tūāpapa Tuhitahi Tamariki o Aotearoa

Christmas Term Four, 2002

Contributors to this booklist are – Kerry Aluf, Carol Arden, Helen Beckingsale, Anne Coppell, Ann Luxton, Susan McIntosh, Frances Plumpton, Rosemary Tisdall.

booklist

Wombat Divine

Mem Fox

Ill; Kerry Argent

Omnibus Books 1996

ISBN 1 86291 302 1

"For as long as he could remember Wombat had wanted to be in the Nativity. Now, at last, he was old enough to take part." But poor Wombat is either too heavy, too short or too clumsy to play the roles required - until Bilby has an idea. A delightfully illustrated and charming story of friendship and finding out where to fit. 4+ years. AL

Dashing Dog

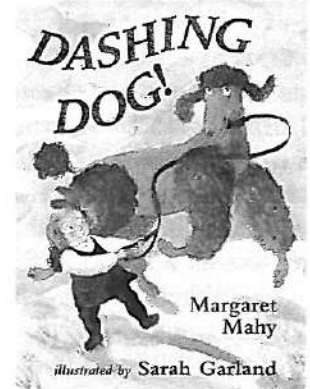
Margaret Mahy

Illustrated by Sarah Garland

HarperCollins, 2002

Pb ISBN 0732275202

'Dashing dog! Dashing dog! Oh, what a sight to see!
Cleaned up and curlicued! What a delight to be
Greeting a dog that is brushed-up-and-downery,
Dare-devil-daring, and dog about townery.' Well, the family's walk along the beach starts out wonderfully, but before long there is disaster! Margaret's experiences with her own beloved standard poodle and her mastery of language, make this chaotic adventure sheer fun to read aloud. Sarah Garland's illustrations are quite unlike those in her earlier books (Going Shopping, Having a Picnic etc), but capture the chaos perfectly. For two year olds onwards. FP



A Book of Pacific Lullabies.

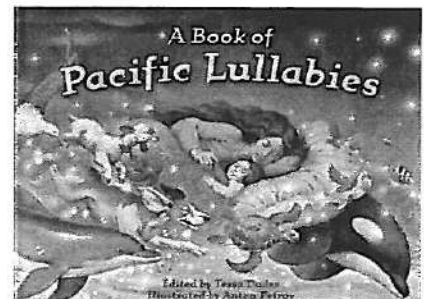
Edited by Tessa Duder

Illustrated by Anton Petrov

HarperCollins, 2001

Hb ISBN 1869503937, Pb ISBN 1869504496

This lovely collection written to celebrate our region will be enjoyed by older children as well as the babies that the title infers. The contributors include Margaret Mahy, Joy Cowley, Hinewehi Mohi, Peggy Dunstan, Barbara Else, Sia Figiel, Patricia Grace and many more. Anton Petrov's moody illustrations also have a resonance of his Russian origins as well as their Pacific settings. The paperback edition also includes a CD of the lullabies set to music and sung by Tessa's daughter, Georgia Duder. A family gift. FP



Christmas Book

Dick Bruna

ABC

Hb ISBN 0733309208

It's very pleasing to discover that this simple retelling of the Christmas Story is available once more. Dick Bruna's plain clear figures just seem exactly right and the press out manger scene will be a welcome addition to the Christmas decorations in many homes. For the family library. FP



Happy Christmas Maisy

Lucy Cousins

Walker, 2000

Hb ISBN 0744575737, (mini)

ISBN 0744596432

This inviting flap book is now also available in a mini edition just perfect as a stocking filler. Young children will enjoy lifting the sturdy flaps to discover what Maisy is up to as she prepares special Christmas surprises for all her friends. Two year olds will need some supervision. FP

Kiss Good Night, Sam.

Amy Hest

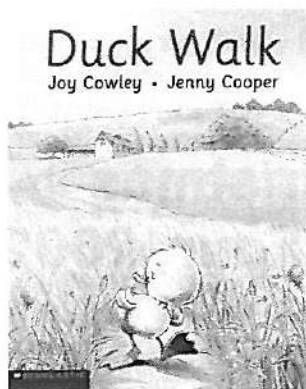
Ill. Anita Jeram

Walker, 2001

Hb ISBN 0744556791,

Pb 0744589355

It's dark and stormy outside and Mrs Bear is tucking Sam up into bed; she is ready but Sam is not. Ready for what? A warm and reassuring story about the nightly rituals that are so important for young children. This book may well start a new ritual in your household. Try this with toddlers onwards. FP



Duck Walk

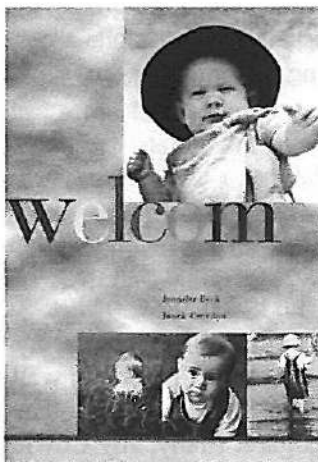
Joy Cowley

Ill. Jenny Cooper

Scholastic, 2002

Pb ISBN 1869435354

The Duck family is out for a walk, 'Ducks walk, waddle, waddle, little duckling at the back . . .' but the smallest gets diverted and eventually "little duckling waddles by the back door mat. Up jumps furry trouble, the old scratchy cat!' Uh, Oh! But of course the family comes to little duckling's aid and then makes sure that their baby will not wander away again as they carry on with their walk. There is a lovely pacing to the drama in this book, and Jenny Cooper's golden water colour and pen and ink illustrations enhance this satisfying adventure. Two year olds plus. FP



Welcome

Jennifer Beck

Photography by Janek Croydon.

Scholastic, 2002

Hb ISBN 1869434951

Jennifer's simple evocative poem celebrating the wonder of life is accompanied by delightful photographs of infants and young children. A lovely gift for new parents and grandparents to share with their family. FP

Commotion in the Ocean

Giles Andreas

Ill. David Wojtowycz

Orchard Audio Book and

Paerback set, 2002

read by Hugh Laurie

Pb ISBN 1843620677

This popular collection of lively poetry with its entertaining bright illustrations has the delightful added dimension of an audio tape with readings by a very versatile Hugh Laurie. The accompanying music and sound effects resonate of the moods of the sea and the various sea creatures featured in the poems. The music not only accompanies the poetry but is then played once more so that listeners can match the music to the sea creature.

Other titles in this series of books and tapes are: Giraffes Can't Dance, Rumble in the Jungle and Cock a Doodle Doo, Farnyard Hullabaloo. Try these with the two year olds onwards. FP

Love to Sing Christmas Songs

Linda Adamson

This kit of book, CD and tape is good value - you can use it in the bedroom, car or lounge! Sing along to all your favourite carols, both old and new, such as Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer, Away in a Manger, Jingle Bell Rock (and maybe some new ones) from this excellent series which has included Love to Sing and Dance, Love My First Songbook, Love to Sing Nursery Rhymes. RT



Amazing Aeroplanes
 Tony Mitton
 Ill. Ant Parker
 Kingfisher, 2002
 Pb ISBN 0753407221

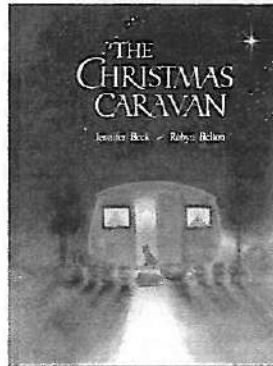
Another enjoyable picture book by this talented pair. Simple rhyming text accompanied by cartoon style illustrations explains with just the right amount of detail what happens on an aeroplane flight. The final page has further factual information to share with the eager reader. Two year olds and onwards have delighted in the earlier books by this pair – Dazzling Diggers, Flashing Fire Engines, Roaring Rockets and Terrific Trains – and will love this too. Brilliant Boats is another new title, and there is also a pack available containing 3 titles and accompanying toys. FP



Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaurumpus!
 Tony Mitton
 Ill. Guy Parker-Rees
 Orchard, 2002
 ISBN 1841212601

“Shake, shake, shudder . . .near the sludgy old swamp. The dinosaurs are coming. Get ready to romp.’ Young dinosaur fans will want to respond to this invitation and read and reread

about the fun as Triceratops, Deinosuchus, Brontosaurus and other dinosaurs strut their stuff in this exuberant tale – they may well want to try out their own version of a dinosaur stomp as well! Parker-Rees has used bright colours to great effect as his lively dinosaurs dance through the pages. Great fun for three year olds and up. FP



The Christmas Caravan
 Jennifer Beck
 Ill. Robyn Belton
 Scholastic New Zealand 2002
 Hb ISBN 1 86943 557 5

A young boy who lives in a caravan park decorates their home with recycled junk materials for the town’s Christmas competition. Despite the judges not turning up, the story has a satisfying solution for the boy and his Mum. A poignant Christmas story from a talented team. Preschool – 8 years. CA



Daisy All-Sorts
 Pamela Allen
 Viking 2002
 Hb ISBN 0 670 90302 7

Another great picture book for young children from Pamela Allen. Wonderfully expressive illustrations complement the well paced lively language of the story. Daisy, an ordinary

dog, is given some licorice allsorts which leads to some extraordinary happenings. 3-6 year olds. CA



Dinomania
 Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom
 Watts, 2001
 Hb ISBN 0749638737,
 Pb ISBN 0749647043

From the dinosaur patterns on the endpapers through to instructions for constructing time lines, making dinosaur parks, mobiles, costumes, games and even a working volcano, there is much here to intrigue and occupy the dinosaur fanatic. Be prepared to admire this book and the constructions it will inspire endlessly! Four year olds plus. FP



Felicity Wishes: Friendship and Fairyschool
 Emma Thomson and Helen Bailey, ill Emma Thomson
 Hodder Children’s Books, 2002.
 ISBN 0340844000

A must-have for all fairy fans! This is a very girl book - all glittery and pink. It even has a message – the value of being of a good friend. There are lift-the-flaps all over the place, with some cool discoveries under them. What more can any pressie-buyer want? Perfect for a girly-girl from aged 4 up. AC.

Auntie Rosie and the Rabbit

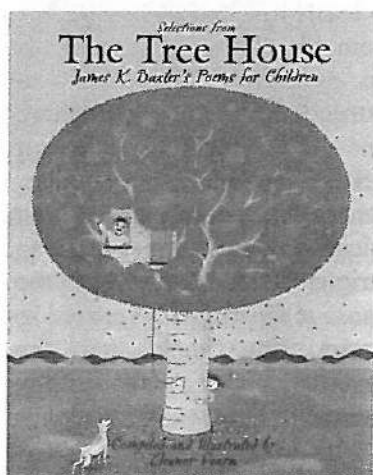
Diana Noonan

Ill Christine Ross

Scholastic NZ 2002

ISBN 1 86943 539 7

Jack's aunt wants to mend Jack's much loved rabbit. Jack isn't keen on that idea. After school he finds that she has patched its nose, mended the ear and made a new jacket. But thankfully the one thing he loves about the rabbit hasn't changed. Christine Ross' delightfully expressive illustrations in clear colours with lots of patterning complement this lovely gentle story for 5-7 yr olds. CA.



Selections from The Tree House James K. Baxter's Poems for Children

Compiler & ill. Eleanor Fearn

Scholastic NZ 2002

Pb ISBN 1 8694370 2

Hb ISBN 1 86943 560 5

The eye catching cover will draw attention to this selection of poetry for young children chosen by Eleanor Fearn from James K. Baxter's *The Tree House* (1974). They are illustrated in a simplistic style using subdued colours that effectively reflect the mood of this nostalgic poetry. The rhythmic rhyming poems will appeal to young children. Available in both soft and hardback it will make a good addition to school and public libraries as well as in the home.

It is good to see these poems being made accessible to another generation of NZ children. Ages 5-7. CA



Wonderful Me!

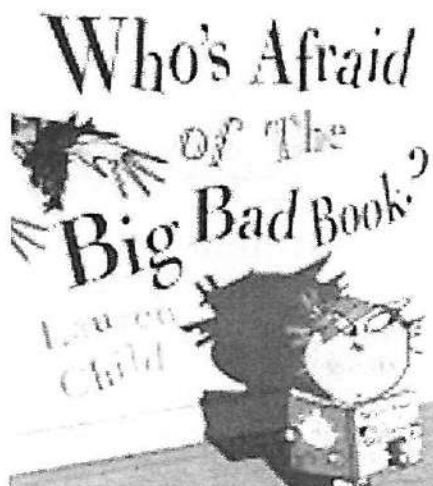
Margaret Mahy

Ill. Peter Bailey

Dolphin, 2002

Pb, ISBN 1842550918

This is a new edition of the stories and poetry that were first published by Dent in 1972 as *The First Margaret Mahy Story Book*. It's great to have these fantastical stories available again for a new generation. This paperback has good clear print, the more capable readers will read the short stories and poetry themselves, and they will also be enjoyed as readalouds by the younger ones. For five to eight year olds. FP

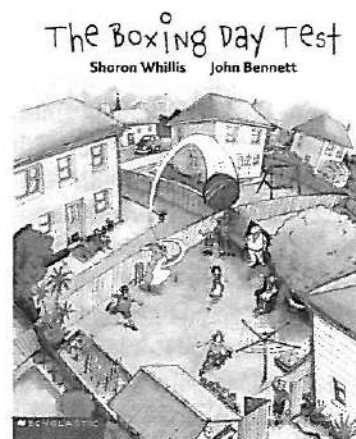


Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book?

Lauren Child

Hodder Children's Books 2002
ISBN (Hb) 0340805544

Another wacky picture book from Lauren Child. This time Herb, from 'Beware of the Storybook Wolves', falls into his book of fairy tales to find that all is not as it should be due to his penchant for doodling and cutting out. His attempts to escape from the book while he is chased from page to page are hilarious. The text has been playfully stylised so it becomes a component of the story. Readers from 5-8yrs will love exploring this book. KA



The Boxing Day Test

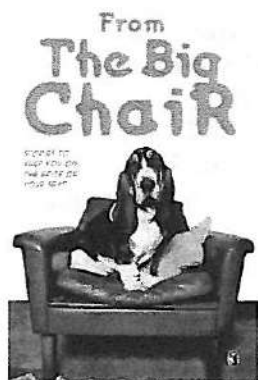
Sharon Whillis

Ill. John Bennett

Scholastic NZ 2002

Pb ISBN 1 86943 552 4

Patrick was not surprised to get a cricket set for Christmas because he had rung the Santa hotline, written to Santa in his best writing, and had his Dad email a reminder to Santa. But, on Christmas Day no-one wanted to play! So Grandma organises the first ever Brodie Family Boxing Day Test. Many lively antics are involved. A great book for all young cricket fans and families that love fun and games. 6-9 year olds. CA



From the Big Chair

Various authors

Puffin Books NZ 2002

Pb ISBN 0 14 331801 2

The talent of NZ writers is very evident in these 'funny, smart, weird and scary' short stories.

The stories have all featured in the television series 'The Big Chair'. These stories are good read alouds and also make good holiday reading for children who have yet to develop the skills to tackle a full length novel. The paperback format will make it a good Christmas gift for 7-9 year olds. CA.

The Great Ghost Rescue

Eva Ibbotson

Macmillan 2002 (reprint)

ISBN 0330398288

This my pick for a book to read after Harry Potter. A family of ghosts are dispossessed of their ancient home which is to be redeveloped and set off to find somewhere else to haunt. They encounter Rick at his boarding school, lured in by his socks which they mistake for stinking serpents. Rick takes up their cause and sets out to save the ghosts of ancient England. Great fun for 8+. HB.

Froghopper

Joy Cowley

HarperCollins New Zealand 2002

Pb ISBN 1 86950 437 0

A wood carver and his artist wife purchase a "great old tub" and take their three children

roaming in the Marlborough Sounds. Their wildly varying personalities and the expected and unexpected experiences at sea make this a lively and interesting read. There is plenty of dialogue and young readers will readily identify with the children's interactions among themselves and with their parents. Warmly recommended for 8-10 year olds. CA

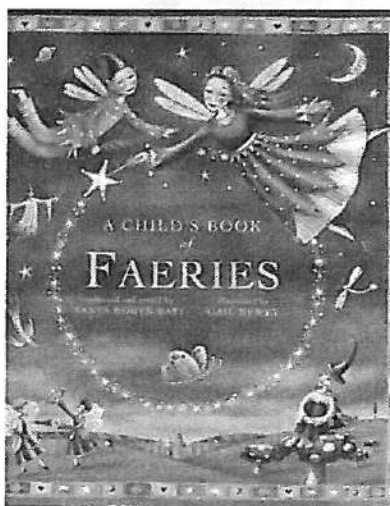
Another 30 NZ Stories for Children

Edited by Barbara Else

Illustrated by David Elliot
Random House NZ 2002.

ISBN 1-86941-535-3

Published just in time for Christmas, this sequel to 30 NZ Stories for Children is an excellent collection from a wide range of our best children's authors. There are stories to suit everyone - some set in our past, some in the present; some which give insights into other cultures and some which are pure fantasy; some to help us share a sorrow and some to make us laugh out loud. A great "slice of NZ" to send to expatriate grandchildren. These well crafted stories are perfect for children aged 8 upwards and are beautifully complemented by David Elliot's witty drawings. SM



The Child's Book of Faeries

Collected and retold by Tanya Robyn Batt

Illustrated by Gail Newey

Barefoot Books, 2002

Hb ISBN 1841489530

This beautiful book will be treasured by anyone enjoying fairy stories. Its presentation is sumptuous making it a delight to browse and read. Tanya Batt is an accomplished storyteller, and here are four of her favourite stories with poetry and folklore too. Each double spread has text, framed by the accompanying illustrations which are richly coloured and have a dreamy quality to them. Tanya introduces each story giving a background to its origin. There is also information on the sources for each of the stories as well as a bibliography of further resources. This is a book that will be read over and over again. For readers of eight onwards, but can be read to younger children. FP

Because of Winn-Dixie

Kate DiCamillo

Walker, 2000.

ISBN 0744598299

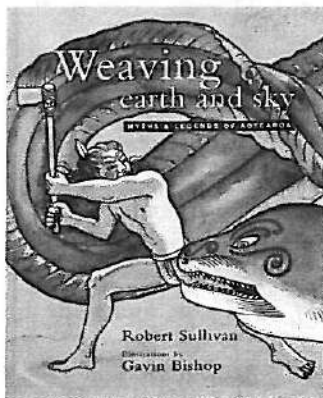
A heart-warming tale of friendship and family. India and her father have just moved to Naomi, Florida. Her mother left them years ago, and her father's hidden in a "turtle shell." Unhappy and desperate for friends, India adopts a stray dog she finds in a Winn-Dixie store, hence the name. With the help of Winn-Dixie India begins to make friends, in the most unlikely of places, and with the most unlikely of people. As part of a deal with her father India begins to learn more about her mother, and begins to understand why she may have left. Recommended for ages 8+. AC



Astrid Spark Fixologist - the girl with magnetic fingers

Justin D'Ath
Allen & Unwin 2002
ISBN 1 865087181

Astrid Spark has the ability to fix things with her fingers (join molecules back together as explained by her physicist mother). Dr Hu wants Astrid to help him fix the hole in the ozone layer. However a talking galah sets off a chain reaction of events that finds Astrid, her friend Kia-Jane and Dr Hu's son Lukas adrift in a 'voolv' attached to a 'bagggoon'. A fun read for children 8-12yrs. KA



Weaving earth and sky - myths and legends of Aotearoa

Robert Sullivan
Ill. Gavin Bishop
Random House 2002
Hb ISBN 1 86941 516 7

Both Sullivan and Bishop are of Maori descent and have used their talents with word and picture to present the classic

Maori myths and legends in a fresh and strong way. The powerful artwork with bold line and significant colour complements the modern text. This collection would make a great family gift. Eight year olds to adults. CA.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Ill. Matt Tavares
Candlewick Press 2002
Hb ISBN 0 7636 1585 4

This hardback edition is a classic. It uses the original wording from an 1823 New York newspaper (which is slightly different from the more common version of Clement C Moore 1844). The strength of this book is its classic styling - embossed gilt frame on cover, rich red end papers, ex Libris label and fine green sheen page frames. The pencil illustrations are outstanding. A book to treasure. All ages. CA.



The Dragon's Apprentice
Linda McNabb

HarperCollins NZ 2002
Pb ISBN 1 86950 412 7

Toby, a purple eyed 12 year old, seems to always be in trouble around the castle. But he has the ability to talk to the castle's resident dragon. When Toby is appointed as a page he discovers a terrible secret and works with his master's half-sister to foil a sinister plan. A fantasy story for 9-11 year olds. CA.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

J.K. Rowling
Bloomsbury 2002
ISBN 0-7475-6218-0

Yes, this has been around a while now but not in this lovely silvery starred jacket. Released, I presume, to coincide with the movie, and to reboot sales! However, it's still a great story - book two of Harry Potter and his friends on the search for he-who-must-not-be-named!. HP and his friends must conquer the Basilisk in the Chamber of Secrets. Ages 9 - 14 (although many adults have been known to love it!) RT

So You Think You Know Harry Potter

Ed. Isabel Thurston
Hodder & Stoughton, 2002
ISBN 0-340-87337-X

The title is great! A book of over a thousand questions on all the Harry Potter books so far. Divided into the four separate books, each section has Easy, Medium and Hard questions, this book will challenge all those avid fans who think they know the books so well. Answers at the back - fortunately! Will suit all ages who have been reading the HP books. RT

Where all things end

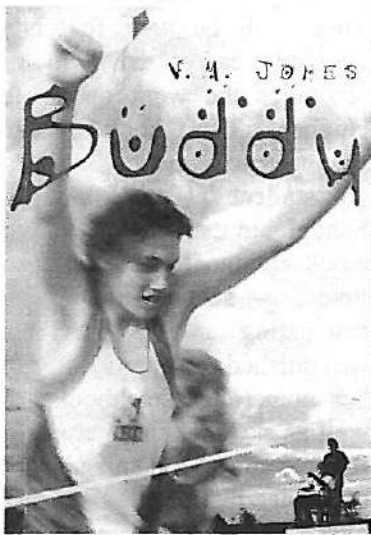
David Hill
Puffin, 2002.
ISBN 0143318004

It is hundreds on years into the future and the ship Star-Reacher is heading towards a black hole. Young Jotan and the crew are meant to get close to it and record the event. As you'd expect, things don't go according to plan and they must call on all their reserves and abilities to survive the event horizon. Amongst the action, there are comments on life in the future. Perfect summer reading for boys, especially, aged 10 and up. AC

Skeleton Key

Anthony Horowitz
Walker Books 2002
ISBN 0-7445-9007-8

The third in this exciting series of 14 year old reluctant spy, AlexRider. He is called on to help the CIA find out what is happening on Skeleton Key, in Cuba. A Russian has the ability to make a nuclear bomb and it's up to Alex to prevent it! He gets into all sorts of unlikely predicaments and manages to get out of them - very far fetched but very exciting and a great read. Ideal for 10 and up, especially dads and reluctant boy readers! (Look out for Stormbreaker and Point Blanc - the first two in the series). RT



Buddy

VM Jones
HarperCollins NZ 2002
Pb ISBN 1 86950 431 3

This novel sees Josh challenged as he takes up training for the Energex Iron Kid triathlon. He fears swimming and as the story unfolds we understand why. Other challenges in his life include coping with his Dad's new partner, and dealing with the secret he has kept from everyone except his family. A powerful story of courage. Great read for 10-13 year olds. CA.

The slightly true story of Cedar B. Hartley (who planned to live an unusual life)

Martine Murray
Allen & Unwin, 2002.
ISBN 1865086231

I have to say I loved this book! It's very refreshing and sweet, with no overwhelming angst. Cedar is desperate to be famous (or infamous) and is trying to figure out ways to achieve her aim. Her brother has vanished (not through foul play), her mother works, and her best friend's very shy. Through odd twists of fate she becomes part of an acrobatic group, raising money for charity. Recommended for ages 10 and over. AC

Parvana (also known as *The Breadwinner*)

By Deborah Ellis
Allen & Unwin, 2002.
ISBN 1865086940

Parvana's Journey

Allen & Unwin, 2002.
ISBN 1865089990

A look at life in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, and how deeply the regime changed the country. Parvana has only known war. Her freedom will vanish as she grows older and becomes a woman. When Parvana's father is arrested the family turns to Parvana to earn their money. In order to do so, Parvana dresses as a boy to pick up as much as she can. In the end of the book she is left alone and must travel to find her family. The story continues in *Parvana's journey*. Recommended for ages 12+. AC

Catalogue of the Universe

Margaret Mahy
Collins Flamingo, 2002
ISBN 0007123388

This is one of my mother's favourite books, and trying to track it down for Mother's Day

this year was heart breaking so this is a welcome reprint! There is no fantasy element in this tale, it is a story of family, identity, and friendship, familiar Mahy ground. Angela and Tycho are best friends, although they are very different. When Angela seeks out her father, Tycho is there for her. And when her childhood imaginings are upset by reality, the ripples spread out, changing relationships forever. Recommended for ages 12+. AC

The Thief

Megan Whalen Turner
Collins Voyager 2001
ISBN 000712175X

Gen is a thief, chosen from a King's prison to find a prized jewel which is needed to win the Queen of another small kingdom. This is an exciting, action packed story with a twist at the end which takes the reader and Gen's companions completely by surprise. 12+ . HB

The Queen of Attolia

Megan Whalen Turner
Collins Voyager 2002
ISBN 0007121741

The sequel to *The Thief* in which Gen continues his thieving career and loses one hand as punishment. Once again the action keeps the reader totally absorbed and guessing right to the end. 12+. HB

Mortal Engines

Philip Reeve

Scholastic Point 2002

ISBN 0439979439

Municipal Darwinism is the principle behind this amazing story of mobile cities preying on each other for their resources in a world destroyed by man and by natural disasters. Tom, an apprentice historian, meets Hester, a badly scarred would-be assassin and finds himself on a journey in which he is threatened with slavery, captured by pirates, and has all his preconceived notions about his world turned upside down. It is an engrossing story of treachery and violence, love and loss which ends with cautious optimism. As Hester concludes- "You aren't a hero and I'm not beautiful, and we probably won't live happily ever after... But we're alive and together and we're going to be all right." 12+. HB



Alchemy

By Margaret Mahy

Harper Collins 2002

ISBN 0007131356

I enjoyed this book so much that I went straight back to the beginning and read it again. This story of popular, good-looking Roland and his unexpected friendship with the apparently introverted and unpopular Jess is mysterious, intriguing and hard to put down. 12+. KB and HB.

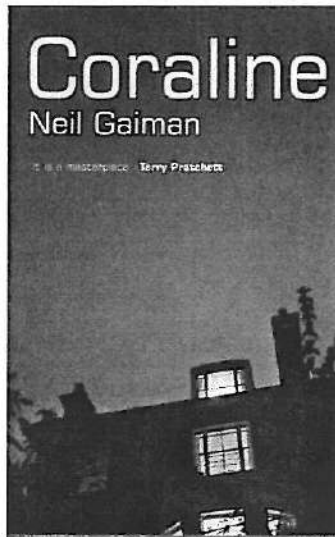
Dancing in my Nuddy Pants

Louise Rennison

Piccadilly Press 2002

ISBN 1853407364

A further instalment in the diary of Georgia Nicolson whose outrageous and hilarious statements about family life, boyfriends and relationships in general will have teenage girls laughing out loud. For those who have not read the first three titles the series begins with "Angus, Thongs and Full-frontal Snogging." Not to be taken seriously. 12+ HB.



Coraline

Neil Gaiman

Bloomsbury 2002

ISBN 0747558787

Coraline and her preoccupied parents move into an apartment in an old house, immersing her into a dark and spooky adventure in a mysterious otherworld that mirrors her own. Coraline must use all her wits to survive and save her parents. Riveting & scary. Ages 13+. KA



A Life Drawing. Recollections of an Illustrator

Shirley Hughes

Bodley Head, 2002

Hb ISBN 0370326059

There will be very few New Zealand readers who do not recognize the work of Shirley Hughes. This book records reminiscences of her life as an art student at Liverpool Art School and then at Oxford, with much comment on the life and times, accompanied by fascinating previously unpublished illustrations from her numerous sketchbooks. As well as sketches there are many full colour double spread pages of scenes that she has captured over the years, a social documentary of her experiences in England as well as in Italy, where she has returned to paint over many years. As with the picture book characters that we know so well, Shirley Hughes manages to portray the essence of a character with just a few careful lines. Shirley also describes the preparation of her own picture books as well as commenting on the business of illustrating other writers' works. A Life Drawing gives an insight into an extraordinary talent. A book to return to time and again – treat yourself! FP