



Storylines

book list

Children's literature Charitable trust of New Zealand

te kaupapa o te korero

Supplement to newsletter ISSN 11750189: Volume 8: Issue 3: February/March 2010

flights of fantasy and science fiction

It has been many years since we published a fantasy and science fiction list, so we thought it was about time to do an updated list with recent releases. We have tried focus on less well-known books and authors.

Contributors to this list are: Kerry Aluf; Sanya Baker; Helen Beckingsale; Tina Collins; Annie Coppel.

Early childhood and early readers

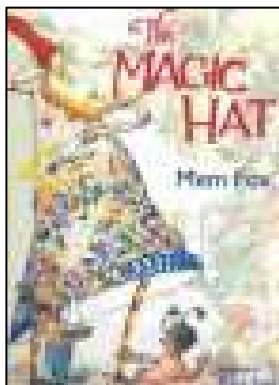
The Magic Hat

Mem Fox; illustrated by Tricia Tusa

Scholastic 2003

ISBN 9781865044637

A magic hat tumbles through town – swirling this way and that – landing and changing the course of people's day. A magical rhyming tale for sharing and reading aloud. 4+. AC.



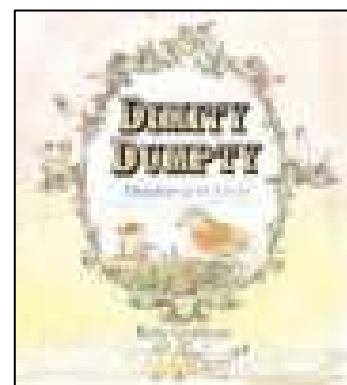
Dimity Dumpty

Bob Graham

Walker Books 2006

ISBN 9781844280674

Dimity is the younger, quieter, shyer sister of the famous Humpty Dumpty. She much prefers being in the background of the family's travelling circus troupe. That is, until her brother foolishly decides to climb a wall. We all know that the king's horses and men failed – it was Dimity who finally put Humpty together again. 3+. AC.



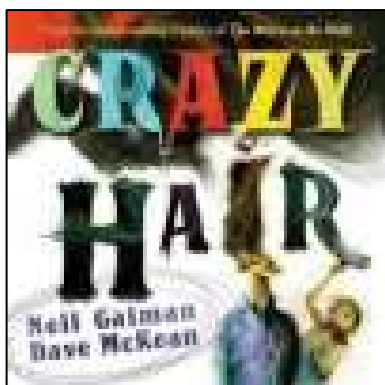
Crazy Hair

Neil Gaiman; illustrated by Dave McKean

HarperCollins 2009

ISBN 9780060579081

What can be found in the locks of unruly hair? The language flows brilliantly and the storyline is fun, though a little unconventional. The illustrations by Dave McKean are bright and vivid. This would make a fun read aloud to a small group of older preschoolers. KA.



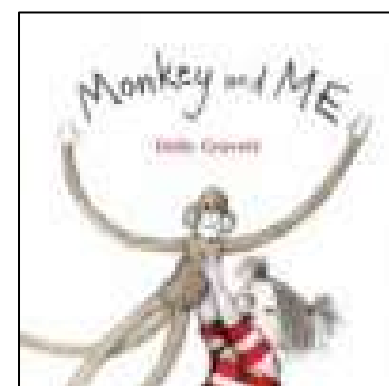
Monkey and Me

Emily Gravett

Macmillan 2007

ISBN 9780230015838

A little girl and her toy monkey pretend to be different animals in this celebration of imagination and play. Subtle colours and soft line drawings makes this a treat for the eye as well as



the ear. Great fun to read aloud, especially as it encourages audience participation. 2+. AC.

Traction Man Meets Turbodog

Mini Grey

Random House 2009

ISBN 9780099484028

Traction Man returns! But his beloved pet Scrubbing Brush vanishes, to be replaced by the hygienic Turbodog. Traction Man

searches and searches until he hears a faint bark from the Dark and Terrible UnderWorld of the Bin. A celebration of the power of the imagination. 5+. AC.



themselves for hours playing with a simple box. This little rabbit is adamant that it is not a box but instead it is a... spaceship, burning building... whatever the rabbit's imagination conceives. This is a beautifully designed and presented book, especially in hardback, as the cover feels like cardboard, as do the endpapers. *Not a Stick* is also worth hunting out. AC.

Alice the Fairy

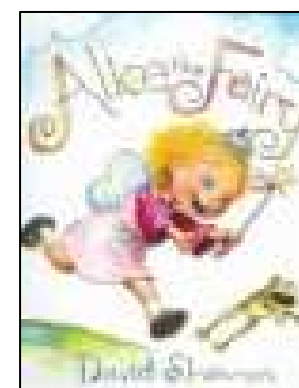
David Shannon

Scholastic 2004

ISBN 9780439490252

Alice is a Temporary Fairy – she's still learning her skills. But she is having fun

practicing her spells. A fun exploration of a young girl's imagination. 3+. AC.



Baby Brains

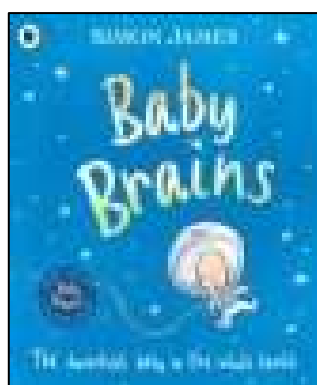
Simon James

Walker 2005

ISBN 9781844285228

Baby Brains is the smartest baby in the world. He even works as a doctor in hospital

– before he can walk. He is invited on a space mission – which is wonderful but, like any baby, he soon wants his mum. 4+. AC.

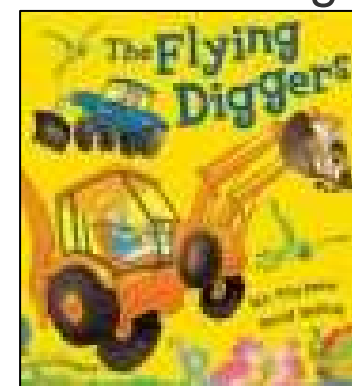


The Flying Diggers

Ian Whybrow; illustrated by David Melling
Hodder 2009

ISBN 9780340903124

When Teddy's Granbam makes Teddy and his best friend Ruby some toy diggers they don't realise how special they are - until they start to play with them and the diggers magically transform into life size flying diggers and swoop the children off for a fantastic adventure to rescue a tiger cub in danger in the jungle. A brilliant book for boys and tom boys combining transforming diggers, a rescue adventure and the power of the imagination! The story includes a template for creating the toys. 4+. TC



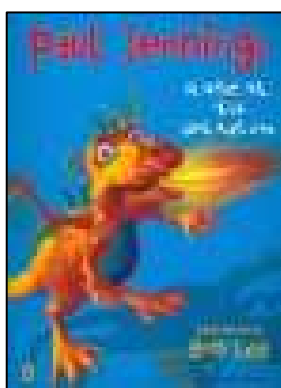
Rascal the Dragon

Paul Jennings

Penguin 2006

ISBN 9780143501732

First in a series of books about a young dragon, Rascal, in a world where dragons are just like dogs. The Rascal books have been written to appeal to beginner readers, but are just as fun to read together. 4+. AC.



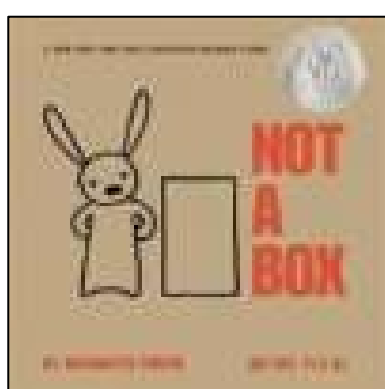
Not a Box

Antoinette Portis

HarperCollins 2007

ISBN 9780061123221

A joy for all those children who have entertained



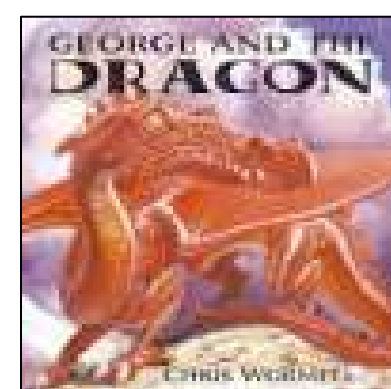
George and the Dragon

Chris Wormell

Random House 2003

ISBN 9780099417668

In a deep cave in a high mountain lives a dragon. He scares whole armies.



But, he has a secret. One that is revealed when a little mouse, George, moves in. 3+. AC.

How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?
Jane Yolen; illustrated by Mark Teague

HarperCollins 2007
ISBN 9780007235612

One of many books about dinosaurs learning new skills – and manners – by this talented pair. Fun learning for dino-obsessed children 3+. AC.

Upper Primary and Intermediate Fiction

The Serial Garden: The Complete Armitage Family Stories

Joan Aiken

Big Mouth House 2008

ISBN 9781931520577

Aiken wrote these delightful and magical stories about the Armitage family back in the 40s and 50s. Here they are all collected in the one publication. 8+. KA.



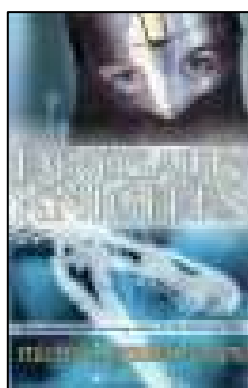
Dinosaur Knights

Michael Gerard Bauer

Scholastic 2009

ISBN 9781862917958

A thoroughly enjoyable science fiction adventure romp. A scientist uses time stretch technology in an experiment to bring a predatory dinosaur into the present. The experiment fails leaving the predator stranded sometime in the Middle Ages in the English countryside. Two boys must face the 'dragon monster' in an attempt to save their father from an undeserved hanging at the hands of the castle's unscrupulous steward. The story is told from three perspectives – the confused and hungry theropod blundering in the woods, the scientist working furiously in the lab to realise his dream and the two boys – Roland who is so desperate to be a knight and Oswald, his twin brother. KA.



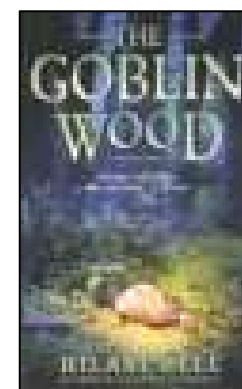
The Goblin Wood

Hilari Bell

Harper Collins 2003 / Harper Teen 2004

ISBN 9780060513733

Makenna is a hedgewitch whose mother has been drowned as a sorceress and fled into the woods where she eventually unites with goblins in battling the ruling Hierarchy, which is determined to exterminate all magical creatures. When a young knight is sne to do battle with her the two discover that neither has the only true view of their world and attempt to work together for the benefit of all. Bell's thought provoking books take an unusual, political view of her fantasy worlds and are recommended for 11+. HB.



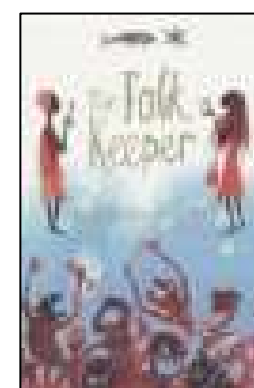
The Folk Keeper

Franny Billingsley

Bloomsbury 2002

ISBN 9780747560548

Corrina is a Folk Keeper, one whose job it is to control the savage beings who live in the cellar. Corrina's is a life of mystery. Who are her parents? Why does she feel drawn to the sea? Why does her hair grow so quickly? A magical and dramatic tale for 10+. AC.



The Singer of all Songs

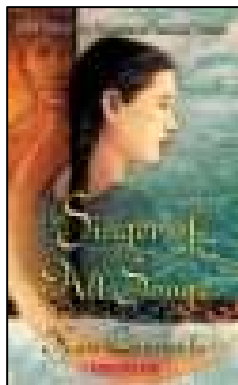
[Chanters of Tremaris; book 1]

Kate Constable

Allen & Unwin 2002

ISBN 186508820X

This is the first in the Chanters of Tremaris trilogy and tells of a world divided by the gods into separate lands both physically and magically, as each realm controls one of eight powers worked through song or chantments. Calwyn is a novice priestess who becomes involved with saving Tremaris from a sorcerer who is determined to gain control of all nine chantments and rule the world as the Singer of all Songs. This is a convincingly crafted magical world which will appeal to toes who have enjoyed writers such as Ursula Le Guin and Tanith Lee. HB.



pretty younger sister, insists on wearing a silver necklace to their village's 'Need-Fire' Ceremony even though metal has been banned by the bard. Her place in the ceremony is taken by Pega, the ugly slave girl with a heart of gold, but the damage has already been done to Jack's family – now plagued by bad luck and ill temper they need to take Lucy north to a monastery where miracles have been known to occur. KA.

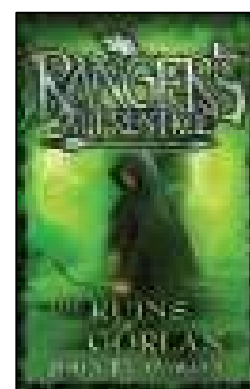
Ruins of Gorlan [Rangers Apprentice; book 1]

John Flanagan

Random House 2004

ISBN 9781864719048

This is the first in the Rangers Apprentice series and provides a similar medieval style world with magic at the heart of it as Tamora Pierce's Alanna books. The central character is 15-year-old Will, an orphan who hopes to be trained as a knight but is assigned as apprentice to Halt the Ranger. He finds he has unique talents which fit him for this role and achieves success and satisfaction. Horace, a bullying fellow orphan who is training to be a knight, comes to respect Will's abilities and their friendship develops in the course of the series over many exciting adventures. This is a great read for 10+ and I have had great success recommending this series to adventure loving boys. HB.



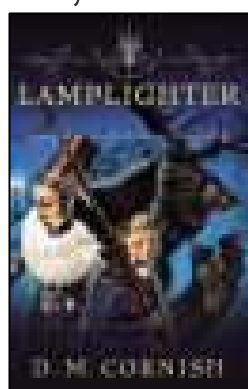
Lamplighter [Monster Blood Tattoo; book 2]

DM Cornish

Putnam 2008

ISBN 9780399246395

This is a great fantasy, Cornish has imagined a wonderful world full of interesting folk and intrigue and monsters. Follow the adventures of orphan Rossamund who after the adventures in book one, finally starts his life as an apprentice lamplighter. KA.



The Land of the Silver Apples

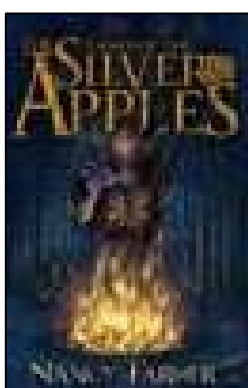
Nancy Farmer

Simon & Schuster 2007

ISBN 9781416904663

This is the sequel to Farmer's *The Sea of Trolls*.

Both books are epic adventures. Farmer manages to blend both early Christian values with old Celtic pagan beliefs in this quest that takes Jack, a boy bard-in-training, and his companions into the world of hobgoblins, kelpies and elves. Lucy, Jack's selfish but



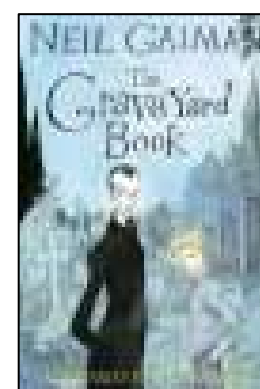
The Graveyard Book

Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Chris Riddell

Bloomsbury 2008

ISBN 9780747569015

Nobody Owens, or Bod, was so small when he made his startling escape from his family's killer, that he was able to negotiate the railings surrounding the old graveyard without so much as a squeeze. How could this 18-



month-old tot possibly know that this was perhaps the only safe place in the whole city for him that foggy night – the locked gates kept his hunter at bay and by opening time the next morning Bod had already found a new family. In *The Jungle Book* writ supernatural, he had been adopted by the graveyard's own locals; people with lots of practice at disappearing – a host of ghosts and a guardian neither living nor dead. Gaiman, whose varied creations have included *Coraline*, *Stardust* and the *Wolves in the Walls*, won the 2009 Newbery Medal for this wonderful story. Pure delight. SB

I, Coriander

Sally Gardner

Orion 2005

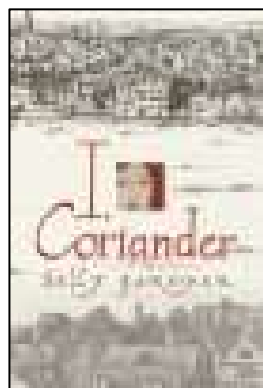
ISBN 1842552902

Coriander Hobie, the daughter of a shipping merchant and a lady renowned for her

remedies and knowledge, begins her life in a grand house on the edge of the Thames in 17th century London. By the light of seven candles, a device that gives rhythm and cadence to her telling, Coriander writes for us her tale of fickle fortunes and faeries, politics and Puritanism and the incursion of her mother's mysterious past.

This is an utterly absorbing fairy tale beautifully written and presented, in its original hard cover form, with enchanting endpapers reproducing a drawing from the time in which the story is set.

Unmissable. SB.



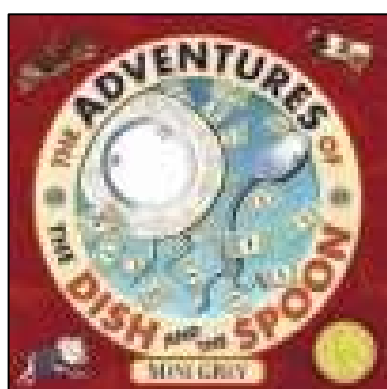
The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon

Mini Grey

Random House 2007

ISBN 9780099475767

What happened after the dish and spoon run away.



They find fame and fortune – and then loose it all, and each other, only to happiness again. Fun for 6+. AC.

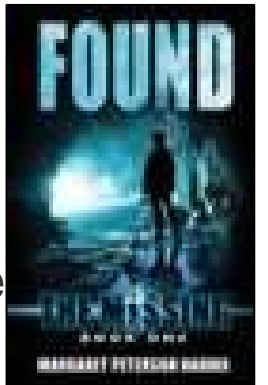
Found [The Missing; Book 1]

Margaret Peterson Haddix

Hachette 2009

ISBN 9780340970669

A new time travel series for children. This first book sets the background for the series. In the prologue an unidentified plane suddenly appears at airport gate 2B. Onboard are 36 babies, once offloaded the plane disappears. Switch to 13 years later and 13yr old Jonah who knows he's adopted suddenly starts receiving mysterious letters. Then his friend Chip discovers he's adopted and gets the letters as well. The FBI are involved along with adults from the future and children from the past. KA.



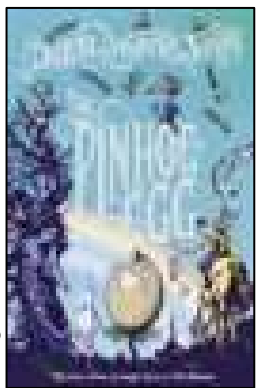
The Pinhoe Egg

Diana Wynne Jones

Harper Collins 2006

ISBN 9780007228553

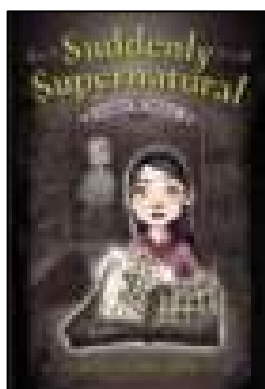
This is the most recent of the Chrestomanci stories and takes us into the countryside surrounding Chrestomanci Castle where two families, both misusing their magic, become involved in a vicious feud. Central to the story are Cat Chant, of Charmed Life, and Marianne Pinhoe, whose grandmother is head of witchcraft in their town and who struggles unsuccessfully to convince the rest of her family that her grandmother is up to no good. Parts of this book are very funny but the struggle between good and evil powers underlies the entertaining story and in the end those who have misused their powers are fittingly punished. Chrestomanci fans will enjoy seeing more of his family life. 11+. HB.



School Spirit [Suddenly Supernatural]

Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
Little Brown 2008
ISBN 9780316066839

This is the first in a series about a teenage medium aimed at a slightly younger age group than many of the books in this genre. Kat Roberts is the daughter of a professional medium and has discovered that she too can see spirits. Bullying and the danger of social ostracism is a common theme in these books and Kat is torn between using her new found gift to help a ghost move on and finding herself friendless because of this talent. This is an enjoyable read for 9+ and will probably appeal most to girls. HB.

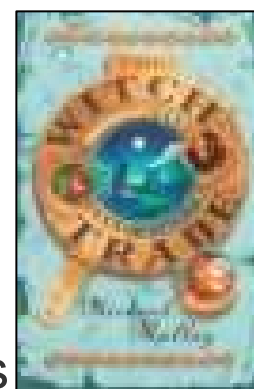


dad. When an alien being – Ariel Su – asks Jono to help him save the world, Jono's not entirely convinced he is the one. A fascinating science fiction adventure, with a side order of physics lessons – hardly noticeable, and thus digestible to non-science types. AC.

The Witch Trade

Michael Molloy
Chicken House 2001
ISBN 9781903434529

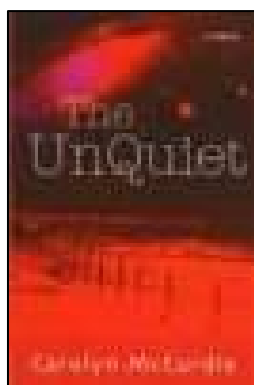
Abby and Spike are drawn into a world of witches, magic and quests. Their town, Speller, has hardly any children as most were washed out to sea in a storm. Abby's parents have never returned from a mission. How are these all related? A fantastical adventure for 8+. AC.



The Unquiet

Carolyn McCurdie
Longacre 2006
ISBN 9781877361401

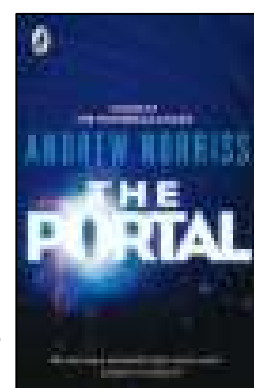
A deadly unquiet sweeps the universe – devouring planets in its path. Slowly, countries of Earth are vanishing. But Tansy and Anaru have gifts that might help. A spellbinding story which uses world mythologies. AC.



The Portal

Andrew Norriss
Puffin 2007
ISBN 9780141321585

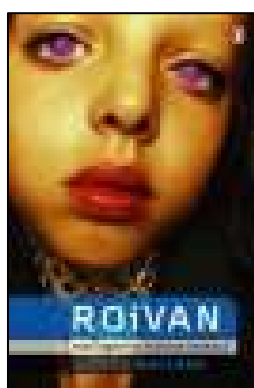
When brothers William and Daniel find that their parents have disappeared without trace they ring the emergency number their father has given them and find that their house is the site of an intergalactic portal. William finds himself in charge of the portal in his father's absence and his efforts to control a variety of visitors from all over this and other galaxies is both fascinating and funny. I have read everything I can find by this author since I first encountered his award winning book *Aquila* and recommend him for 9+. HB.



Roivan

Glynne MacLean
Penguin 2003
ISBN 9780143318118

Roivan is an odd child with amazing powers, and of an unknown species. But why has she stowed away on a ship? Where did she come from? AC.



Mind Over Matter

Heather McQuillan
Scholastic NZ 2006
ISBN 9781869437428

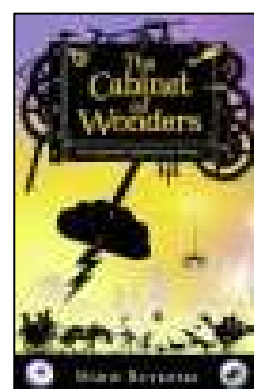
Jono's struggling to hold it all together. He's being bullied at school, and then there's his



The Cabinet of Wonders
[Kronos Chronicles; book 1]

Marie Rutkoski
Farrar, Straus and Giroux 2008
ISBN 9780374310264

The Cabinet of Wonders is a fantasy adventure story that



never falters. Petra's father's eyes are taken out soon after he completes the construction of a marvellous clock in Prague for the young and ambitious Prince. The clock has certain magical properties but needs the last piece to be added. Aided by a mechanical spider and her Roma friends, Petra seeks work in the Prince's castle in Prague. This a grand adventure, steeped in small but wondrous mechanisms and magic. 10+. KA.

Any Which Wall

Laurel Snyder; illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Random House 2009
ISBN 9780375855603

This book is inspired by the stories of Edward Eager, where ordinary children have adventures caused by everyday things which have magical powers. Four children ride their bikes into the countryside where they encounter a wall which doesn't appear to have particular purpose. Through trial and error they find it will send them through time and space in response to a wish, as long as there is another wall to connect with. As in Eager's books the children have to be careful to phrase their wishes to reflect exactly what they want. HB.



Frozen in Time

Ali Sparkes
Oxford University Press 2009
ISBN 9780192727558

This entertaining mystery/ adventure/ science fiction story has a different take on time travel when two children, put into cryonic suspension by their father in 1956, are discovered by two children in 2009. As they think they are still in 1956 and that only a short time has elapsed since their father froze them and they are understandably confused. As they try to



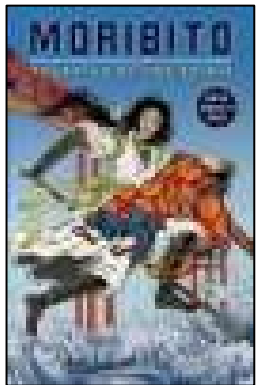
adjust to modern life, we get a good picture of what life was like in the 1950s and how society has changed over the last 50 years. A good read for 8-9+.HB.

Guardian of the Spirit [Moribito; book 1]

Nahoko Uehashi, translated by Cathy Hirano, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu
Scholastic 2008

ISBN 9780545005432

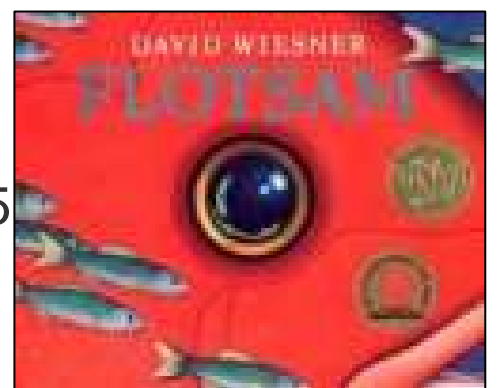
is the first of a fantasy series set in medieval Japan. Balsa, a young woman, is a trained warrior, and given the task of guarding a boy, Chagum, the second prince after saving him from drowning. Chagum has been possessed with a spirit egg that must be safeguarded or the land will suffer from a severe drought. Quite an adventure with lots of fighting against warriors and a monstrous mythical beast. This book has been very popular in Japan and Balsa's adventures have been adapted for a TV series. 10+. KA.



Flotsam

David Wiesner
Clarion Books 2006
ISBN 9780618194575

In another of his wondrous, wordless fantasies, David Wiesner brings us the story of a young lad's visit to the beach. Drenched by a sudden wave, the boy finds himself washed up with a mysterious, old underwater camera. Unable to find the owner, he decides to develop the film and is astonished to see images of a fantastical world beneath the waves – clockwork fish, an octopus' living room, and turtles carrying entire communities on their shells. But perhaps most fascinating of all is a photograph of a girl with a photograph in her hand – tracing back through all the children who have found this magical piece of flotsam, added



themselves to the picture and thrown it back out to sea. SB.

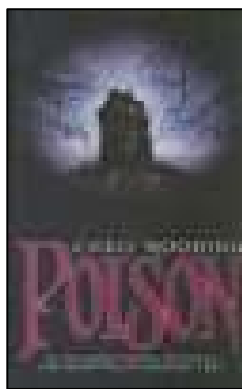
Poison

Chris Wooding

Scholastic 2003

ISBN 9780439977258

This is a Gothic fantasy which should appeal to those with a taste for macabre horror.



Poison is the name of the heroine - she lives in a place called Black Marshes, in a realm ruled by phaeries, most of whom are really nasty types. When her baby sister is kidnapped and a changeling left in its place Poison is determined to rescue her. This involves a series of hair-raising adventures many of which repeat the events of familiar fairy tales. 11+ HB.

Senior Fiction

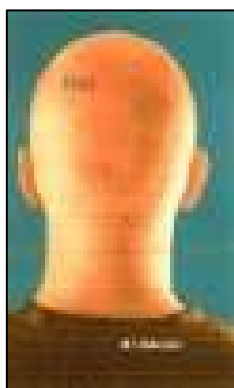
Feed

MT Anderson

Candlewick Press 2004

ISBN 9780763617264

A must-read for our media-obsessed teens, this novel extrapolates from this increasingly connected world into a future where people don't have room for their own thoughts, so overwhelming is the constant 'feed' of information from the internet via implants directly into their brains. With access to so much information at the end of a thought, MT Anderson appears to have asked, will we make wiser decisions? Will our young people be wiser, more knowledgeable, more engaged with learning and exploring? In this book he makes a compelling argument that the opposite will be true and that just as television promised to be, and sometimes is, an enormously compelling tool for education yet more often 'entertains' us into a torpor, easy access to information can come at a cost. SB.



stranger turns up claiming that Cam is in fact a changeling and must return to the fairy world to take his place as heir to the fairy king. Morgan, being psychic, can see the physical changes in her boyfriend and is determined to save him but it all seems beyond her control. This a great read for 13+ HB.

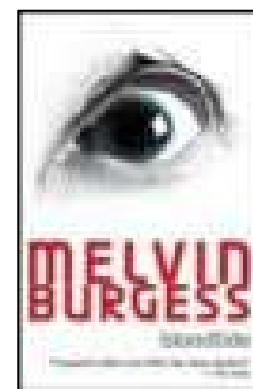
Bloodtide

Melvin Burgess

Penguin 2001

ISBN 9780141306896

Two warlord families fighting for many years for control of a dystopian London. Outside the walls are halfhumans - ugly genetic mixes of beast, human and robot. Then Lord Val Volson decides to make peace and offers his daughter Signy, twin to Sigy in marriage to Conor. Will there be peace or betrayal, even the Nordic gods intervene. Based on the Icelandic Volsunga Saga, this is a powerful, brutal, grim story of war, love, revenge, and fantasy. There is a sequel *Bloodsong*. KA.



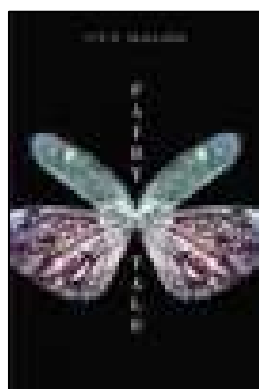
Fairy Tale

Cyn Balog

Delacorte 2009

ISBN 9780385906449

Two 16 year olds, childhood sweethearts, who share a birthday are devastated when a



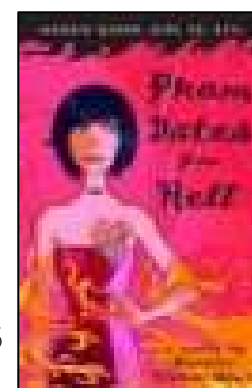
Prom Dates from Hell

Rosemary Clement-Moore

Delacorte 2008

ISBN 9780385734134

This is the first in the series Maggie Quin: girl vs. evil and is great fun, despite the usual appalling glimpse of the back biting , dog



eat dog life of American High School students. Maggie, using the sixth sense inherited from her grandmother, has to track down the demon which has been released and is wreaking havoc on members of the elite clique at school. Her sarcastic wit is what makes this such an enjoyable, if unlikely story. 13+ HB.

The Blue Girl

Charles de Lint

Viking 2004

ISBN 9780670059249

Fifteen year old Imogene has a wild past and is determined not to bring it with her to her new high school so she makes friends with good-girl Maxine and puts up with being targeted by the school bullies. The girls befriend Adrian, the school ghost, and Imogene finds herself in mortal danger from the dark forces of the faery world which Adrian wants to share with her. This is a gripping story and both the viciousness of the high school world and the truly evil fairies are utterly believable. HB.



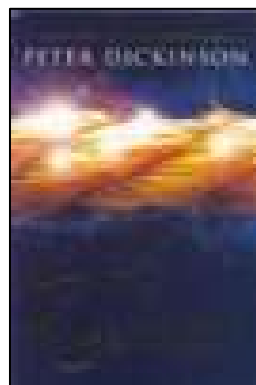
The Ropemaker

Peter Dickinson

Delacorte 2001 / Macmillan 2001

ISBN 9780330397131

This is a fascinating and thought provoking fantasy illustrating how myth and story can have their basis in reality. A prosperous valley has been kept safe from marauders for generations by rituals no longer understood, but the magic which protected it is fading. Tija and Tahl, descendants of those who had the safeguards put in place must travel outside the valley in search of the magician who created them. 12+ HB.



A Kiss in Time

Alex Flinn

HarperTeen 2009

ISBN 9780060874193

This is a fun retelling of the Sleeping Beauty story. Talia, Princess of Euphrasia, has been asleep for 300 years when Jack, a modern day tourist from Miami, stumbles upon the castle with his best friend Travis. The story has some nice moments as the characters deal with modern interpretations on destiny, beauty, true love, and happily ever after. KA.

Salt

Maurice Gee

Puffin 2007

ISBN 9780143303350

Life in Blood Burrow, where Hari is born, is generally nasty, brutish and short. But at least it is free – well, freedom of a sort – and all there live in fear of being taken away. For to the Burrow the Company's Whips come and come, to haul away labour –for ships, for farms, for the 'greater prosperity'. But more than they fear any of these lives of slavery, the people of the Burrow fear having to mine the Deep Salt. When Hari's father is found in a sweep, neither his own considerable skills with a knife nor Hari's secret ability to communicate with animals can save him from being taken away to the Salt. Pearl is from the other side of the tracks. She is Company born, into a life of privilege and plenty yet she also has a secret and with it her life at home becomes no longer tenable; she and her loyal maid Tealeaf must flee. Thrown together Pearl and Hari must combine their talents and, with the help of Tealeaf's people, undertake a mission not just of significance to them personally but, they begin to realise, to the entire world. Winner of the Young Adult Category of the New Zealand Post Book Awards 2008. SB



The Secret Life of Sparrow Delaney

Suzanne Harper

HarperTeen 2008

ISBN 9780061131608

Sparrow Delaney is the seventh daughter of a psychic, and is expected to develop great powers – and so she does, very early in her life, but she is determined not to acknowledge them and not to let her family know that she has any powers at all. However a teenage ghost is equally determined that she is going to help him inform his family as to how he died and help him move on to the other side. This is a love story as well as a ghost story and Sparrow is a well drawn and believable character. HB.



you forward. The final action is intense, exciting and quite ruthless. KA.

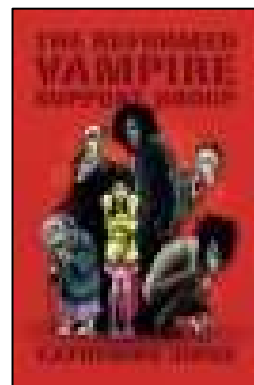
The Reformed Vampire Support Group

Catherine Jinks

Allen & Unwin 2009

ISBN 9781741756722

Nina has been a vampire since 1973, at fifteen, she's a permanent teenager. She lives with her now elderly mum and attends the weekly Reformed Vampire Support Group run by the pastor of a local church. The group survive on guinea pig blood and are all fairly reclusive. When one in their group is slain they realise that they must track down the killer before the killer strikes again. They just don't know the adventure they are about to embark on. KA.



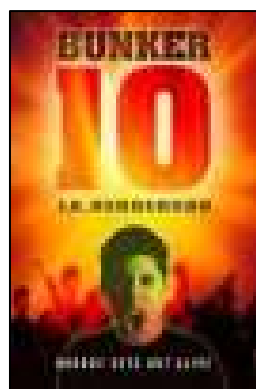
Bunker 10

JA Henderson

Oxford University Press 2007

ISBN 9780192754868

All the action takes place in highly secret Pinegrove Military Installation where the British army undertakes research deep underground. One of the secrets of Pinegrove involves seven teenagers, each one a genius, who have been plucked from obscure beginnings and given a chance at an advanced scientific education. Follow the action on the day that one teen decides to take his girlfriend on a special date. KA.



Tender Morsels

Margo Lanagan

Knopf 2008

ISBN 9780375848117

This is an epic folktale retelling of the Snow White and Rose Red story. Lanagan has taken a simple folktale and spun it out to a richly engaging tale, weaving in a fascinating age old bear ritual from medieval France. Liga, a young woman, bears two daughters and nurtures and nourishes them in an isolated cottage on the edge of a forest in a protected world that she has retreated to in order to keep them safe from the cruelties of life. KA.



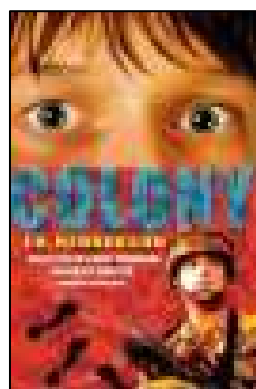
Colony

JA Henderson

Oxford University Press 2009

ISBN 9780192755391

Really exciting reading that should enthrall with the mix of action, secret US military experiments, a lonely isolated island community and lots of ants. As the plot advances just enough of the back story is uncovered at each stage to entice



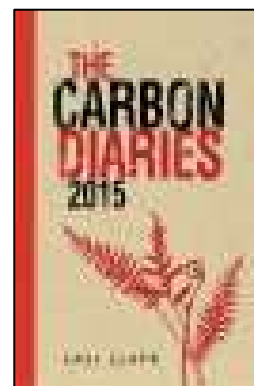
The Carbon Diaries 2015

Saci Lloyd

Hodder Children's Books 2008

ISBN 9780340970157

Follows the diary of Laura, a 16-year-old London schoolgirl, as she writes about the first year of carbon dioxide rationing. Every resident in the UK is issued a carbon card. Laura just



wants her life back, her older sister wants her gap year dream job back and their parents are bickering over energy usage. Then the global weather begins to go haywire around the world and her father decides to farm a pig and two chickens in their back yard. An entertaining look at daily life coping with change brought on by extreme weather. KA.

Ruined

Paula Morris

Point 2009

ISBN 9780545042154

A ghost, a curse on a privileged family, and the New Orleans Mardi Gras all come together in this mystery.



Rebecca must spend some months with her 'aunt' in New Orleans while her Dad travels to China for work. Aunt Claudia and her young daughter, Aurelia, live in a small, ramshackle old home in the privileged Garden District of grand mansions, just across the street from an old cemetery. One night, during an escapade in the cemetery, Rebecca meets Lisette, a ghost. KA.

Season of Secrets

Sally Nicholls

Marion Lloyd Books 2009

ISBN 9781407105130

Season of Secrets entangles the Green Man myth into a modern setting. Molly and her sister are sent to live with their grandparents in a small village when their father can no longer cope after the death of their mother. It's Autumn and Molly encounters the Green Man one night when he is being chased by a horned rider and his hunters. KA.



Ancient Appetites

Oisin McGann

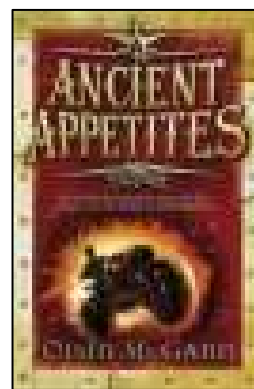
Corgi Children's 2008

ISBN 9780552554992

This fantasy trilogy is set in an alternate Victorian-age Ireland.

The Wildenstern family have created an empire over hundreds of years of

dominance, owning many estates and trade interests and live in a massive 37-storey mansion outside Dublin. Nathaniel, the youngest son has just returned from two years in Africa and before he even reaches home learns of the death of his oldest brother and heir. He has been hunting engimals - a strange fusion of machine and beast found in the wild and able to be tamed. Due to the strange family rules of Ascension Nat is suspicious and determined to find the killer. This is a fantasy thriller with the engimals providing a steampunk-ish gloss. Book two is *Wisdom of Old Men*. KA.



Life as We Knew It

Susan Beth Pfeffer

Harcourt Children's Books

2006

ISBN 9780152058265

An asteroid has crashed into the moon causing it to move closer to Earth, instigating many disasters such as tsunami, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes. The story follows the survival of one Pennsylvanian family through the next six or so months as everything we take for granted disappears in the ensuing chaos. There are two more books in this series *The Dead and the Gone* and *This World We Live In*. KA.



Double Helix

Nancy Werlin

Puffin 2005

ISBN 9780142403273

Eli decides to take a gap year before starting college, he has always had this urge to hold himself back, not play sport or achieve academically to his full potential. He is offered a job at a Transgenics lab by the famous Dr Wyatt and starts working there much to his father's extreme disapproval. His mother is dying from Huntington's Disease and somehow there seems to be a past link to Dr Wyatt. A good mystery based on genetics and DNA. KA.



contemporary America but depicting generations of girls afflicted by a curse, includes the topics of rape, teen pregnancy and family madness. The curse is based on an alternative version of the ballad 'Scarborough Fair' and Lucy finds it impossible to believe that she is destined for insanity once her baby is born if she cannot fulfil the terms of the curse as outlined in the ballad. This is a fantasy set firmly in the modern world and Lucy's foster parents and her childhood sweetheart work with her to find practical solutions to such things as the shirt with no seams or needlework, using the Internet to research the possibility of an acre of land between sea and beach and, above all surrounding Lucy with love and support which helps her to achieve the seemingly impossible and free, not only herself and her baby, but preceding generations. A very satisfying read suitable for 14+. HB.

Impossible

Nancy Werlin

Speak 2009

ISBN 9780142414910

Nancy Werlin does not usually write fantasy and this novel, set in

The booklist is available online at www.storylines.org.nz – you will need to log on with your Storylines account to view the booklist.