

Books for Christmas giving

Term 4, 2008

Contributors to this list are: Kerry Aluf, Sanya Baker, Helen Beckingsale, Crissi Blair, Tina Collins, Annie Coppell, Lorraine Orman, Helen Schwarcz.

For under 6s

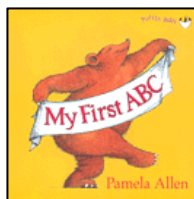
My First ABC

Pamela Allen

Puffin 2007

ISBN 9780143501893

Characters from many of Pamela Allen's popular picture books illustrate this simple and appealing ABC. Toddler-proof paper makes it doubly suitable for very young listeners. HB.



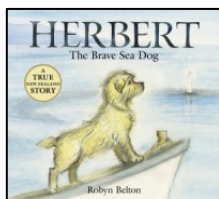
Herbert: The Brave Sea Dog

Robyn Belton

Molly Paul Books/Craig Potton Publishing 2008

Hb ISBN 9781877333842; Pb ISBN 9781877333972

A true story of a heroic dog who survives a storm at sea. Tim goes with his mother in the car to stay in the Marlborough Sounds, but his dog Herbert must go on the boat with Tim's father and his friends. When hit by a bad storm Herbert is washed overboard and everyone gives up hope except for Tim who persuades the others to search. Against all odds, Herbert was found alive after more than 30 hours in the water. Endpapers show letters, newspaper articles and photos from the real-life story, and within the pages of the book Robyn Belton has captured the wildness of the storm and the bond between boy and dog with her characteristic skill. 5+. CB.



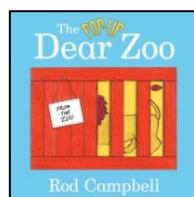
The Pop-up Dear Zoo

Rod Campbell

Pan Macmillan 2008

Pb ISBN 9781405091213

If you thought *Dear Zoo* was fabulous, with all those fun lift-the-flaps, well this new edition takes it to another dimension, literally. 2+. AC.



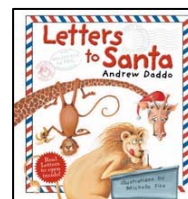
Letters to Santa

Andrew Daddo, illus Michelle Pike

Scholastic 2008

Hb ISBN 9781741691252

Animals from around the world write letters to Santa. Letters that readers can enjoy, by pulling them out of the accompanying envelopes (with appropriate stamps). Each animal has its own priority (the lion, for example, wants a doll). 4+. AC.



The Dudgeon is Xoming

Lynley Dodd

Mallinson Rendel 2008

Hb ISBN 9781877423178

This new book from Lynley Dodd is a humorous story told in rhyme of imaginative creatures. The illustrations are colourful and artistic. The story follows the formula of Chinese whispers with hilarious consequences. This excellent picture book offers a fascinating menagerie of imaginary animals. The Hopalong Snoot, the Stickleback Twitch, the Omnibus Owl – they all get increasingly frightened as they anticipate the arrival of the terrible Dudgeon. This book is aimed at an audience slightly older than Hairy Maclary lovers. 4+. TC & LO.



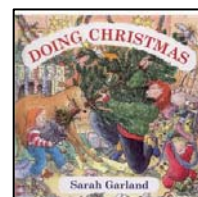
Doing Christmas

Sarah Garland

Frances Lincoln (1994) 2008

Hb ISBN 9781845077242

An everyday single-parent family celebrates Christmas with their modern granny who turns up in her sports car. We see them get everything ready – the pudding, the tree, and the presents. They enjoy their day together in a way that many children (and mums) will identify with. Enjoy others in this series too (*Doing the Garden, Going Shopping, Coming to Tea*). 2+. CB.



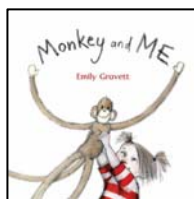
Monkey and Me

Emily Gravett

Macmillan 2008

Pb ISBN 9780230015838

A little girl and her toy monkey have fun pretending to be different animals. The joy of the book is that the reader/listener is encouraged to join in and guess the animal. It is illustrated with a limited colour palette, and with simple lines that truly enhance the text – and enchant the reader. 2+. AC.



Maraea and the Albatrosses

Patricia Grace, illus Brian Gunson

Penguin 2008

PB ISBN 9780143502685

Maraea, an elderly woman, is left alone on the coast as the rest of the community leave for the city. There she sits on the cliff top, watching the sea and the birds. Eventually, even Maraea is gone. But something is stirring under the rocks... A fascinating and moving book. 4+. AC.



Big Chickens Fly the Coop

Leslie Helakoski, illus Henry Cole

Dutton Children's Books 2008

Hb ISBN 9780525479154

Henry Cole's boisterous art captures the spirit of this riotously funny new read-aloud follow up book. The four big chickens who were afraid of everything in their acclaimed debut, *Big Chickens*, are now feeling all cooped up, so they set off to find the farmhouse. But where, the hapless hens wonder, is it? Side-splitting silliness abounds in this expressively written book. 4-7. TC.

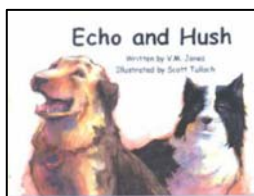
Echo and Hush

VM Jones, illus Scott Tulloch

HarperCollins (New Zealand) 2008

Pb ISBN 9781869506902

You can't go wrong with dogs! Hush is an eye-dog, while Echo is a huntaway and her job is to bark.



Together they round up the sheep on the high country station. But one day Hush can't work, and Echo has to do the roundup on her own. She very quickly learns some new skills! Warm, friendly illustrations using a variety of media make this a great book for dog fanatics. 4+. LO.

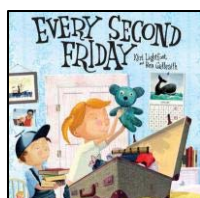
Every Second Friday

Kiri Lightfoot, illus Ben Galbraith

Hodder Children's Books 2008

Hb ISBN 9780340956120

Ben Galbraith triumphed with his first book *The Fishing Brother's Gruff* a couple of years ago, and his creative skills bring Kiri Lightfoot's family tale to life with humour and attention to every detail. The story is of two children visiting their rather eccentric father 'every second Friday', the difficulties of living in his house (Dad's a 'collector of bits and bobs') and the zany activities they get up to. The illustrations incorporate drawing, paint and collage blended together expertly via Galbraith's computer and each page is packed with details to be discovered, surprises that go way beyond the details of the text, and combine with the lyrical language to form a portrait of a loving family. 5+. CB.



Bubble Trouble

Margaret Mahy, illus Polly Dunbar

Frances Lincoln 2008

Hb ISBN 9781845077587

The team that created *Down the Back of the Chair* bring us another riotous, rollicking rhyme. Previously published in collections, and declaimed by Margaret over the years, it is a true joy to have *Bubble Trouble* in a stand-alone picture book form. A fabulous read aloud for 3+. AC.



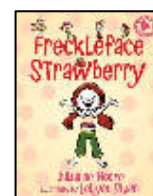
Freckleface Strawberry

Julianne Moore, illus LeUyen Pham

Bloomsbury 2007

Pb ISBN 9780545089326

A joy for all fellow freckleface strawberries! There are many things you can do to make your freckles go away (or try to, anyway) but the best thing to do is... enjoy them! A great affirming story for those teased about their differences. 4+. AC.

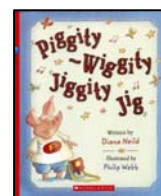


Piggity-Wiggity Jiggity Jig

Diana Neild, illus Philip Webb

Scholastic 2008; Pb ISBN 9781869438746

Piggity-Wiggity Jiggity Jig is a long sort of name, even when shortened to *Piggity-Wiggity*. When he complains, he is told the story of his name – a special name for a special child. Great fun to read aloud. 3+. AC.



Perky and His Chicks

Michelle Osment

Little Friends Publishing 2008; Pb ISBN 9780473139698

This is the fourth book in the very popular picture book series about Perky the Pukeko. As with the earlier books, this story is in rhyming verse. This is a must-have for Perky fans and others will discover the series through this new book. There is an environmental message here too as one of the chicks encounters a diesel spill and has to be nursed back to health. The author won the Storylines Joy Cowley Award in 2008. 2+. TC.

Learn to Skateboard with Luka – Ko te Akonga ki te Papa Retireti i te Taha o Luka

Lee and Errol Peta; translation Tokikapu Peta

Raupo 2008

Pb ISBN 9781869780562

Luka began skateboarding at two, becoming one of the youngest competitive skateboarders around. Now, at nine, he shares tips, tricks, and advice in this book for young skateboarders. Photographed locally, written by his parents, and translated by his koro, this is a family who have come together to produce a great book. For little (and big) daredevils 4+. AC.



Noisy Noisy Princesses

Ronne Randall, illus Emma Dodd

Ladybird 2008

Board ISBN 9781846467950

Noisy Noisy Pirates

Ronne Randall, Illus Emma Dodd

Ladybird 2007

Board ISBN 9781846465277



A wonderful board book series to give to young children which encourage interactive and imaginative play. Each page has a hidden button that makes amazing realistic sounds. The books are perfect for sharing and fun to read again and again. There are at least ten titles in the series but these two are my favourite. 2+. TC.

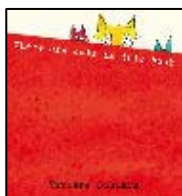
There are Cats in this Book

Viviane Schwarz

Walker 2008

Hb ISBN 9781406300949

Cats will be cats and it is up to the reader to save them from their antics. Play along with Tiny, Moonpie and Andre as they tangle in wool, hide in boxes and spot the fish. 2+. AC.



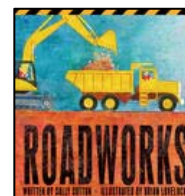
Roadworks

Sally Sutton, illus Brian Lovelock

Walker 2008

ISBN 9781921150166

This is a wonderful read aloud for pre-schoolers. All the functions of the different machinery used in making a road are described, with sound effects and colourful illustrations. Little boys will love it. HB.



Why is the Sky Blue?

Ladybird 2008

Hb ISBN 9781846468964

The perfect book for all those toddlers asking perennial questions like 'why is the sky blue?' Not only is curiosity sated, but there are flaps to lift and pull in this interactive adventure for budding scientists. Made from 100% recycled paper. 3+. AC.

For ages 6-10

A Birthday in the Life of Ozzie Kingsford

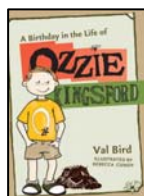
Val Bird, illus Rebecca Cundy

Random House 2008

Pb ISBN 9781869419868

Named Oswald, after an explorer ancestor, Ozzie tells the wild and wacky story of his birthday and how he becomes entangled with the forest sprites. Simple line drawings, and fun typographical techniques enhance the already lively text. The first in a series about Ozzie, *Five (and a Bit) Days in the Life of Ozzie Kingsford* is already available.

Great fun for 8+. AC.



Paddington Here and Now

Michael Bond

Harper Collins 2008

ISBN 9780007269402

For those who have everything, including all the previously published Paddington books, here is a brand new novel to celebrate his 50 years. HB.

Faster, Further, Higher, Deeper: Triumphs in Transport

Richard Brassey

Orion 2008

Pb ISBN 9781842557006

If your concept of transport revolves around feet, horses and cars – this book will show your imaginative shortcomings as the works of draughtsmen, inventors and dreamers are explored. 8+. AC.

Piano Rock: A 1950s Childhood

Gavin Bishop

Random House 2008

Hb ISBN 9781869790103

This small hardback book is a treasure to behold, before you even open the covers, with its decorated fabric spine and silhouette illustration on a duck-egg blue background.

The pattern of the spine is repeated on the endpapers and the pages littered with prints and classically coloured illustrations that help set the story in its time and place – Kingston, Southland, 1949-1954. This is the true and elegantly told story of the years Gavin spent as a young boy, with all the adventures a lad should have. A glossary at the back explains some of the language of the day like Box Brownie, linoleum and Guy (which causes great trauma in the story). A book that will be enjoyed by children (8+) and adults alike, conveying a true picture of life in the 'good old days'. CB.



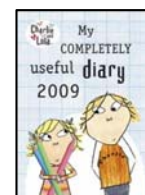
My Completely Useful Diary

Lauren Child

Puffin Books 2008

ISBN 9780141501666

For anyone who enjoys the humour and art work of Lauren Child this would be a perfect gift. A week-by-week diary with plenty of space for absolutely all the important things a person might need to do. HS.



Horrible History Annual 2009

Terry Denton, illus Martin Brown

Scholastic 2008

ISBN 9781407106618

The Horrible Histories are perennially popular, especially with hard-to-please boys, so this annual is the perfect gift for those who prefer fact to fiction, and humour too. HB.



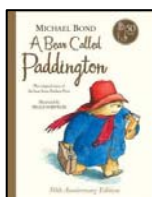
A Bear Called Paddington – 50th Anniversary Edition

Michael Bond, illus Peggy Fortnum

Harper Collins 2008

ISBN 9780007261963

This anniversary edition will be a delight for both fans of Paddington Bear and those who are unfamiliar with the little bear found by the Brown family on Paddington station. The stories are unabridged with full colour illustrations – a beautiful book to be treasured and enjoyed. HS.



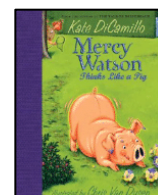
Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig

Kate DiCamillo

Candlewick Press 2008

Hb ISBN 9780763632656

This is the fifth book in the Mercy the Pig series. In this story, Mercy follows the delightful scent and delicious taste of the pansies her thoughtful neighbours plant to beautify their yard. When Animal Control Officer Francine Poulet is called out to handle the case this brings unexpected results. 6+. TC.



Big Fish, Little Fish

Melanie Drewery

Raupo 2008

Pb ISBN 9781869780555

Jeremy is desperate to win the local fishing contest, but isn't impressed when his mum makes him go out on his grandad's little old and rickety rowboat, and not his friend's dad's speed boat. To make time pass, Grandad tells family stories – and passes on some lessons. This is a great book for budding fishers as there are a number of hints and tricks included at the end of the book. 7+. AC.



Peter and the Pig

Simon Grant, illus Jenny Cooper

Scholastic New Zealand 2008

Pb ISBN 9781869439026

Peter the Pirate goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The very enterprising shop owner persuades him to try a pig on his shoulder instead. Things go downhill from there, until Peter ends up not as a pirate, but as a ridiculous figure of fun entertaining the children in the local swimming pool. Brightly coloured, zany cartoon-style illustrations make this a great read-aloud for children of about five to eight (also suitable for pirate wannabes). LO.



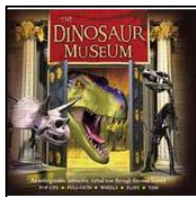
Dinosaur Museum

Jen Green

Scholastic (Australia) 2008

Hb ISBN 9781741693102

An interactive room-by-room tour through the dinosaur museum, including the palaeontologist's laboratory. Peer through microscopes, look at fossil specimens, and enjoy. 8+. AC.



Car Science

Richard Hammond

Dorling Kindersley 2008

Hb ISBN 9781405332002

Richard Hammond, from the TV programme *Top Gear*, demystifies the science around the automobile. From what torque really is, to the science behind being a race driver, this is a fascinating read for young (and not-so-young) petrol-heads. AC.

Growing Gardeners: The Fun & Science of Organic Gardening

Dee Pignéguy

Papawai Press 2008

Pb ISBN 9780958296601

A great introduction to the world of organic gardening and, best of all, it's a New Zealand book! A wonderful book for families wanting to grow their own gardens but unsure how to start. AC.

Why I Hate School by Michael Fartasky

Kris Stanhope

Scholastic 2008

Pb ISBN 9781869438715

Michael is compiling a list – annotated and subdivided – into all the reasons he hates school. Girls – and Sharon in particular, who LOVES school – stand out. As the story continues, and he and Sharon are paired up for a school project, Michael remembers that they used to be friends. And, slowly, the true story comes out. A thoughtful and powerful book. Winner of the 2007 Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award. 9+. AC.

Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad

Rosemary Sutcliffe, illus Alan Lee

Frances Lincoln 2008 (reprint)

ISBN 9781845078270

Alan Lee's illustrations won this book the Kate Greenaway Medal in 1993 and Rosemary Sutcliffe's wonderful storytelling ability and meticulous research make this a great introduction to classical mythology for booklovers of all ages. 9+. HB.

Wow! The Visual Encyclopedia of Everything

Dorling Kindersley 2008

ISBN 9781405322485

A gift that will keep children and adults busy right through Christmas and beyond. Stunning visual images on every page starting with the cover that entices the reader with a big silver WOW! There are sections on nature, human biology, science, space, earth, people and places, history and art and culture. Double-page spreads are rich in information, graphics and photographs. For anyone who enjoys discovering fascinating facts and figures this would be an amazing gift. HS.

For ages 10-12

Inventions: Pop-up Models from the Drawings of Leonardo da Vinci

Jaspre Bark; illus David Lawrence &

David Hawcock

Walker 2008

Hb ISBN 9781406318289

A treasure which recreates the world of da Vinci as if his own journal. Da Vinci's inventions and creations literally leap off the page in this 3D spectacular. 10+. AC.

Swords: An Artist's Devotion

Ben Boos

Candlewick 2008

Hb ISBN 9780763631482

From Beowulf, to samurai. From ninja to knights. Full-colour spreads celebrate and showcase swords in their

many varieties, brought to life by the author/illustrator's life-long fascination with the weapon and its history. 10+. AC.

Cosmic

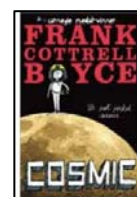
Frank Cottrell Boyce

Macmillan 2008

ISBN 9780230709782

A celebration of fathers, this is a warm and funny story from the same master storyteller as *Millions* and *Framed*.

Liam Digby is a normal 12 year old but very physically mature. So much so, that he is often mistaken for someone much older (and expected to act like them as well). But when Liam lies about his age in some geeky competition, events begin to spiral out of control.



Before too long he finds himself the only 'parent' on the school kids' trip of a lifetime – into space. It is out there above the world that Liam discovers that there's more to being a dad than just looking like one. If you're looking for an adventure with a warm heart, let this Carnegie Medal-winning author rocket you there with *Cosmic*. 9-12. SB.

Night Hunting

Deborah Burnside, illus Jeff Fowler
Penguin (New Zealand) 2008
Pb ISBN 9780143303961

An exciting adventure story aimed at the notoriously difficult primary and intermediate-age boys readership. Nick can't wait to go possum hunting with the rough-as-guts Rotorua Bill. But out in the bush things are a bit different. Bill has a bad accident and Nick has to race against time to get help. It's nailbiting stuff – most readers won't be able to put it down. LO.

Airman

Eoin Colfer
Puffin 2008
Pb ISBN 9780141383354

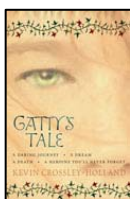
Conor is born to fly – in fact he is born midair. When his natural inclinations become clear, his parents – and king – ensure that his education is suitably directed. Unfortunately, his destiny conflicts with the plans of others and Conor must survive imprisonment and betrayal, while clinging on to his true identity and nature. 10+. AC.



Gatty's Tale

Kevin Crossley-Holland
Orion 2007
Pb ISBN 9781842555705

A glorious telling of a girl's medieval pilgrimage and coming of age. Carrying the hopes and prayers of their community, a small group of Welsh travellers journey across Europe to Venice and then by sea to the Holy Land. Gatty wins the hearts of all around her, with her bravery and impulsiveness, the honest purity of her faith and the glory of her song. An exceptional story for 11+. KA.



More About Boy

Roald Dahl
Puffin 2008
Pb ISBN 9780141324470

Many of us have read *Boy* and *Going Solo*, Dahl's autobiographies. This, new, edition of *Boy* includes new material – photos, facts and writings – as well as the funny stories – and the not-so-funny ones – loved from *Boy*. 10+. AC.

Scorched Bone [Chronicles of Stone Book 1]

Vince Ford
Scholastic 2008
Pb ISBN 9781869438302

Vince Ford's new trilogy is set in ancient times in Northern America. Trei and his twin sister Souk feel they must leave their troubled clan, the People of the Canyons, and travel north to the land of the dangerous Manhunters. Trei is determined to uncover the secret to hunting mammoth and bison, while Souk is drawn by visions. Their journey will be fraught with danger. Compelling reading for 11+. Book 2: *Set in Stone* (2008) continues the story. KA.



Time Travel for Beginners

Mary and John Gribbin
Hodder 2008
Pb ISBN 9780340957028

The Gribbins introduce theories and concepts from the world of physics. Is there really a time travel paradox? Is time travel possible? Great for inquisitive minds 10+. AC.



The River Runs

David Hill
Mallinson Rendel 2008;
Pb ISBN 9781877423222

It's 1967, and Chris is being bullied by his older cousin who's a championship wrestler. Chris is puny and bookish. But as the story unfolds using the alternating points of view of both boys, the reader realises that their relationship will change. An exciting climax scene shows that the cousins can forget their differences and work together to save lives. An excellent read for intermediate-age boys. LO.



The House of Many Ways

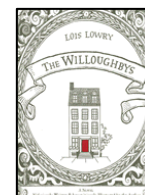
Diana Wynne Jones
Harper Collins 2008; Pb ISBN 9780007275670

A new book from this wonderful fantasy author is always a cause for celebration and this one includes more about Wizards Howl and Sophie from *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Castle in the Air* even if Howl is in disguise. The story centres on Charmain Baker who is sent to look after the magical cottage of the High Wizard of Norland while he is ill, a challenge in itself, without the addition of an inept apprentice, angry kobolds, a dangerous Lubbock and other complications. 10+. HB.

The Willoughbys

Lois Lowry
Houghton Mifflin 2008;
Hb ISBN 9780618979745

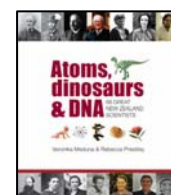
An unashamedly old fashioned tale, jam-packed with memorable characters and plot turns that parody many favourite classics. As their despicable parents take off on a perilous journey around the world, the Willoughby children are forced to contemplate their future as the family home is put up for sale. Throw in an abandoned baby, a melancholy tycoon, an odious nanny and a meticulous avalanche survivor making a new life in Switzerland with her son. Lowry adds an instructive glossary and bibliography of classic orphan tales. Amusing reading for 9+. KA.



Atoms, Dinosaurs & DNA: 68 Great New Zealand Scientists

Veronika Meduna & Rebecca Priestley
Random House 2008;
Pb ISBN 9781869419547

Adapted from the 2006 National Library Exhibition 'Butterflies, Boffins & Black Smokers: two centuries of science in New Zealand', this book is a revelation. Arranged chronically, it introduces the reader to people who have had an impact on New Zealand science. There are professional scientists and enthusiastic amateurs. 9+. AC



The Recruit

Robert Muchamore,

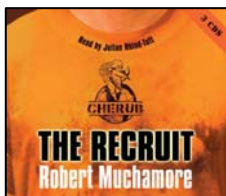
read by

Julian Rhind-Tutt

Hodder Children's Audiobooks 2006;

ISBN 9781844564064

An audiobook of three compact discs (ca. 220 min) is a great alternative to the book. Perfect for those who love to chill out and listen to a story. James hasn't had a great start in life, but when he is recruited from his care home into an organisation called CHERUB, things most definitely take a turn for the better! To become an agent he goes through extreme hardship, learns to fight and to speak several languages. Now he's ready for his first undercover mission. This audiobook is an ideal introduction to this popular series, sure to encourage listeners to read the whole series. 10+. TC.

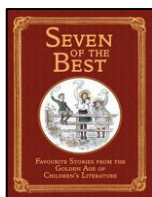


Seven of the Best: Favourite Stories from the Golden Age of Children's Literature

CRW Publishing 2007;

Hb ISBN 9781905716265

This lavish book includes these classics: *The Secret Garden*, *The Railway Children*, *Black Beauty*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *Treasure Island*, *Just So Stories* and *Peter Pan*. A true treasure for any library. AC.



We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures

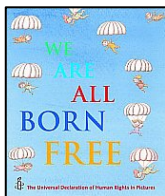
Various illustrators

Frances Lincoln in association with

Amnesty International 2008;

Hb ISBN 9781845076504

A beautiful presentation of the rights that should be accorded to every person, illustrated by a top selection of illustrators including John Birmingham, Korky Paul, Jane Ray, Polly Dunbar, Bob Graham, Axel Scheffler, Chris Riddell and Marcia Williams. As well as being a great showcase for the illustrators work, this provides a reminder to us all of the rights we are entitled to, and a framework for discussion about world events and how people are treated around the world. An excellent book to add to the family or school library. 10+. CB.



Totally Jacqueline Wilson: The Essential Jacqueline Wilson Experience

Jacqueline Wilson, illus Nick Sharratt

Random House 2008;

Hb ISBN 9780385612524

What more does a Jacqueline Wilson fan need? There's information about her books, quizzes, party ideas and stories. And it comes in a glitzy, full-colour package. 10+. AC.



Puffin Classic relaunch 2008 onwards

Puffin has recently released a series of classic stories with introductions by modern authors. This series is well worth hunting down.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott, introduced by Louise Rennison (Pb ISBN 9780141321080)

Peter Pan by JM Barrie, introduced by Tony DiTerlizzi (Pb ISBN 9780141322575)

The Wizard of Oz by L Frank Baum, introduced by Cornelia Funke (Pb ISBN 9780141321028)

A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett, introduced by Adeline Yen Mah (Pb ISBN 9780141321127)

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett, introduced by Sophie Dahl (Pb ISBN 9780141321066)

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, introduced by Chris Riddell (Pb ISBN 9780141321073)

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, introduced by Anthony Horowitz (Pb ISBN 9780141324524)

Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens, introduced by Garth Nix (Pb ISBN 9780141322438)

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame, introduced by Brian Jacques (Pb ISBN 9780141321134)

Knight Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green, introduced by David Almond (Pb ISBN 9780141321011)

Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling, introduced by Jonathan Stroud (Pb ISBN 9780141321622)

The Call of the Wild by Jack London, introduced by Melvyn Burgess (Pb ISBN 9780141321059)

White Fang by Jack London, introduced by Richard Adams (Pb ISBN 9780141321110)

Anne of Green Gables by LM Montgomery, introduced by Lauren Child (Pb ISBN 9780141321592)

Five Children and It by E Nesbit, introduced by Quentin Blake (Pb ISBN 9780141321615)

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell, introduced by Meg Rosoff (Pb ISBN 9780141321035)

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson, introduced by Eoin Colfer (Pb ISBN 9780141321004)

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, introduced by Darren Shan (Pb ISBN 9780141321097)

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain, introduced by Richard Peck (Pb ISBN 9780141321103)

Journey to the Centre of the Earth by Jules Verne, introduced by Diana Wynne Jones (Pb ISBN 9780141321042)

Still to come: *Heidi* (introduced by Eva Ibbotson); *Tales of the Greek Heroes* by Lancelyn Green (introduced by Rick Riordan); *The Jungle Book* (introduced by Christopher Paolini); *The Swiss Family Robinson* (introduced by Jon Scieszka); *A Tale of Two Cities* (introduced by Roddy Doyle)

For teens

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian

Sherman Alexie, artwork Ellen Forney

Andersen Press 2008; Pb ISBN 9781842708446

"You've been fighting since you were born," he said.

'You fought off that brain surgery. You fought off those seizures. You fought off all the drunks and drug addicts.

You kept your hope. And now, you have to take your hope and go somewhere where other people have hope' I was starting to understand. He was a math teacher. I had to add my hope to somebody else's hope. I had to multiply hope by hope."

Junior, a native American Indian, quits school on the Spokane Indian Reservation where he lives and opts for the all-white high-school in the nearby rural town. He's aspiring to a better future, but this single decision puts enormous obstacles ahead of this skinny, spectacle-wearing, hydrocephalic, wise-cracking, cartoon-drawing, young Native American and he must face prejudice from his own community as well as his adopted one. Junior's skills as a cartoonist and his self-deprecating humour entertain in this heartbreakingly funny book that simultaneously creates an awareness of the plight of a minority people. Recommended and inspiring reading for 13+. KA & SB.

Juno of Taris
Fleur Beale

Random House 2008
Pb ISBN 9781869419882

Taris is all that Juno knows of the world, it is an island biosphere, established 200 years earlier and isolated from the outside world. Juno is about to come of age and she is full of questions. Why can't she grow her hair? Why does everyone have to have their head shaved each week? Why do some of the elders, especially Hilto, resent her? Where are the tales of their past heroes? The values of Taris are intelligence, conformity, compliance and kindness, there is no room for questions or explanations. When she finds her life is at risk, Juno and her friends must uncover the truth about Taris. Exciting science fiction with a determined heroine. 12+. KA.



The 10PM Question

Kate De Goldi
Longacre 2008
Pb ISBN 9781877460203

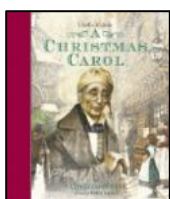
It's a long time since we had a novel from Kate De Goldi and this is a charmer. 12-year-old Frankie is a champion worrier, regularly appearing at his mother's bedside each night to ask his questions and ease his troubled mind. Now there's a new girl at school, Sydney, who Frankie makes friends with who both eases and adds to his worries. Ma is the biggest worry of all though, and as the book progresses we get through the layers down to what really counts. A gentle, humorous and touching story that gets to the heart of the matter, enabling all the participants to move on with their lives. Always masterful in her use of language, de Goldi has given New Zealand literature another treasure with this funny yet affecting tale of families and friendships; accepting others and choosing your own path. Older children and adults will enjoy this story. CB & SB.



A Christmas Carol with A Christmas Tree

Charles Dickens, illus Robert Ingpen
Walker Books 2008
Hb ISBN 9781921150630

The classic Christmas story is reborn with suitably ghostly illustrations by master-artist Robert Ingpen, who has also turned his hand to other classics in this series such as *The Wind in the Willows* and *Treasure Island*. This book should hold a firm place in a family library to be enjoyed year after year as part of the Christmas ritual. 12+. CB.



The Graveyard Book

Neil Gaiman, illus Chris Riddell
Bloomsbury 2008
Hb ISBN 9780747569015

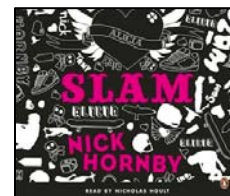
Bod, and his ghostly family, have appeared in Gaiman's short fiction before, so it is a joy to find a complete novel, one that answers questions raised by 'The Witch's Headstone'. Bod (short for Nobody) escapes from the murderer of his family and is raised by the ghosts in the local graveyard. Each chapter covers two years of Bod's life as he struggles to reach adulthood. AC.



Slam

Nick Hornby
Penguin Audio, 2007
ISBN 9780141807911

Slam is Nick Hornby's first book written particularly for young adults and it shows all of his trademark flair for gentle humour, authentic voices and disarming honesty. Sam is now 16, the age his mother was when he was born. He is obsessed with skating and with Tony Hawk. Sam rubs along pretty well with his Mum, he's considering a future at art school and he has started going out with the lovely Alicia. Whenever he has something on his mind, Sam talks to his Tony Hawk poster on the wall and Tony talks back – with relevant lines from his autobiography. But Sam's plans for the future face a slam when Alicia finds she's pregnant. This audio version has Sam convincingly voiced by Nicholas Hoult. 14+. SB.



The Invisible Road

Elizabeth Knox
Voyager 2008
Pb ISBN 9780732287313

An omnibus edition of Knox's award winning duet *Dreamhunter* and *Dreamquake*. A romantic fantasy set in an alternate past where dreams are caught in the mysterious Place by the elite dreamhunters and then shared with a sleeping audience in opulent theatres. Richly imaginative and wonderfully descriptive this will appeal to mature teens. 15+. KA.



Juicy Writing

Brigid Lowry
Allen & Unwin 2008
Pb ISBN 9781741750485

The perfect gift for a potential writer. Brigid Lowry provides hints and inspiration to get the words flowing, no matter how blocked they may seem. This is the sort of book that will come in useful for years to come. 12+. AC.



The Knife of Never Letting Go [Chaos Walking Book 1]

Patrick Ness
Walker Books 2008
Hb ISBN 9781406310252

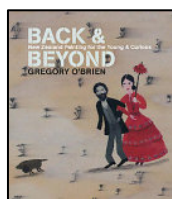
Winner of the Carnegie Award 2008 - a science fiction thriller that tingles your senses from start to finish. Todd lives in Prentisstown, a town with only men and no women, he is the youngest, the last boy about to become a man. This is a world where man's thoughts are present as a constant intrusive noise.



Todd is forced to flee when he meets a pool of silence – an encounter with a strange girl, out in the wild marshland. Suddenly his very life and beliefs are challenged as Todd slowly uncovers the horrific truth about Prentisstown and his world. This is an enthralling action-packed adventure from the very start. Book one of a trilogy. 13+. KA.

Back & Beyond: New Zealand Painting for the Young and Curious

Gregory O'Brian
Auckland University Press 2008
Hb ISBN 9781869404048



Anyone who enjoyed *Welcome to the South Seas* will welcome this new book that reaches further back into the art history of New Zealanders. The art selected goes back over two centuries and captures a sense of the imaginative and unexpected. The introduction explores this search for adventure and travel 'between the realm of the imagination and the everyday world we live in.' Alongside each art work there is information about the artist, the content of their work and often drawings many will recognise from early school journals. A fantastic gift for anyone young and curious interested in New Zealand art. HS.

Once upon a time in the North

Philip Pullman, illus John Lawrence
David Fickling Books 2008; Hb ISBN 9780385614320
A beautifully presented compact book, a companion to *Lyra's Oxford* (2003). From Pullman's *Dark Materials*

world, here is the story of how Texan aeronaut, Lee Scoresby and his daemon Hester first meet with Iorek Byrnison, the armoured bear from the North. 12+. KA.

Here Lies Arthur

Philip Reeve
Scholastic 2008; Pb ISBN 9781407103587

There are many retellings of the Arthurian legend but this one presents the story as it might really have happened with Merlin, or Myrddin, as an early spin doctor enhancing and exaggerating events to build an ordinary warlord into a legendary and heroic figure. The story is recounted by Gwyna, a servant girl made homeless by an Arthurian raid, and rescued by Myrddin to help with his public relations campaign. A great adventure story for 12+ and winner of the 2008 Carnegie Medal and the 2007 Nestle Bronze award. HB.

Sam Stern's Student Cookbook

Sam Stern
Walker 2008; Pb ISBN 9781406308181

Sam's previous books (*Cooking Up a Storm, Real Food, Real Fast* and *Get Cooking*) introduced his fresh and chatty style, perfect for prospective teen and student cooks. Not only are the recipes easy to read, the production values high, but each recipe is handily gauged to how much you have in your pockets – perfect for students of all ages. AC.

For adults & families

Everything I Needed to Know About Being a Girl I Learned from Judy Blume

Ed Jennifer O'Connell
Pocket Books 2007
Hb ISBN 9781416531043

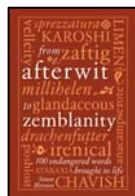
A collection of essays paying tribute to Judy Blume from current writers of YA and adult fiction, each one exploring the influence that Blume's books had on their childhood and adolescence. From bullying, to annoying little brothers, first love to best friends, Judy Blume covered it all with her realistic characters portraying life as it really is. KA



From Afterwit to Zemblanity: 100 Endangered Words Brought to Life

Simon Hertnon
New Holland 2008
Hb ISBN 9781869661939

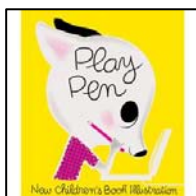
A fabulous, eccentric meander through 100 words in danger of dying out. There's antepenultimate, zaftig (pleasingly plump), bleezed and other joys. Woven throughout the book is the story of Jane and her family as Hertnon uses a word per extract. AC.



Play Pen: New Children's Book Illustration

Martin Salisbury
Laurence King Publishing 2007
Pb ISBN 9781856695244

If you love illustration and want to see the latest, most innovative practitioners check out this guide, packed with illustrations and information about these

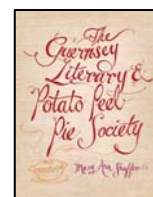


talented individuals and how they create their artworks. Familiar names (Marc Boutavant – creator of Gecko Press' recent *Mouk's Journey*, Shaun Tan and Sara Fanelli) appear along with the unfamiliar, which will have you searching the shelves for their books and enthralled with the range of styles incorporated in their pages. An inspiration for aspiring illustrators and a thoroughly modern production. Teens and adults. CB.

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Mary Ann Schaffer, with Annie Barrows
Allen & Unwin 2008
Hb ISBN 9781741751680

It is 1946 and author Juliet struggles to write her next novel. Then a letter appears. A letter from Dawsey Adam of Guernsey who has acquired a book she once owned and enquiries into the possibility of her tracking down some other works by Charles Lamb. Dawsey is a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and, intrigued by the name, Juliet begins corresponding with him, and other members. A powerful message of friendship, hope and the wonders of a good book. Adult fiction. AC.



The Art of Graeme Base

Julie Watts
Viking 2008; Hb ISBN 9780670071302

For years we have poured over Graeme Base's work – *Animalia* and *The Waterhole*, for example – now his former publisher takes us behind the scenes. Some of the art included has not been published before. Graeme's comments add yet more interest and value to this stunning book. AC.

