

## Christmas List Term Four, 2005

An assortment of new and recently released children's books that would make wonderful gifts.

Contributors to this booklist are – Kerry Aluf, Carol Ardern, Joanna Baynes, Helen Beckingsale, Crissi Blair, Anne Coppell, Sarah Fordyce, Bronwyn Fox, Julie Harper, Lois Huston, Libby Limbrick, Ann Luxton, Wayne Mills, Hanne Nielsen, Frances Plumpton, Colleen Taylor and Rosemary Tisdall.

# booklist

### **The Way I Love You**

David Bedford

Illustrated by Anne James

Little Hare Books 2004

Hb ISBN 1877003492

A celebration of the love between a young child and her dog. Ann James has captured spontaneous moments of every day life to express the love and loyalty between child and dog.

Recommended for children 2+. KA



### **You're All My Favourites (book and toy set)**

Sam McBratney

Illustrated by Anita Jeram

Walker 2005

ISBN 1844280802

This wonderful book reassures children of larger families that each child is special – and a favourite – to their parents. Although told that each IS a favourite, the three little bears begin to wonder if it is true. Reassurance and

love flow through the words and soft illustrations. This set comes with a board book edition and toys of the three bears. For ages 2 and up. AC

### **Flyaway Katie**

Polly Dunbar

Walker Books 2004

ISBN 0744596289

Katie is an engaging young girl who is alone and 'feeling grey'. With no one to talk to, the picture of the birds on the wall looks a better place to be. To cheer herself up Katie dresses, one article at a time, in different coloured clothes, and then paints her arms and face as well.

As she waits for the paint to dry, she is whisked into the picture, where she spends a very happy afternoon in the playful company of the birds, before she flies home for her bath. A concept book with a difference, this is a charming tale of imagination.

Recommended 2-4 years. BF





**The Waka**  
Jean Prior  
Illustrated by  
Gavin Bishop  
Scholastic 2005  
ISBN 1869436733  
Winner of the Joy

Cowley Award 2004. This is a definite "must buy" for Christmas. In her first book Jean Prior has brought us an Aotearoa-New Zealand retelling of Noah's Ark with wonderful rhythm and rhyme that will tempt any child or adult in hearing distance. This is a book that just begs to be read aloud. The inspired choice of Gavin Bishop as illustrator has provided us with a book rich with quirky native birds and wildlife that are a sheer pleasure to see, and tattooed Noah and his catamaran waka are a delight. The swirl of the wind and the rain in the storm add movement and increase the tension, contrasting perfectly with the peace at the end of the tale. Strongly recommended for all ages. AL

**Snip Snap!**

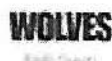
Maria Bergman  
Illustrated by  
Mick Maland  
Hodder  
Children's  
Books 2005  
Hb ISBN 0340882158



An alligator is on the loose in the city and comes up the stairs to chase three children around their apartment. A scary story in the tradition of Pamela Allen's 'The Bear's Lunch'. An exciting read aloud for ages 3+. KA

**Wolves**

Emily Gravett  
Macmillan  
Books 2005  
Hb ISBN  
1405050829  
Great picture  
book where



after borrowing a book about wolves from the West Bucks Public Burrowing Library Mr G Rabbit discovers that the book comes alive as he reads. Rabbits are apparently wolves' favourite food source! This book won the Macmillan prize for new illustration. WM

**Riley and Rose in the Picture**

Susanna Gretz  
Walker Books 2005  
ISBN 1844280020



This is a warm, humorous story about friendship and the power of imagination. It is raining outside, so Riley the dog and Rose the cat decide to draw. Riley makes all sorts of shapes like circles and triangles, while Rose turns them into lollipops and tents. They argue about their differing interpretations and in the process destroy their work. Rose tries to make it up to Riley by drawing him a rectangular 'boat'. Both hop aboard and sail through the picture, surviving a fierce storm to end up back home just as the rain stops, the sun comes out, and in time for cake with sprinkles (or dots) on top. Highly recommended HN

**The Little Yellow Digger goes to School**

Betty Gilderdale  
Illustrated by Alan Gilderdale  
Scholastic 2005  
Pb ISBN 1869437268

For over 10 years the little yellow digger has been a firm favourite with New Zealand children so a 4<sup>th</sup> book in the series is certain to be a welcome addition to any child's picture book collection. All the Little Yellow Digger books are excellent for reading aloud so begin with the first title **The Little Yellow Digger** if your preschooler doesn't already have these books. 3-6 HB

**Kiwi Moon**

Gavin Bishop  
Random House  
2005  
Hb ISBN  
1869416740



The talents of Gavin Bishop are very evident in this recently released picture book. Although the words tell only the albino kiwi's story, the illustrations cleverly include the Land Wars, the colonization of New Zealand and the destruction of natural habitats. Kiwi Moon is multi-layered with pleasing text '...glowed white and bright in the moonlight...' '...along the ground to grab a grub...' '...crept up on a caterpillar...' A New Zealand book that will appeal to a wide age range. CA

**The Ugly Duckling**

Hans Andersen  
translated by Anthea Bell  
illustrated by Robert Ingpen  
Penguin 2005  
Hb ISBN 0698400100

Several wonderful special editions of stories by Andersen have been released this year to celebrate world-wide the bicentenary of his birth. My favourite is this version of The Ugly Duckling, a large format hard-backed picture book with outstanding illustrations by renowned Australian illustrator Robert Ingpen. It has wonderful double-paged



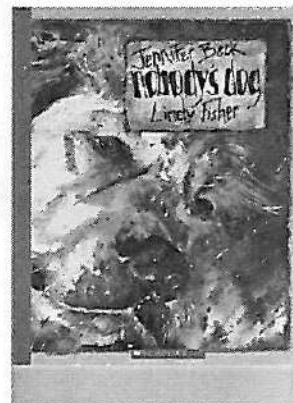
artwork and carefully placed text. The use of textured effects, subtle colour and attention to every detail make it a visual feast. The language is richly expressive and the

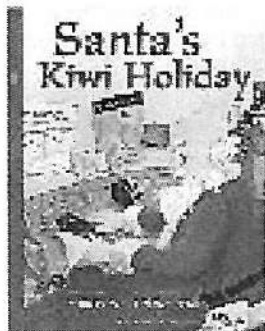
storyline includes incidents not mentioned in more simple versions. A book to be treasured by all ages. CA

**Nobody's Dog**

Jennifer Beck  
Illustrated by Lindy Fisher  
Scholastic NZ 2005  
Pb ISBN 1869437284

When Sam asks his grandad about the dog in the painting above the mantelpiece, he learns the story of nobody's dog. How, when his Grandad was a young boy, a dog that his father wouldn't let him keep. And how nobody's dog saved his life, one freezing winter's night, when he was forced to lie injured on the lonely hills above the family farm. Lindy Fisher's impressive artwork adds to the emotional edge of this heartwarming tale. 4+. KA





### Santa's Kiwi Holiday

Maria Farrer

Illustrated by Deborah Hinde

Scholastic 2005

Pb ISBN 1869437063

Santa needs a well-earned rest before he finishes filling all those Christmas stockings. Where else would he go but New Zealand – the perfect place for sea, sun and scenery! After a swim and a rest on the beach (where children remind him to slip, slop, slap) he visits all the regular tourist spots & tries everything from jet-boating to whale watching, Te Papa to Rotorua. Santa has a ball! After a bungy jump, which makes chimneys seem easy, it's back on with the red suit & off he goes – till Christmas Eve, of course! A story in rhyme, with vibrant pictures by the illustrator of last year's hit, **The Kiwi Night Before Christmas**. Perfect for friends & relatives overseas, to show what New Zealand is all about. For ages 4 to 9. SF

### Mrs Wishy-Washy's Christmas

Joy Cowley

Illustrated by Elizabeth Fuller

Puffin 2005

ISBN 0143520024

Iconic Mrs Wishy-

Washy is in a snowy place at Christmas and the very cold Cow, Pig and Duck don't want to get scrubbed in the big tin tub. While she is out they find a pink place with hot water and bubbles! Preschool fans will love the mischief and the mess. But Mrs Wishy-Washy didn't. Lively rhyming text and delightful illustrations. Add it to your Christmas collections. CA



### Where's the Gold?

Pamela Allen

Penguin 2005

ISBN 0670028444

A cumulative storyline tells of the gold hunting adventures of three young pirates and their green parrot. But 'something scary', (actually the pesky parrot's peck causes the problem) has them rushing back out of their tunnel.



Pamela Allen

Children will just love the action in reverse. Pamela Allen uses rich vocabulary with wonderful alliteration and repetitive phrases that beg child participation. Another delightful picturebook to enjoy with preschoolers. CA

### Bedtime Stories (book and CD)

Debi Gliori

Dorling Kindersley

2005

ISBN 075661466X

Debi Gliori's picture books are very

popular with young children and here she presents an illustrated collection of classic fairy tales with her own humorous twist. This collection was originally published in 2002 and is reprinted with the addition of a CD read by Debi Gliori herself (she has a delightful Scottish accent). 5-8. HB



### How to Catch A Star

Oliver Jeffers

HarperCollins 2005

Pb ISBN 0007150342

A truly delightful picture book about a small boy who watches the stars from his bedroom

window every night, wants to play hide and seek with them and so he sets about getting one for himself. The illustrations from this new author are stunning and the storyline is inspirational and magical in its' simplicity. CT



### The Fairy Tales

Translated by David Walser

Illustrated by Jan Pienkowski

Puffin 2005

ISBN 0141382244

A new book featuring Pienkowski's beautiful silhouettes is an ideal gift for booklovers of all ages. The Fairy Tales includes four well known stories- Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel and Cinderella and will be released in New Zealand in time for Christmas. HB



### Alice Through the Looking-Glass

Lewis Carroll

Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

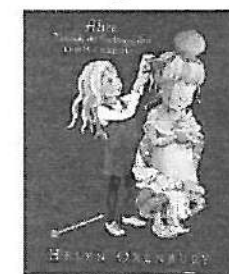
Walker Books 2005

Hb ISBN 074455778X

Following the success of her illustrated

edition of **Alice in Wonderland** (Walker Books), which won the 1999 Kate Greenaway Medal, Helen Oxenbury's interpretation of the further

adventures of Alice is just as stunning. This is a handsomely-produced hardback, amply illustrated in both black and white and colour, that will introduce yet another generation to the captivating adventures of Alice. A book to treasure. FP



### Smooch the Pooch

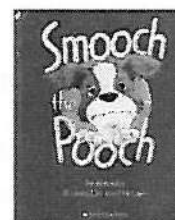
Jo Bowler

Illustrated by Errol McLeary

Scholastic 2005

ISBN 18609437012

How on earth could anyone in the family resist the beguiling puppy that "... wandered into our back yard one cold and rainy day?" The gentle humour of Errol McLeary's pen, ink and watercolour illustrations capturing the determined puppy winning over every member of the family, complements new author Jo Bowler's rhyming text perfectly, introducing another dog that young children will adore. FP





**Jinnie Ghost**  
Berlie Doherty  
illustrated by  
Jane Ray  
Frances Lincoln  
2005



Hb ISBN 1845072928  
The ethereal illustrations of Jane Ray exquisitely complement the rich text of this book which tells of the diverse dreams of several children. A repeating question and a recurring refrain link descriptions of each visit by Jinnie Ghost. Sombre tones, fine detail, rich colours, ornate patterns, Ray's signature silhouettes and the wispy presence of Jinnie Ghost are all there to savour. This is a beautifully produced picture book on high quality paper with dusk and dawn end papers, as well as a loose jacket with a shimmering Jinnie and a silvery title. 5 - 8 year olds. CA

*Janet Frame*



1869417240  
Originally published in 1969 with illustrations by Robin Jacques, this story about the enterprising Mona Minim has been re-issued with delightful new illustrations by David Elliot. Janet Frame was a leading author of adult New Zealand fiction and was short-listed for the Nobel Prize twice. In this, her only children's book, Frame tells the story of Mona Minim, a House Ant who becomes lost when she falls down a crack in the stairs but is rescued by a Garden Ant, Barbara. Mona goes to live with the Garden Ants, and makes many new friends, in particular Uncle Pogo who sits with her eating fondant, and being "constantly flippant, exuberant and fantastic." But when Barbara is kidnapped by the Boy from the House she bravely sets off to rescue her friend – and along the way learns that what one is told is not necessarily the truth about life. A charming tale of friendship and self-realisation. AL

**Mona Minim and the Smell of the Sun**

Janet Frame  
Illustrated by  
David Elliott  
Random  
House 2005  
ISBN

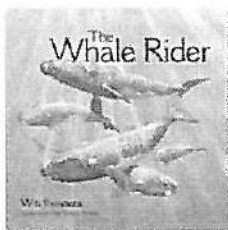
**Father Christmas's Last Present**  
Marie-Anne Murail & Elvie Murail  
Illustrated by Quentin Blake  
Jonathan Cape 2003  
Hb ISBN 0224 070215

A delightful Christmas story about a boy's last present from Father Christmas. A little wooden steam train that seems to have been left by mistake, 'fallen out of Father Christmas's sack' says his father. However Julien grows to love the little train and hardly ever plays with his requested video game console. A year later and it is time for Father Christmas to return for the little engine. 6+. KA



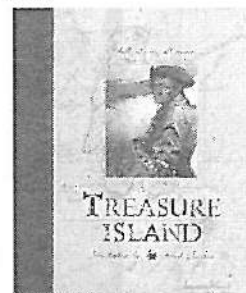
**The Whale Rider**

Witi Ihimaera  
Illustrated by Bruce Potter  
Reed Publishing (NZ) Limited 2005  
ISBN 186948584X



This picture book version of Witi Ihimaera's novel, recently produced as a movie is now in wonderful format for younger readers. Witi himself has adapted the text which keeps the authentic voice. The story is simplified but none of its magic or mystery has gone. Bruce Potter's stunning illustrations really enhance the story's powerful message of love. It is the legendary story of Paikea, who came with the whales to settle in New Zealand. Generations later, Kahu is born and her grandfather, Koro Apirana, cannot accept a girl as the next leader. He blames her for the troubles in the village; she desperately struggles for his love and acceptance. It all comes to a head when the whales strand on their beach and Kahu knows it is up to her to lead them away. Finally, now that she is gone, Koro sees what he has been blind to: her rightful place. An ideal Christmas present, especially for overseas family members. RT

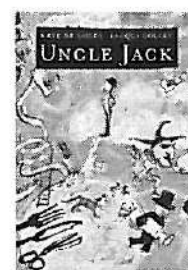
**Treasure Island**  
Robert Louis Stevenson  
Illustrated by  
Robert Ingpen  
Walker Books  
2005  
Hb ISBN  
1406300101  
Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story of Young Jim Hawkins' adventurous search for Captain Flint's buried treasure has been shared and enjoyed by generations. This edition is beautifully illustrated by Robert Ingpen and will make an ideal gift for Christmas, it too will be treasured forever! JH



**Mischief & Mayhem – 30 New Zealand Stories**  
Edited by Barbara Else  
Illustrated by  
Phillip Webb  
Random House 2005  
Hb ISBN  
1869416945

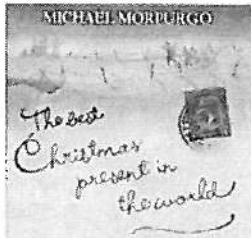


The latest in the excellent series of anthologies for children, this hardback book is highlighted with Phillip Webb's amusing black and white illustrations. Each story sees children up to mischief providing laughs and inspiration for young readers and adults alike. 8-10 years. CB



**Uncle Jack**  
Kate De Goldi  
Illustrated by Jacqui Colley  
Trapeze 2005  
ISBN 0473100649  
Eccentric Uncle Jack is a favourite whose visits each

Friday provide a feast of imaginative and fantastic experiences. It is a large format, soft cover picturebook. Fascinating illustrations, using only the sombre tones of brown, grey, black and white, create a variety of occasions and moods. The rich text is interestingly set to fit within the illustrations. I just love the lime green endpapers. Adults will love it, as will children from 9 onwards who enjoy interesting ideas and original presentation. CA



**The Best Christmas Present in the World**

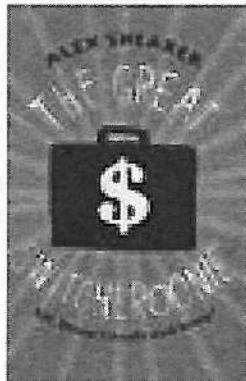
By Michael Morpurgo  
Illustrated by Michael Foreman  
Egmont Books Ltd 2004  
Hb ISBN 1405215186

A long forgotten letter found on Christmas Eve in a dilapidated old rolltop desk recalls Christmas in the 1914 World War One trenches – a memorable day when German and British Allied troops met in No Mans Land. By returning the letter to its original recipient the following day, the new owner of the desk is able to give the best Christmas present in the world to an old lady in a nursing home. A poignant tale sensitively illustrated by Michael Foreman. The compact size of the book adds to its charm. To be enjoyed by all readers 9+. KA

**The Great Switcheroonie**

Alex Shearer  
Hodder 2005  
Pb ISBN 0340884037

Bill thinks switching lives for a day with Benny, the son of a world-famous footballer, is going to be brilliant. But have Bill and Benny picked the wrong day to swap lives? Bill is bored with his ordinary life and Benny is tired of being in the spotlight-so why don't they just switch lives for one day? Anything's got to be better than Bill's boring life...right? But maybe being a world famous footballer's son isn't all that its cracked up to be. One thing's for sure, Bill definitely picked the wrong day to be Benny Spinks. JB



**Inkheart**

Cornelia Funke  
Translated by Anthea Bell  
The Chicken House  
2003  
ISBN 1904442218



**Inkspell**

Cornelia Funke  
Translated by Anthea Bell  
The Chicken House 2005  
ISBN 1904442722

In **Inkheart**, Meggie must defeat the nightmare characters that her father Mo has read out of a book.



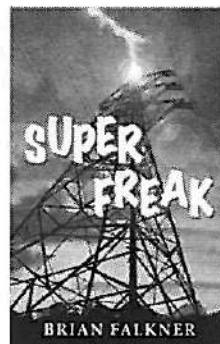
**Inkspell** is the second book in this trilogy, just published. Meggie and Mo had thought they were safe with the destruction of Capricorn,

but not all of the evil doers were destroyed. Basta is on the loose with his knife, and Meggie must enter the Inkworld to right what is wrong. Cornelia Funke is a German writer and all her books are translated. However, such is her power that the images she portrays transcend the mere written word. A beautiful fantasy novel, sure to be loved. Suitable for 9 and up. LH

**Super Freak**

Brian Falkner  
Mallinson  
Rendel 2005  
ISBN 0908783981

**Super Freak** is Brian Falkner's third novel for children, due to be launched this November. It is about a boy, Jacob John Smith who discovers he has an unusual ability to change people's minds. He wants to use this ability to become the world's greatest criminal, but things don't go according to plan. When he sets out to do bad, things always go wrong, and he accidentally ends up doing good. Suitable for ages 10 and up. LH



**The Little White Horse**

Elizabeth Goudge  
Lion 2000  
ISBN 0745945783

A new edition of the 1946 Carnegie Medal winner. Although published in 2000, *The Little White Horse* is currently undergoing a resurgence of publicity due to two factors: J. K.



Rowling's endorsement - quoted on the cover of this edition - 'I absolutely adored *The Little White Horse*,' and the upcoming movie, with an extensive hunt for a Maria. Maria Merryweather, recently orphaned, is sent to stay with her father's cousin at Moonacre Manor. Moonacre Valley and its inhabitants live under the shadow of an ancient feud. In every generation a Moon Princess arrives to try and heal the wounds and this time it is Maria's turn. A timeless tale of love, redemption and friendship with little touches of fantasy that lift the story out of the everyday world. For ages 10 and up. AC

**Kaitangata Twitch**

Margaret Mahy  
Allen & Unwin 2005  
Pb ISBN 174114485X

Kaitangata was one of Meredith's very special places to visit but as she canoed towards the small island a voice seemed to be whispering warnings to her, warnings somehow reinforced by the signs that had suddenly appeared on the beach ahead, the faceless shapes waiting in the misty distance and then the unnerving shuddering of the earth. Was the island protesting about the threat of impending subdivision? Once again Margaret Mahy offers a wonderful mix of family life and supernatural suspense which will be enjoyed by readers of about ten onwards. FP





**Sil**  
Jill Harris  
Longacre 2005  
Pb ISBN  
1877361143  
Sil the tui,  
slipped away  
from all the  
other tuis

whenever he could to practice his song for the annual singing contest. He was experimenting with a range of sounds that would make the other tuis marvel at his skills, but as he perched in his hideaway he had an uncanny feeling that here was something wrong, dreadfully wrong. Jill Harris's meticulous observations of birdlife surrounding her home inspired this compelling fantasy of a tui community that had lived in a valley for generations only to be threatened by the impending arrival of marauding magpies. Great for intermediate readers onwards. FP



**The Ruins of Gorlan**  
John Flanagan  
Random House  
Australia 2004  
ISBN  
0759320756

**The Burning Bridge**

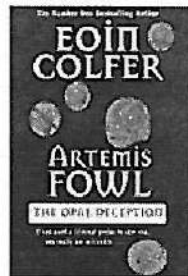
John Flanagan  
Random House Australia 2005  
ISBN 1741660904  
These are Books 1 and 2 of exciting **The Ranger's Apprentice** series, featuring a hero who is smaller and not as strong as his peers and therefore is not accepted to train as a knight - his life's ambition. He discovers he has unique talents which make him ideally suited to train as a Ranger (the equivalent of a spy in this society). These stories have some elements of magic but first and foremost they are great adventure stories in which the hero discovers that honour, truthfulness and respect stand him in good stead as he matures and takes a stand against bullying and abuse of power. Because the focus is on Will they are ideal for boys 10-14, but girls will enjoy them too. Book 3 is due out early in 2006. HB

### The Artemis Fowl Series

The first three books, **Artemis Fowl**, **Artemis Fowl: The Arctic Incident** and **Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code**, are now available as a boxed set, making an ideal Christmas present (including a free top secret radio device!).



These light-hearted, exciting, fairy versus human crime stories are well worth buying for the enjoyment they bring. The fourth book, **Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception**, was released earlier this year.



**Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception**  
Eoin Colfer  
Puffin Books 2005  
ISBN 0141381698  
The shocking final book in the Artemis Fowl quartet!

More challenging than the other three - darker, more daring! How are Captain Holly Short and Foaly going to win the battle against the evil pixie Opal Koboi without Commander Root and Artemis Fowl? A very funny, clever, moving and satisfying end to the Artemis Fowl series. AL

**Stella Star**  
Brigid Feehan  
Scholastic 2005  
ISBN 1869436741  
Stella Star is the winner of the 2004 Tom FitzGibbon Award for a book by a new author and is a light-



hearted story which will appeal to the Intermediate and early Secondary age group. Stella is an aspiring playwright but things do not go according to plan with the production of her play. There is a hint of romance, plenty of humour and a refreshing lack of teen angst. HB

### Trickster

Tamora Pierce  
Scholastic 2005  
ISBN 1865046523  
A perfect Christmas gift for Tamora Pierce fans! The two books featuring Alanna and George's daughter, Alianne, are now available in one volume.



Alianne (Aly) has been raised in the shadow of her famous parents. She is drifting through life - and forbidden to be one of her father's spies, which she is desperate to do. In order to escape her mother's organising and reforming zeal, Aly sails off - right into the clutches of pirates. After being sold as a slave, Aly makes a deal with the local trickster God, Kyprioth - if she keeps the family alive, he will set her free. For ages 10 and up. AC

### Maddigan's Fantasia

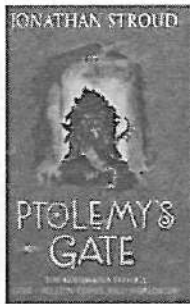
Margaret Mahy  
Harper Collins 2005  
ISBN 1869505611

Maddigan's Fantasia is set in a post-apocalyptic, but believable, world. Maddigan, daughter of the ringmaster of a traveling circus, is at the heart of



terrifying adventures following the death of her father. Three children from the future become part of Maddigan's life, and the focus of a hunt for a Talisman which has the power to restore the world. Maddigan's friendship with the eldest boy, Timon, is fraught by the influence of evil creatures intent on getting the Talisman, and taking the children back to the future world. Mahy's storytelling and evocative language create a wonderfully exciting book for readers aged 10, and upwards. LL





**Ptolemy's Gate**

Jonathan Stroud

Doubleday

Pb ISBN 0385608683

This is Book 3 of the Bartimaeus trilogy so when buying for fantasy fans check whether they have Books 1 and 2, **The Amulet of Samarkand**, and **The Golem's Eye**. In this climax to the story, set 3 years after *The Golem's Eye* the magicians' rule in London is on the verge of collapse and Bartimaeus, Nathaniel and Kitty face a final enemy which threatens them all. 12 + HB

**My story: A long way from home**

Lorraine

Orman

Scholastic

2005

ISBN

1869436962

History and books in diary

format are currently popular genres in children's fiction and this book-one of the latest in the My Story series, also gives us a welcome addition to the rather meager collection of fiction for children about World War II New Zealand. Lillian Glenmore's diary, set near Warkworth in 1943, tells of the changes in the district when a US Marine Division moves in for training. It gives an absorbing account of the impact of the war on ordinary New Zealand families and touches on social issues such as racism and teen pregnancy providing a window on the lives of their grandparents for today's teenagers. 12+ HB



**Operation Red Jericho**

Joshua Mowll

Walker Books 2005

Hb ISBN

1844286258

The first in a new trilogy this is a highly adventurous story about two young teenagers who are sent to live on board their uncle's ship. Set in China in the 1920's it combines all the elements of danger, a secret society and mystery. The main characters are very likeable and the storyline will appeal to both boys and girls, especially those with an eye for technical detail, as there are fold-out maps and illustrations that enhance the overall package. CT



**War - Stories of Conflict**

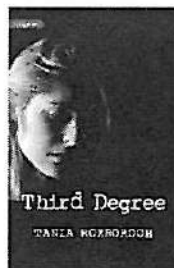
Edited by Michael Morpurgo

MacMillan Children's Books 2005

Hb ISBN 1405047445

Compiled by Michael Morpurgo, the Children's Laureate and published on the 60<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the end of World War II. This impressive lineup of 15 writers including Margaret Mahy, Elizabeth Laird, Geraldine McCaughrean, and Celia Rees have all contributed a story dealing with the human side of conflict and war. The stories range across time and around the globe from the Crusades to the current conflict in Iraq. Recommended for 13+. KA



**Third Degree**

Tania Roxborough

Longacre Press 2005

ISBN 1877361100

A novel for teenagers about Ruth, a 19-year-old starting on a new phase in her life. She is at university

and falling in love with Anton. His questions about her scars force her to recall her time in hospital as a 10-year-old with third-degree burns, her unresolved feelings of abandonment and unsettling memories of being subject to medical experimentation. A great read for 13 years and up. CB

**Like Wallpaper**

Edited by Barbara

Else

Random House

2005

Pb ISBN

1869416937

An anthology of New Zealand short stories for teenagers from a range of our top writers for young people including David Hill, Jane Westaway and Fleur Beale along with some newcomers to the scene like Samantha Stanley and Katherine Mansfield winner Natasha Lewis. Stories cover contemporary issues of relationships, race, sex and death all with a distinctive New Zealand flavour. CB



**Eragon**

Christopher Paolini

Doubleday 2004

ISBN 0385607881

**Eldest**

Christopher Paolini

Doubleday 2005

ISBN 0385607903



**Eragon** was noticed because of the extreme youth of its creator. Christopher Paolini was 15 years old when he first began writing **Eragon**, the first book in the Inheritance trilogy. It is a fantasy of dragons and a boy's journey to manhood. **Eldest** is the second in the trilogy. **Eldest** continues the story of Eragon, as he learns to become a Rider and a warrior. The first book, **Eragon**, was slow to begin with, only gaining in excitement in the last third of the book. However, **Eldest** has continued the excitement and adrenalin, and will be read avidly by any fantasy fan. Suitable for 13 and up, particularly boys. LH



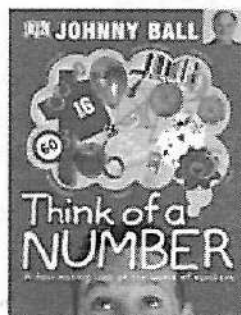


**Secret Scribbled Notebooks**  
Joanne Horniman  
Allen & Unwin  
2004

ISBN 174114406X

Kate buys three notebooks; red, yellow and blue. Each notebook has its own personality and they are linked by her 'wild typewritten pages.' Through these Kate shares her thoughts and feelings about her brand new niece, her relationship with Alex, her last year at high school, and about her parents. Elegantly written, this is a wonderful look into a teen stepping into adulthood. For ages 14 and up. AC

**Think of a Number**



Johnny Ball  
Dorling Kindersley 2005  
ISBN 1740334655

Colourful and jam-packed with mathematical snippets and proofs, this is a maths book with a difference. It is divided into four parts. 'Where do numbers come from?' deals with the history of numerals and counting, while 'Magic Numbers' examines the golden ratio, infinity, and the maths behind magic tricks. 'Shaping Up' discusses shape, symmetry and mazes, while part four touches on art, chance, logic, and chaos theory. It includes mathematical puzzles and challenges for the reader that offer a glimpse into the vast and fascinating world of mathematics. A stimulating book that invites re-reading. Highly recommended. For 10+ HN

**D is for Dahl - a glorumptious A-Z guide to the world of Roald Dahl**

Compiled by Wendy Cooling  
Illustrated by Quentin Blake  
Puffin 2004

Hb ISBN 0670914169

Jam-packed with a miscellany of facts about Roald Dahl and the characters in his books.

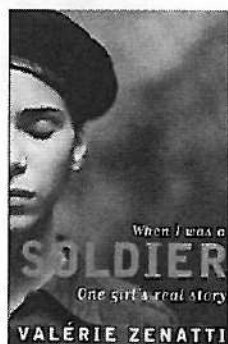
Splendidly illustrated by Quentin Blake and supported with numerous photographs this is a

delightful compendium that goes from Aardvark to Zoo. Did you know that Dahl began a third book about Charlie but only got as far as the first chapter? Recommended for fans of Dahl's books of all ages. KA



**When I was a Soldier - one girl's real story**

Valerie Zenatti (2002)  
Translated by Adriana Hunter  
Bloomsbury 2005  
Pb ISBN 0747575665



Zenatti, an immigrant from France, describes her initial experiences of the strict routines, guard duty, lack of sleep and privacy in the Israel Defence Force (Zahal). She describes the changing attitude of her parents - "You don't talk to a soldier the way you talk to a teenager. No one tells them to tidy their room, to turn the music down or to get off the phone. A soldier is a sort of adult with even more responsibilities than her parents. She's carrying the nation's security on her shoulders." For readers 14+. KA

In Israel, every teenager must do military service once they turn eighteen. For girls it is two years, beginning with basic training before going on to specialize.

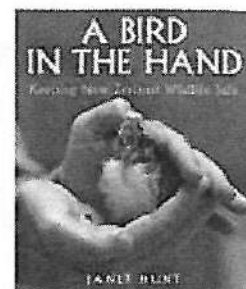
**A Bird in the Hand: Keeping New Zealand wildlife safe**

Janet Hunt  
Random House  
2003

ISBN 1869415639

Well set out, informative, interesting, with amazing photographs,

this is a pleasure to read and would make a perfect gift for lovers of New Zealand wildlife. Janet talks about the impact of humans on the New Zealand environment, telling the stories of some of the beautiful birds, endangered species and rare animals of New Zealand. She includes a list of useful websites and mentions some useful magazines, together with a list of books used in gathering her material for this book. A treasure. AL



**Welcome to the South Seas: Contemporary New Zealand art for young people**

Gregory O'Brien  
Auckland University Press 2004  
ISBN 1869403282

Finalist, New Zealand Post Book Awards Children & Young Adults 2005

If you have a budding artist in the house or just enjoy informative art books, this would be a great addition to your household. Each opening contains one or more artworks with information on that work and the artist. This covers a wide range of styles from Rita Angus' *Boats At Island Bay*, to Mary MacPherson's *At Sea* (an arrangement of fabrics and a small plastic shark) and Neil Dawson's mid-air sculpture *Ferns*. The latter is described as a "fantastic metallic orb which floats in the air 14 metres above Civic Square in the middle of Wellington." Maybe a bit big to fit in the Christmas stocking, but strongly recommended. AL

