



Supplement to *What's the Story?* newsletter ISSN 11750189: Volume 9: Issue 4: November 2010

Books for Christmas Giving

'Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.' ~ Oren Arnold.

Our book list features books we'd be happy to give – or receive! – as Christmas presents. Give the gift of your heart, and an example, by choosing books this year. You may recognise some of the reviews – this is because the books are so wonderful, we wanted to tell you about them again – this time as Christmas gifts.

These may be brand-new, just discovered older titles, or welcome reprints of old favourites. We're an eclectic bunch, and our selection usually travels across many genres and tastes.

We've also taken the opportunity to stretch our geographic boundaries, and suggest books that you may have to order in, specially. But, as many of us are ordering books online more and more, we thought this wouldn't be an issue for you! Of course, many of the titles will also be available at local bookshops.

Reviewers:

Kerry Aluf, Sanya Baker, Helen Beckingsale, Crissi Blair, Allister Campbell, Tina Collins, Annie Coppell, Lois Huston, Wayne Mills, Helen Schwarcz, Rosemary Tisdall, and guest starring graduate students from the Faculty of Education, University of Auckland.

For younger readers:

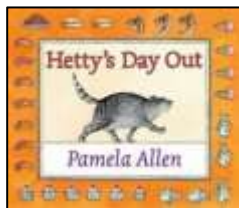
Hetty's Day Out.

Pamela Allen.

Viking (Penguin) 2010;

ISBN 9780670074471.

New Zealand author.



A wonderfully fun counting

book as we follow Hetty on her adventure.

Out of the catflap and out into the big wide

world – of food! As with the best concept

books, this tale of cat shenanigans

seamlessly integrates the learning into the

story. Annie.

Shark vs Train.

Chris Barton, illustrated Tom

Lichtenheld.

Little, Brown & Company

2010; ISBN 9780316007627.



Two boys raid the toy box, pulling out a

shark and train. Who will win? Wildly

imaginative situations – hot air balloon rides,

pie-eating, lemonade stands, and much

more – and tongue-in-cheek humour

follows. 4+. Annie.

The Noisy Book.

Soledad Bravi.

Gecko Press 2010; ISBN 9781877467523.

A sturdy board book with

over 100 pages of noise! A

great book to share – very

loudly – with ages 2+. Annie.



Shh! Don't Wake the Baby!

Petra Brown.

The Five Mile Press 2008; ISBN

9781742111087.

When Mommy Elephant finally gets baby

rocked to sleep, she asks

Little Elephant to be as quiet

as he can. But that's not

easy for this noisy,

enthusiastic boy, who makes

a big din even when doing the smallest

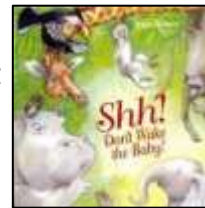
thing. Soon, the inevitable happens: HE

WAKES THE BABY! This is a classic story

with a big surprise. Turn the final page and

see a fabulous 3-D pop-up scene and hear

baby laugh joyfully. 3+. Tina.



Farmer Beetroot's Birthday.

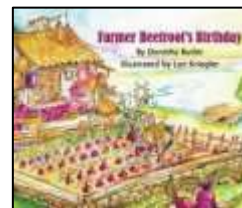
Dorothy Butler; illustrated

by Lyn Kriegler.

Duck Creek Press (David

Ling) 2010; ISBN

9781877378430.



New Zealand author and illustrator.

It's Farmer Beetroot's birthday but his

friends haven't turned up for his party so he

goes to investigate, and falls into the same

trap his friends have landed in. Mrs Beetroot

comes to sort them all out then treats them

to a luscious birthday feast. An amusing and

whimsical tale with brightly-coloured

illustrations – including lots of beetroot red!

3-8. Crissi.

Ria the Reckless Wrybill.

Jane Buxton, illustrated by

Jenny Cooper.

Puffin 2010; ISBN

9780143504504.

New Zealand author and

illustrator.



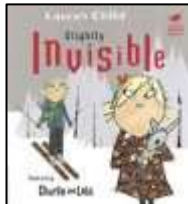
Jane Buxton's story tells us of Ria and Rua, two baby wrybills and their parents' efforts to teach them how to be safe from predators. Rua listens carefully and follows all their instructions, but Ria, his sister, has a mind of her own. She was born with her beak curved to the left, instead of the right, so she feels very unique. Her reckless attitude almost costs her her life, but instead she learns a valuable lesson. Rosemary.

Slightly Invisible.

Lauren Child.

Orchard Books 2010; ISBN 9781408307908.

A new Charlie and Lola title in time for Christmas will be enthusiastically welcomed by their many fans. Charlie and his friend are in search of strange and tricky creatures



and they don't want Lola to bother them. However, Lola, with the help of pink milk, knows just how to deal with such creatures. 3+. Helen B.

A Dog Like That.

Janene Cooper; illustrated by Evie Kemp. Duck Creek Press (David Ling) 2010; ISBN 9781877378416.

New Zealand author and illustrator.

Everybody tells Evie what a dog should do, but she knows that her rather unruly pet is just perfect.



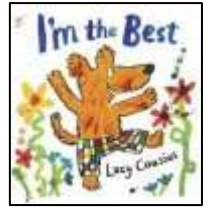
Illustrated in beautiful cut paper by a recent AUT graphic arts graduate. This dog will win every reader's heart. 4+. Crissi.

I'm the Best.

Lucy Cousins.

Walker Books 2010; ISBN 9781406323689.

Dog loves to boast about how clever he is. He can run faster than Mole, dig deeper than Goose, swim better than Donkey. But his friends get fed up with him and let him



know who's really the best, which leaves Dog feeling like a sad loser, until his friends all gather round to cheer him up. Glorious loose vividly coloured illustrations with hand-drawn text. An exuberant book to share with 3-6 year olds. Crissi.

The Fierce Little Woman and the Wicked Pirate.

Joy Cowley, illustrated by Sarah Davis.

Gecko Press 2010; ISBN 9781877467400.

New Zealand author and illustrator.

Originally published as an educational reader in 1984, it is wonderful to see this



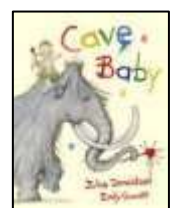
title back in print. The fierce little woman is not intimidated by the pirate when he starts tapping on her window. But appearances can be deceptive, and friendship can change the most wicked heart. A wonderful story to share, with illustrations that add to the story. 3+. Annie.

Cave Baby.

Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Emily Gravett.

Macmillan 2010; ISBN 9780230743083.

Julia Donaldson's rhyming texts always go down well with small children and this story of a small



cave baby with a pot of paint is delightful. I read it to a group of pre-schoolers in the library, some of whom have very short attention spans and it was very well received. This is the first time award winner Emily Gravett has illustrated someone else's text. Pre-school to 5. Helen B.

The Troll.

Julia Donaldson, illustrated by David Roberts.

Macmillan Children's Books 2009; ISBN 9780230017948.

For the many fans of *The*

Gruffalo. This is a familiar tale about the troll, but this is a troll who sits under his bridge reading cookery books. No



goats go trip trapping across his bridge so he eats fish every day and longs for some tasty goat. Meanwhile across the sea a gang of pirates are fed up with their terrible cooking and are busy searching for treasure so they can hire a cook. The troll sets off in search of a bridge which has goats trip-trapping over it. He never finds it, but he does find a chest full of treasure and a very angry pirate gang. Troll is saved from walking the plank by the discovery of his cookery book and frying pan. This isn't a rhyming text like so much of Julie Donaldson's work but it is very funny and reads aloud very well. The bold, colourful comic strip style illustrations are full of detail, and the three year old I read this with loved the alliteration of the pirate's names: Ben Buckle, Percy Patch and Peg Polkadot. Helen S.

The Rain Train.

Elena de Roo; illustrated by Brian Lovelock. Walker Books Australia 2010; ISBN 9781921529146.

New Zealand author and illustrator.

Take the train on a rainy night through the countryside. The text is full of



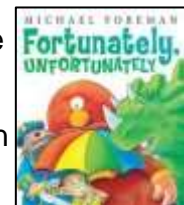
the rhythm and rhyme of the train as it zooms along, clackety-clack. The moody, textural watercolour and ink illustrations perfectly capture the train, the landscape, the weather and the pyjama-clad passengers. Don't miss the lovely endpapers showing dusk at the beginning, dawn at the end. 3-7. Crissi.

Fortunately, Unfortunately.

Michael Foreman.

Andersen Press 2010; ISBN 9781849391238.

There have been other picture books in which fortune and misfortune follow each other in rapid succession but



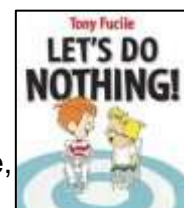
Foreman's colourful story of Milo, who is asked to take granny her umbrella and meets pirates, dinosaurs and aliens along the way, is a worthy addition to this genre. 3+. Helen B.

Let's Do Nothing.

Tony Fucile.

Walker Books UK 2009; ISBN 9781406321357.

Frankie and Sam are bored. They have played every game, baked, painted... so what's



next? Doing nothing. But 'nothing' is very

difficult to do when you have a very active imagination! Frankie can't even manage 10 seconds of 'nothing'. Different fonts are used for each character, with the whole story told in dialogue. Simple illustrations, with minimal backgrounds, complement and expand the text. 4+. Annie.

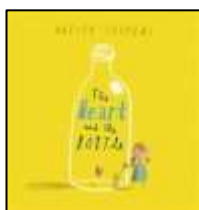
The Heart and the Bottle.

Oliver Jeffers.

HarperCollins 2010; ISBN 9780007182305.

A touching, subtle book about love and loss.

A young girl who is always asking questions suffers a loss and puts her heart in a bottle to protect it, hanging it around her neck. but it



becomes heavier, and her life duller, as time goes by, until she find a way to retrieve her heart again. Child-like drawings, illustrations and diagrams combine to make a spell-binding book. 4-8. Crissi.

Two Peas in a Pod.

Chris McKimmie.

Allen & Unwin 2010; ISBN 9781742373041.

Marvin and Violet are neighbours and have been best friends since they were babies,

like two peas in a pod. But then Violet moves away. A quirky story about everyday stuff that kids will identify with. Loose child-like



illustrations using all sorts of media, making for a visual feast and an authentic childhood experience. 4+. Crissi.

The Boy who was Followed Home.

Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Steven Kellogg.

Puffin 2010; ISBN 9780143504375.

New Zealand author.

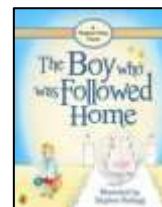
Puffin have re-issued several

picture books as Margaret

Mahy Classics. The story of

Robert who proved irresistible

to hippopotami will appeal to



children today just as much as when it was first issued in 1975. Helen B.

Tyrannosaurus Math.

Michelle Markel, illustrated by Doug Cushman.

Tricycle Press 2010;

9781582462820.

Just hatched, Tyrannosaurus

Math begins to count. And just

counts and counts – first in ones,

then twos and fives – then there's

multiplication, sets, graphs... When he has

a chance to show his siblings how useful

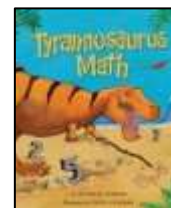
maths can be, his whole family catches the

maths bug. Fun in-jokes for dino-lovers. Fun

and educational for maths-lovers.

Cushman's illustrations add to the

enjoyment. 4+. Annie.



Hill and Hole.

Kyle Mewburn, illustrated by Vasanti Unka.

Puffin Books 2010; ISBN

9780143504535.

New Zealand author and

illustrator.

A glorious whimsical picture book

full of texture, colour and ideas to think

about. Hill and Hole are best mates who

love being themselves, but also long to



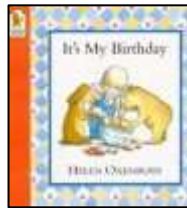
experience the world from each other's point of view, so they ask Mole to help. Things don't work out the way they expected so they have to find another solution. To be enjoyed as much for the textural artwork as for the story. 4+ and illustration-loving adults. Crissi.

It's My Birthday.

Helen Oxenbury.

Walker Books; ISBN 9780744543445.

This a welcome reprint of a book first published in 1996. In a story reminiscent of the Little Red Hen a small boy decides to make a cake, willingly helped by a number of animals. Small children will identify with the comical looks of dismay on the animal's faces when they think they are not going to get any cake.



Helen B.

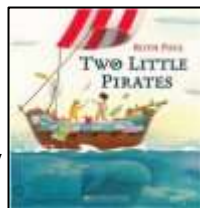
Two Little Pirates.

Ruth Paul.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9781869439354.

Nw Zealand author.

Two little 'pirates' launch an attack on an unsuspecting 'King and Queen' as they enjoy their sleep in...but the parents' perfectly executed retaliation is delightful in its imaginary telling. A perfect picture book balance where the illustrations tell so much of the story. Rosemary.



Magpie Mischief.

June Peka, illustrated by Jo Thapa.

Scholastic NZ 2010; ISBN 9781869439323.

New Zealand author and illustrator.

When a mischievous pet magpie upsets the

tranquillity of their grandfather's vegetable patch, the children suggest he puts the pesky bird in a cage, but Pop has an even better idea. Lively and colourful both in language and illustration, this hearty tale is based on a true family story and won the Storylines Joy Cowley Award in 2009. Fun to share with children 3+. Kerry.



The Mountain Who Wanted to Live in a House.

Maurice Shabolt, illustrated by Renee Haggio.

Duck Creek Press (David Ling) 2010; ISBN 9781877378423.

New Zealand author and illustrator.

A subtle story that has been beautifully illustrated in a muted earthy palette by Haggio. The mountain is lonely and out in the wind and rain, but when he strides, with a 'woho woho' sort of sound, towards the town in order to live in a house, the townsfolk flee. All except Thomas, who eventually comes up with suitable solution. A read aloud story for 3+ that will send imaginations soaring. Kerry.



Heads.

Matthew Van Fleet.

Van Fleet Books (Simon & Schuster) 2010; ISBN 9781442403796.

The most robust interactive book I've ever seen. Strong enough to withstand a small child pulling and



pushing all the tabs to make all the different heads appear, stroke the textures and giggle at the fun, rhyming text. 2+. Crissi B.

The Wheels on the Bus.

Illustrated by Donovan Bixley.

Hachette 2010; ISBN 9781869712136.

New Zealand illustrator.

This is one for kiwi kids overseas, although it might be too late to post for Christmas. Everyone knows 'The wheels on



the bus' and this bus is going around New Zealand with kiwi, penguin, tuatara and fantail included as passengers. 2-5. Helen B.

Willbee the Bumblebee.

Craig Smith & Maureen Thomson, illustrated by Katz Cowley, music by Craig Smith.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9781869439439.

New Zealand authors and illustrator.

A fun illustrated story for 3-6 year olds from the creators of *The Wonky Donkey*. Read



about Willbee's adventure, as gets some

help after his bumblebee jersey unravels.

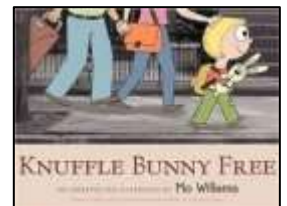
Includes a CD with the Willbee song which will have the younger ones humming along.. Allister.

Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion.

Mo Willems.

Balzer & Bray (HarperCollins) 2010; ISBN 9780061929571.

Trixie and her faithful toy, Knuffle (Ker-nuffle) Bunny, are going to visit Oma and Opa in Holland. That means a lot of waiting.



When they arrive and Oma and Opa's Trixie realises that Knuffle Bunny is missing. A quick phone call tells them that the plane has gone to China! Trixie is very sad, but dreams of all the children Knuffle Bunny would meet and she feels better. So much so, that one the plane home – when she finds Knuffle Bunny – she gives him to the crying baby sitting behind her. A wonderful tale of growing up, even if it is just a little bit. PS check out the pages after 'The End'. 4+. Annie.

For primary ages:

Ushig.

Annemarie Allan.

Footprint Books 2010; ISBN 9780863157431.

Ellen accidentally calls up



Ushig – a kelpie. Ellen and her older brother Davie are pulled into the world of Scottish legends, along the way meeting their grandmother – a selkie.

Ushig is desperate for someone to take his place and, by his actions, it will be Davie. It is over to Ellen to bring her brother home safely. An atmospheric and action-packed fantasy adventure for 8+. Annie.

Saffron: I Have Everything Under Control.

Victoria M. Azaro.

Penguin 2010; ISBN 9780143305521.

New Zealand author.

A welcome return in this sequel to last year's *Saffron*. As the story begins, Saffron's mother is 22 weeks pregnant – although Saffron thinks she might be 50 or 60 weeks. As before, Saffron's family life is chaotic, but that's ok, because Saffron has everything under control. Or does she? 7+. Annie.



The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Gross Junior Edition.

David Borgenicht, Nathaniel Marunas & Robin Epstein, illustrated by Chuck Gonzales.

Chronicle Books 2010; ISBN 9780811875707.

From smelly feet to school toilets – all the information you need to survive gross situations is here! Of course, some of the advice – particularly the 'Wild Kingdom' section – that applicable in New Zealand. But - this is fun and useful information for 8+. Annie.



Follyfoot.

Monica Dickens.

Andersen Press 2010; ISBN 9781849391306.

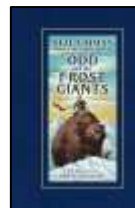
First published in 1971, this modern classic edition is must for horse-made girls 8+. For those whose memories need jogging – Follyfoot is a farm for retired and rescued horses. There are horses, a mystery, and a wonderful ensemble cast to see justice done. Annie. *Odd and the Frost Giants.*



Neil Gaiman.

HarperCollins 2009; ISBN 9780061671739.

Gaiman wrote this stirring adventure based on Norse mythology for World Book Day in 2008. Republished in an attractive hardback edition, this would be an ideal gift especially for a child with an interest in folktales. Trickster Loki, once again, has put the gods into an unlikely position and it is up to Odd, a lonely crippled child, to help them win Asgard back from the Frost Giants. 8+. Kerry.



Finnigan & the Pirates.

Sherryl Jordan.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9781869439279.

New Zealand author.

Finnigan's aunt wants him to take over as the most ferocious pirate in all the seven seas. But Finnigan is not so keen. He wants to dance. As you can imagine, this does not impress Wildbloode the Wicked – his aunt. But it is amazing how much trouble dancing skills can get you out of. A fun read about expectations and individuality. 7+. Annie.

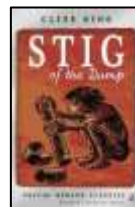


Stig of the Dump.

Clive King.

Puffin 2010; ISBN 9780141329697.

Originally published in 1963. Barney falls into a chalk pit in the dump. There he meets Stig. Stig lives in the dump, in a cave decorated and furnished by rubbish. As Barney visits Stig,



he learns how to create useful things out of what surrounds them. When their two worlds collide, as others discover Stig, Barney has to decide who and what to tell. 8+. Annie.

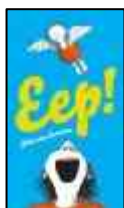
Eep!

Joke van Leeuwen.

English edition published by Gecko Press 2010; ISBN 9781877467578.

Originally published in the Netherlands as *Iep!*; Querido 1996.

Warren and Tina are a childless older couple, Warren spends his days birdwatching, with his book of birds and binoculars. One day he comes across something strange – but... is it a girl-in-the-form-of-a-bird or a bird-in-the-form-of-a-girl? He takes her home and they call her Beedy, but Beedy has wings and needs to fly. This is a quirky and heart-warming story that appeals to the child in everyone.



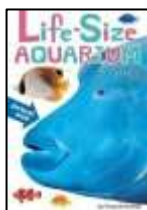
Accompanying the story are delightful illustrations by van Leeuwen. 9+. Kerry.

Life-Size Aquarium.

Edited by Teruyuki Komiya, photographs by Toshimitsu Matsuhashi, English translation by Barbara Hauley Kempe.

Seven Footer Kids 2010; ISBN 9781934734599.

Oh my goodness! First there was *Life-Size Zoo* and *More Life-Size Zoo*. Now – aquarium. There is anything and everything marine – from sea-dragons to penguins, otters to orcas. This is the sort of book, a certain sort of boy will obsess over. If you're wondering how to get photos of a life-size orca



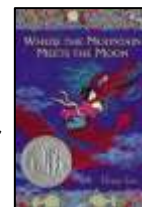
without a GIANT book – the answer lies in selective photography, and fold-out pages. Annie.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon.

Grace Lin.

Little, Brown 2009; ISBN 9780316122696.

Referenced by the traditional Chinese folktales Lin read in her childhood, this is an adorable, enchanting story about Minli, a resourceful young girl, who goes on a journey to find the Old Man of the Moon to ask how she can change her family's fortune. Especially delightful throughout the book are the tales told by various characters to Minli, starting with her favourite nighttime story told by her father. The book is beautifully illustrated by the author. 8+. Kerry.



The Brothers Lionheart.

Astrid Lindgren, illustrated by Ilon Wikland. English edition translated by Joan Tate; Oxford University Press 2009; ISBN 9780192729040.

Originally published in Sweden 1973.

A new edition of Lindgren's much-loved story of two brothers, Jonathan and Karl and their adventures in the heavenly land of Nangiyala. Reunited after their tragic deaths, the sickly Karl is finally able to walk, run, and ride horses like he always dreamed about. 9+. Kerry.



The Willoughbys.

Lois Lowry.

Yearling Books 2010; ISBN
9780385737760.

A wonderfully witty and zany
look at traditional – old-
fashioned – children’s books.



The parents are oblivious, and
bordering on evil, and the
children entertaining and anarchic. Their
reaction, upon finding a baby on their
doorstep, is decidedly ruthless (not fatal,
and all is well at the end). The children
wish to be orphans – as are all the best
children in old-fashioned books. How it all
turns out is great fun to read, particularly
for those well-versed in such old-fashioned
tales. There’s even a nanny – and a
glossary to explain the archaic words. 9+.
Annie.

*The Witch's Guide to Cooking with
Children.*

Keith McGowan.

Henry Holt 2009; ISBN 9780805086683.

An almost scary retelling of Hansel and
Gretel.



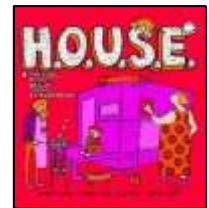
From Fay Holaderry’s
journal: *I love children. Eating
them, that is.*

Fay Holaderry’s little house in
the forest has been taken over by
urbanisation. She’s taken down the
gingerbread and changed her child
collection tactics. Parents are now
welcome to use the conveniently provided
donations bins dotted around the town of
Grand Creek. 8+. Kerry.

H.O.U.S.E.

Aleksandra Machowiak & Daniel
Mizielinski; Translation from Polish by
Elzbieta Wojcik-Leese.

Gecko Press 2010; ISBN
9781877467660.



A dazzling book about 35
extraordinary houses from
around the world. Imagine a
house in a tree, packed into a suitcase,
with no walls... These are all real
buildings, with information about the
architects, materials, layouts and locations,
supported by vividly-coloured, hand-drawn
illustrations. A fascinating book to be
enjoyed by 7+ and many adults too. Crissi.

The Sixty-Eight Rooms.

Marianne Malone.

Yearling Books 2010; ISBN
9780375857119.

This was an enchanting magical
adventure based on The Thorne
Rooms at The Art Institute of
Chicago. On a school field trip to
the Thorne Rooms, Ruthie and



Jack discover a special key that allows
Ruthie to shrink so she can explore the
insides of the miniature rooms. She can't
wait to return and explore some more.
There is enough adventure, art, mystery
and interesting characters in the book to
keep you turning the pages. 8+. Kerry.

A Crack in the Sky.

Kyle Mewburn, illustrated by
Sarah Nelisiwe Anderson.

Scholastic 2010, ISBN
9781869439347.



New Zealand author and illustrator.

Conor spies a red sofa coming in on the tide, just when they really need it. It's a mysterious piece of furniture and when Conor goes to sleep on it he's taken away to a strange world with odd characters, strange things to eat and a forgetful feeling. Conor is determined they should all escape and it's quite an adventure. Reminiscent of *The Borrowers* and *The Phantom Tollbooth*. 8-11. Crissi.

Stubborn Little Pony.

Kyle Mewburn, illustrated by Heath McKenzie.

Little Hare 2010; ISBN 9781921541391.

New Zealand author.

The fourth title in the Pop Hooper's Perfect Pets series.

Each follow a similar theme of a child wanting a particular pet for a particular reason, until they



meet Pop Hooper who has a magical way of giving them the pet they didn't think they wanted!

In this story, Jake is desperate for a friend after moving to the city. He decides a parrot would help Denny like him as he has a parrot too. When Pop Hooper asks Jake to look after an annoying pony for a night, he does not have a fun time.

Rosemary.

Not Bad for a Bad Lad.

Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Michael Foreman.

Templar 2010; ISBN

9781848773080.

A grandfather tells the story of his life – from a bad apple, ending up in Borstal, to a drum



major on parade. The transformation comes about because a few people believe in him, and give him a chance. That, and the love of drums and horses, particularly Dombey – a horse who also needed love and trust. Beautifully illustrated, as always, in Foreman's characteristic style. The text is supported by notes at the end, explaining the facts behind the story. This is a treasure for the historically minded 8+. Annie.

Running Wild.

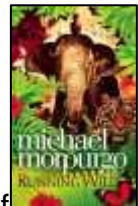
Michael Morpurgo.

Harper Collins 2009; ISBN

9780007317202.

Nine-year-old Will goes to Indonesia for a

holiday with his mother. When the tsunami hit the coast Will's life is saved because the elephant he was riding took fright and ran into



the jungle. An easy to read story of survival in the jungle and of the plight of the endangered animals that live there. At the end of the book Michael Morpurgo has included factual information about the events that inspired him to write the story, deforestation and orang-utans. Student.

Sensational Survivors: An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand's Remarkable Wildlife.

Sandra Morris.

Walker Books Australia 2010; ISBN

9781921150661.

New Zealand author.

A nature book that is as beautiful as it is useful, packed with watercolour illustrations of the numerous creatures that are found in New Zealand, along with



everyday and unusual facts conveyed in the easy-to-read text and infographics. The glossary, index and further reading list complete the book. 7+. Crissi.

The Castle in our Backyard.

Malcolm Paterson, illustrated by Leah Mulgrew.

Libro International 2010; ISBN 9781877514050.

New Zealand author and illustrator.

The history of Maungakiekie, One Tree Hill, comes to life in this illustrated story for 7-9 year olds. Join Tui and Jennifer as they visit Maungakiekie and discover its past, and afterwards could follow their trail. Available in both English and te reo versions. Allister.

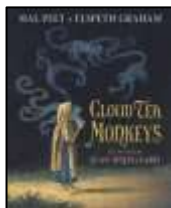


Cloud Tea Monkeys.

Mal Peet & Elspeth Graham, illustrated by Juan Wijngaard.

WalkerBooks 2010; ISBN 9781406300925.

A beautifully crafted book of a young girl who walks every day with her mother to the tea plantation to pick tea under the baleful glare of the Overseer and the hot baking sun. Tashi spends the day feeding and playing with the local monkeys, in the shelter of the trees. When her mother becomes too ill to pick tea, Tashi worries how they will manage without the money. With the help of the monkeys and a wise Royal Tea-Taster, life changes for Tashi and her mother. The story has a sensitive and warm feel with the richness of the landscape and



clothing, especially the Royal Tea-Taster's robes, captivated stunningly. Rosemary.

Big Nate: The Boy with the Biggest Head in the World.

Lincoln Peirce.

HarperCollins 2010; ISBN 9780007355167.

This is a goofy story about Nate who is finding school rather trying.

When he gets a fortune cookie that says on this day 'he will surpass all others' he wonders what glory that will bring him. Rather silly humour that will entertain the more reluctant readers. With lots of cartoon illustrations throughout, this should appeal to boys 9+. Kerry.



Dog.

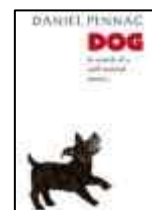
Daniel Pennac.

English edition translated by Sarah Adams; Walker Books 2009; ISBN 9781406322743.

Originally published in French as *Cabot-Caboche*; Éditions Nathan 1982.

Half drowned at birth, abandoned on a rubbish tip and chased by dog-catchers; Dog's had a tough puppyhood. He decides it's time to find and train

himself an owner. This is a tale of a dog's life, from his point of view, and his journey to be accepted as part of a family. A funny and touching story of adventure, survival and friendship; hinting at the commitment required in owning a pet and the shared love and happiness an animal can bring. 8+. Tina.



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, 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+. Helen B.



The Pasta Detectives.

Andrea Steinhöfel, illustrated by Steven Wells.

English edition translated by Chantal Wright; Chicken House 2010; ISBN 9781906427276.

Originally published in Germany 2008.

This is the first of three books about Rico and Oscar to be translated into English. Meet Rico, he's a 'proditty', a bit like being a child prodigy, but also like the opposite. He thinks a lot but not so quickly. His new friend Oscar is a child prodigy and can solve problems very fast. Together they manage to solve the biggest child kidnapping case Berlin has seen in many years. Steinhöfel's unlikely hero, Rico, is a very endearing character. He's resourceful and brave, determined to overcome his constant confusion. 8+. Kerry.



Mr Stink.

David Walliams, illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Harper Collins 2009; ISBN 9780007279050.

This was a humorous novel about inner appearances and values being more important than outward appearances. It forced the reader to confront societal misconceptions and prejudices. A lonely 12-year-old girl with a stuck-up mother, a spineless father and ghastly sister encountered a local tramp. The tramp, who was actually Lord Darlington from a former time, had a sad story to tell about how he had lost his pregnant wife in a fire. As it was just before Christmas Chloe invited him to stay in their garden shed but her mother who was campaigning as a candidate for government had the platform that all homeless people were to be banned from society. When the tramp interrupted her mother's interview she was forced to retract her policy especially when the interviewer glowingly praised her social initiative. The tramp is then invited to appear on Question Time a national television programme and all is revealed. 8-12. Wayne.



My Great Lost Dog Adventure! By Me Iggy Wilder.

Marcia Williams.

WalkerBooks 2010; ISBN 9781406319118.

Iggy's grandpa has died and asked Iggy to take care of his dog, Fred, but the family sends Fred away



to be 'rehomed'. The story of Iggy and his friend Daisy's determined efforts to get Fred back are told in comic book format, each page augmented with illustrated facts and doggy. Each page is skilfully rendered and the ending is not quite what you expect. Although this is a picture book, it's packed with text too so great for an independent reader. 6+. Crissi.

The Mysterious Howling [The Incurrible Children of Ashton Place: Book 1].

Maryrose Wood.

HarperCollins 2010; ISBN 9780061791055.

Miss Penelope Lumley, recent graduate, at the startlingly young age of 15, of Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Young Females secures the position of governess at the stately country home of Ashton Place. Her three young charges, the Incurribles, are feral children, recently discovered in the nearby forest. Delightful and fun. 9+. Kerry.

For intermediate ages:

X-isle.

Steve Augarde.

David Fickling Books 2009; ISBN 9780385610612.

X-isle is set in the near future after a catastrophic hurricane and subsequent flooding, earthquakes, eruptions have decimated much of the planet.



With most of the UK underwater, Baz and his father have scratched out an existence but the best chance for a better life for Baz is to be chosen as one of the boys to go to X-isle, a haven run by Preacher John. But once Baz gets to the island he finds the truth about X-isle is closer to a living nightmare. Exciting reading for 11+. Kerry.

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. Kerry.



Noah Barleywater Runs Away: A Fairytale.

John Boyne, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers.

David Fickling 2010; ISBN 9780385618953.

Noah is eight, and his troubles seem enormous. So, early one



morning he puts on his running shoes and runs. He finds a path in the forest and follows... all the way to a shop. But this isn't any old shop. This is a toyshop that leads Noah into a world of magic and possibilities. Annie.

Classic Ghost Stories.

Compiled by Vic Parker.

Miles Kelly Publishing 2010; ISBN 9781848102897.

A creepy and mysterious collection of tales from years gone by. Edgar Allan Poe, Oscar Wilde, Washington Irving, Emily Bronte, and more.



A wonderfully diverse and rich collection to introduce intermediates and up to classic authors. Annie.

Do Not Open.

John Farndon.

Dorling Kindersley 2007; ISBN 9781405356534.

Do Not Open has a silvery cover and a lock on the cover that invites opening and claims to be an encyclopedia of the world's best kept secrets. Visually it is immensely appealing with double-page spreads full of maps, photos, charts and maps. There are pages that pull out, pages that need to be turned round, pages with interactive features and optical illusions. The whole book is full of bizarre facts and intriguing information from the slightly gruesome to conspiracy theories. It is divided into sections: unexplained, unthinkable, unknowable, freaky facts, spooky, classified, spine



chilling and strange coincidences. It can be read straight through or flipped through until something takes your interest. Some pages have links to be followed eg The curse of Tutankhamen links to p 116 The Rosetta Stone and p120 Giza secrets. A full index and glossary is useful along with the acknowledgements on sources of information. A wonderful holiday read for 10+ readers who enjoy non fiction and would respond to challenge on the back cover *I dare you to open me!* Helen S.

Timecatcher.

Mary-Louise Fitzpatrick.

Orion Publishing 2010; ISBN 9781842556771.

A delightful adventure involving ghosts and a time-travel portal set in an old Dublin Button Factory, there's even a cat ghost called Blot. Ideal for intermediate readers wanting a scare but not too big a one. Kerry.



Magenta Orange: The trials of a Teenage Temptress.

Echo Freer.

Hachette 2001; ISBN 9780340950739.

The title of this book and its main character were one and the same. Magenta is a very accident prone Year 9 student at Archimedes High School. She wants to be noticed by the hottest boy in Year 11 and goes to incredible lengths to achieve this often manipulating her friends to obtain her goal. She attends the school dance with Spud to get the attention of Adam Jordan but when Spud kisses her



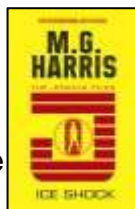
their braces lock together for several hours and everyone thinks they are a serious item. Throughout the novel she's been unaware that her long time neighbour , Daniel ,is the boy that really fancies her and had done so for ages. Written by Echo Freer this was the first in the series about the trials of Magenta Orange. 11-14. Wayne.

Ice Shock.

M. G. Harris.

Scholastic 2009; ISBN 9781407116105.

This book was the second in a series which began in 2008. It continued the mystery that surrounded a father's disappearance and revealed more about a hidden



city, called, black water in English, that protected an ancient secret. Betrayed by his best friend, a member of the evil Sect of Huracan which wanted to see the destruction of the world on December 20th in 2012, a teenage boy is forced to return to Mexico to get answers to his questions. Once there he is trapped in a cave, shot in the leg and caught in a devastating avalanche in pursuit of an elusive truth about time travel and a Mayan catastrophic prophecy. Any reader who has enjoyed the *Young James Bond* series or the *Alex Rider* series will be impressed with the action in this quartet known as the *Joshua Files*. 11-14. Wayne.

Unhooking the Moon.

Gregory Hughes.

Quercus 2010; ISBN 9781849162951.

Rat is 10. She dances, plays



football, baits gangsters – and foresees the future, including her father's death. So she heads off for New York, along with her older brother Bob. The Rat isn't your typical heroine – she has a foul-mouth and attitude. A magical, mysterious, and fun roadtrip novel for 10+. Annie.

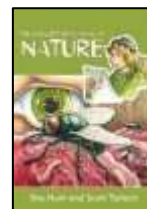
The Naughty Kid's Book of Nature.

Des Hunt, illustrated by Scott Tulloch.

HarperCollins 2010; ISBN 9781869508029.

New Zealand author and illustrator.

There's no pretty nature in this volume. Instead there is roadkill and blood and maggots. A fun, educational and gross book perfect for boys 9+. Annie.



Warriors: Into the Wild.

Erin Hunter.

Harper Collins 2003; ISBN 9780060525507.

This is the first title in a comprehensive series about wild cats. It followed the life of a young cat called Rusty who dreamed of something greater that lay in the neighbouring woods beyond his suburban home. One day he meets the leader and deputy Bluestar and Lionheart from the ThunderClan and they offer him an opportunity to join their clan. Rusty now becomes Firepaw and learns the ways of the wild from hunting and defending his territory from the other wild clans (Shadow Clan, River Clan and Wind Clan). Bluestar nurtures him because she recognises his potential leadership qualities. Firepaw proves his loyalty to the clan and becomes



a full time warrior known as Fireheart. (Later in the series she will be known as Firestar). This book will please cat lovers but the array of characters may seem a little daunting. Wayne.

Viola Vincent Reporting.

Anna Kenna.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9781869439330.

New Zealand author.

Caitlin's life is turned upside down after her mother's accident. Her mother is struggling to adjust to life in a wheelchair, and has tuned out.



Caitlin discovers a new role model – her great-aunt, a journalist – and uses her experiences to inspire her, in her quest to find out the full story of her mother's accident. 8+. Annie.

Alabama Moon.

Watt Key.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux 2006; ISBN 9780374301842.

This is a great survival story and won the E.B.White Read Aloud Award in 2008. Moon is 10-years-old and has been brought up by his anti-government war



veteran father, deep in the Alabama woods. He can fend for himself but has no idea how the outside world works and when his father dies he is quickly picked up by the authorities and put in a boys' home. He soon escapes back to the woods accompanied by some new friends and a couple of police bloodhounds and with the beginnings of some new ideas about the world. There is a positive ending as Moon gradually learns to trust other

people and think for himself. This is well worth hunting down. 10-14. Helen B.

The Young Sherlock Holmes: Death Cloud.

Andrew Lane.

Macmillan Publishers 2010; ISBN 9780330511988.

Here's another young action hero in the mould of a young James Bond or an Alex Rider.

This time it's 14-year-old

Sherlock Holmes. The author, a Holmes fan, has remained faithful to known facts about the adult character and has the Victorian setting just right. In this particular novel, the first in a new series, young Sherlock is developing his deductive abilities and focusing his memory. He is trying to understand why a disgruntled French soldier, from the Crimean War, wants to impregnate the British army's uniforms with a pheromone attractive to aggressive bees. This will be a popular series. 10-14. Wayne.



Thornspell.

Helen Lowe.

Random House 2010; ISBN 9780375844799.

New Zealand author.

This is a retelling of the 'Sleeping Beauty' tale. Lowe has imagined a much bigger story around the tale of Aurora, in fact, the story is not about the princess, it is all about the chosen prince, Sigismund. Sigismund has grown up protected by those around him and knows little of the sleeping castle in the nearby woods. There is a curse on his family and an elaborate



spell that only he can break at a chosen time or the human world will fall under the control of the ambitious and evil faerie, Margravine. Rich in detail, there are dreams, adventure, heroism and tales of dragons from long ago. Our hero, Sigismund is brave enough to take the action into his own hands rather than wait for a prophecy to unfold. 11+. Kerry.

Organ Music.

Margaret Mahy.

Gecko Press 2010; ISBN 9781877467479.

New Zealand author.

Harley and David are out late looking for adventure when they come across an old car with the keys still in the ignition. Their joyride turns into a terrifying race



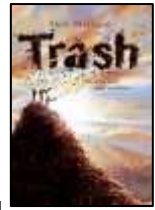
across the city in a car that seems to be driving itself. Finally the car turns into Willesden Forest and comes to a stop inside the gates of Willesden Experimental Station. The boy's relief at being in the safety of the forestry research establishment doesn't last long. Inside nothing and nobody is quite what it seems and the tension increases as it becomes apparent that the boys are not safe at all. A quick read (less than 100 pages) that keeps you reading as full horror of what is happening at the research station is revealed. Content suitable for older readers – perhaps those daunted by books with a great many pages. Helen S.

Trash.

Andy Mulligan.

David Fickling Books (Random House) 2010; ISBN 9780385619028.

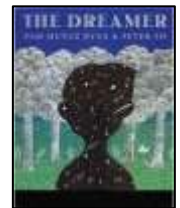
This is a wonderfully engaging book in a sensory way. It tells about three boys who live on a dumpsite sifting and scouring rubbish for anything valuable and then on page five they find something that changes their lives forever. Two hundred pages follow this moment and it's all an absorbing mystery. The boys want to right the wrongs of the past and thwart both a corrupt politician and the police. The chapters unfold through the eyes of the protagonists and everything fits together with a fitting resolution. 9+. Wayne.



The Dreamer.

Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Peter Sís. Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9780439269704.

The eponymous dreamer is Pablo Neruda, and this is a fictionalised biography of his life. From a shy and bullied (by his father) child, to a Nobel Prize-winning poet. Text and image are skilfully woven together, making this a treasure for any dreamy children you may know. Annie.



The 4 Powers of Daren Sárner.

Michael Oehley.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9781869439453.

New Zealand author.

Daren Saner is no ordinary child. Born and raised on a starship journeying to find a new planet, he should never have been born as his father is a clone. Exploring the ship with his friends, Daren unwittingly unleashing an ancient power.



One that results in him being sent back in time and place to the city of Periapoli. There, he discovers he is a 'Forbidden Child' - a peasant with the powers of four elements. Somehow his two lives are intertwined. Somehow his are the lives that will decide the fates of two worlds. 9+. Annie.

No Such Thing as Dragons.

Philip Reeve.

Scholastic 2009; ISBN 9781407114835.

An elective mute boy was sold by his father to a renowned dragon hunter who made his living from exploiting people's fears about dragons. He pretended they existed. One day he encountered a group of remote villagers that believed in dragons and lived in fear of one. The dragon hunter volunteered to search for it in the icy mountains. They are attacked by the dragon and all doubts about dragon veracity are vanished. The dragon was captured and trussed up though when it fell through a crevasse and was transported triumphantly into town. 9-12. Wayne.

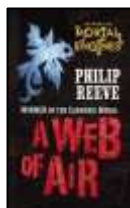


A Web of Air.

Philip Reeve.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9781407117591.

For those who are avidly collecting the *Mortal Engines* series by Philip Reeve, *A Web of Air* continues the story begun in *Fever Crumb*. Fever has escaped war-torn London and happened into an amazing city called Mayda, which has been built in a crater left by an atomic bomb. Fever is commandeered into a race



to build a flying machine, but danger is very close. A great book, that will be received with delight by enthusiasts of the steampunk genre. 10+. Lois.

The Thin Executioner.

Darren Shan.

HarperCollins 2010; ISBN

9780007315840.

Shan has left demons and vampires alone this time and written a standalone fantasy that I've seen described as 'Pilgrim's Progress but with decapitations'. I'd say overtones of *Huckleberry Finn* as well.



Jebel is the youngest son of the Chief Executioner of Wadi. While his brothers are tall and strong, Jebel is weedy and thin, he's also arrogant and annoying. When he's not mentioned as one of the possible successors to his father's position he feels slighted and decides rather impulsively to go on the Quest, a legendary journey to a faraway mountain, the home of a god who can make a successful questor invincible. But there are rules to this quest. Jebel is not a likeable character to start with but as the journey progresses he does begin to reevaluate his values and goals. 11+. Kerry.

The Poison Garden.

Sarah Singleton.

Simon and Schuster 2009; ISBN

9781847382979.

This rich and exotic Victorian gothic fantasy (written by an author that won the Gothic Fantasy Award in 2005) told about



an evil act, unintentionally done, that generated a long legacy of evil in return. Thomas is apprenticed, after his grandmother's murder, to the Guild of Medical Herbalists only to learn that the guild's secretive members are being murdered in a power struggle to control not only the poison garden but the other six gardens. Great mystery and very original. 11+. Wayne.

When You Reach Me.

Rebecca Stead.

Text Publishing 2009; ISBN 9781921656064.

This intriguing story puzzle was the 2010 Newbery Medal winner and cannot fail to charm.



Events are narrated by Miranda, a 12-year-old girl who lives with her single mother in a New York apartment, directly upstairs from her former best friend Sal. Miranda's mother works as a legal assistant, her law-school education having been interrupted by Miranda's arrival, and is yet to give her longstanding boyfriend, Richard, a key to the apartment, despite his obviously being adored by mother and daughter both.

Miranda opens the story by addressing herself to someone who has been leaving her a series of notes – each predicting some aspect of her future with uncanny accuracy. The reader has no idea who these notes have come from, but only that the mystery person asked Miranda to write a letter in return recounting “the story of what happened and everything that led up to it”. Miranda says these events are in her memory like a movie she can replay at will.

Miranda decides to start from the day Sal shut her out of his life; something she is still trying to account for, along with resolving the mystery of the notes and the letter.

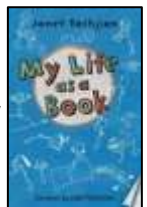
Stead's story is funny and charming, beautifully paced and intriguing and highly recommended for intermediate age readers and over. Sanya.

My Life as a Book.

Janet Tashjian, illustrated by Jake Tashjian.

Henry Holt 2010; ISBN 9780805089035.

Derek has to read three books over summer – which he's not happy about. He's called a reluctant reader – but it's just that he doesn't like



being told what to read, and he'd rather go off and have adventures. While not-doing his reading, he finds an article about a girl who'd drowned ten years ago. Derek is determined to find out more. Naïve artwork, and the first-person voice will appeal to reluctant – well, any really – reader 10+. Great for fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Annie.

100 Cupboards.

N. D. Wilson.

Random House 2007; ISBN 9780375838811.

Henry York is sent to stay with his uncle in Texas when his parents are kidnapped. In the attic where he is sleeping there is a plastered wall and behind the plaster are 100 assorted cupboards. It takes Henry a while to work out that these cupboards lead to different worlds and that



there is a very good reason why they have been plastered over... This is an exciting fantasy adventure and is the first in a trilogy. The good thing is that *Dandelion Fire* and the *Chestnut King* are already

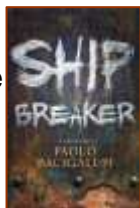
For teens:

Ship Breaker.

Paolo Bacigalupi.

Little, Brown 2010; ISBN 9780316056212.

Bacigalupi creates a very believable dystopian world where global warming wreaks havoc with terrible storms and hurricanes. Nailer works in a ship breaking lightcrew and after a particularly severe storm finds a wrecked clipper that he could claim for salvage. 12+. Kerry.



available so you could give all three to your favourite fantasy fan of 10+. Helen B.

9780575096714.

By the author of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. Cassel is cursed. Life at home – and at school – is a problem. That could be because his brothers use him to commit crimes, and then steal his memories. Now, Cassel is determined. Determined to turn their ways against them. Set in a world where 1% of the population can do magic – which has been outlawed and driven into the underworld – literally, and figuratively, of crime. Annie.

End of the Alphabet.

Fleur Beale.

Random House 2009; ISBN 9781869790707.

New Zealand author.

Ruby Yarrow feels like the family slave. She cleans, cooks and takes the kids to school while her brother Max doesn't help at all. Ruby decides its time she grew a backbone but it's not quite as easy as she thought. At school Ruby struggles with reading and writing but slowly learns that she has other strengths in other areas. A story about family, friends, money, boys and growing up that many readers will identify with. Student.



Girl Saves Boy.

Steph Bowe.

Text Publishing 2010; ISBN 9781921656590.

Years ago Jewel couldn't save her little brother at the lake. Now, she has the chance to somehow redeem herself, and save Sacha. Sacha has had a bad year, his mother has died and he's not feeling that great.



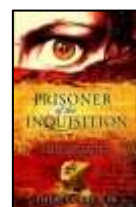
Jewel has just returned after ten years away, and is having to adapt back to living with her mother. Between the two they find peace, and ways of coping. Annie.

Prisoner of the Inquisition.

Theresa Breslin.

Doubleday 2010; ISBN 9780385617031.

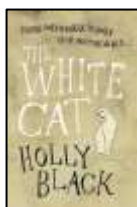
In her arrogance – or, maybe innocence – Zarita condemns



The White Cat.

Holly Black.

Orion Books 2010; ISBN



Saulo's father to death. Her refusal to listen to his please leads to his capture and execution. Saulo is sent to be a slave onboard Columbus' ship. While Zarita's life changes after the death of her mother. Zarita regrets her action and seeks to make amends. By her seemingly simple action – that of brushing aside a beggar – Zarita sets in motion the downfall of two families. Set against the backdrop of the Spanish Inquisition and Columbus' voyages, this is a well-wrought historical novel. Annie.

Heist Society.

Ally Carter.

Lothian 2010; ISBN 9780734411273.

Katarina is expelled from Colgan for something she didn't do – which is odd, because she's really good at getting into trouble.



But she's been framed by the best – Hale, her former partner in crime – in order to get her back into the family business. Kat's father has also been framed. And now Kat's on a deadline to free him. Fun and action-packed. Annie.

Mockingjay.

Suzanne Collins.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9780439023511.

This final book in the Hunger Games trilogy was eagerly anticipated and it certainly lived up to expectations. The action is now centred in District Thirteen which



as we learned had not been annihilated by the manipulative leaders in the dystopian capitol of Panem. Finally, the reader learns how the love triangle between Katniss,

Gale and Peeta matured. The book is very brutal and the collateral damage reality may be hard to accept. There is certainly a loss of innocence and one is left wondering whether the psychological scars will ever heal. 13-17. Wayne.

The Dragon Book.

Edited by Jack Dann and Gardner Dozois.

Random House 2009; ISBN

9781864719857.

Best-selling and award-winning fantasy authors contribute to this wonderful collection of stories all about dragons. Fantasy fans will find stories from favourite



authors like Garth Nix, Tamora Pierce and Jane Yolen. There are also contributions from authors known more for their adult fiction, like Diana Gabaldon, Harry Turtledove and Naomi Novik. There's something for everyone in this collection for 14+. Annie.

In a Heartbeat.

Loretta Ellsworth.

Walker 2010; ISBN 9780802720689.

Eaganis 16, and a figure-skater. When a freak accident happens, she becomes a heart donor for Amelia. Eagan reflects on her life – on the unresolved issues she left behind.

Amelia, 14, receives her new heart and her life changes. But, not just her life – but her thoughts and feelings. She begins to like figure skating!



This is told in alternating viewpoints, so the reader learns about both girls. Annie.

The Project.

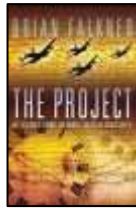
Brian Falkner.

Walker Books 2010; ISBN
9781921529795.

New Zealand author.

What is the best place to hide a secret? Somewhere where no body will stumble across it...

Like... the most boring book in the whole world. Luke tells the story of how, completely inadvertently, he finds The Book. There follows action, Germans, science-fiction, drama – and it all ends up by becoming a great read for thinking guys 14+. Annie.



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. Kerry.



Reckless.

Cornelia Funke, translated by Oliver Latsch.

Chicken House 2010; ISBN
9781905294855.

Jacob has been sneaking into the world of the mirror for years, when his younger brother, Will, follows him. Lush language makes this modern fairytale a



wonder and a joy, a treat to savour on long summer days. Annie.

The Limping Man [Salt trilogy; book 3].

Maurice Gee.

Penguin 2010; ISBN
9780143305163.

New Zealand author.

The Limping Man continues the story of a bleak dystopian future where evil lurks in different guises and must be overcome. Ben is the son of Lol and Hana from the ruined city of Belong. He must try, where others have failed, to overcome the incredible power of the Limping Man, who plans to wipe out all who resist him in the Country. Riveting, and the reader is kept in suspense to almost the last page. 12+. Kerry.



The Year the Gypsies Came.

Linzi Glass.

Henry Holt 2006; ISBN 0805079998.

This novel was set in apartheid South Africa during the 1960s. Emily's parents' marriage is fracturing and they invite an itinerant Australian family to park their trailer home in their grounds. This family travel Africa looking for wildlife photo opportunities. They have two sons who have never attended school and one of the boys has been brain damaged by their brutal father. One night when both sets of parents are out the brain-damaged son, Otis, rapes Emily's sister, Sarah. The repercussions are extremely disturbing. Throughout the story the wise old Zulu groundsman dispenses folktales and acts as a surrogate father to Emily. The



suburban and political violence of the time are juxtaposed. This was Glass's debut novel. 14+. Wayne.

Half World.

Hiromi Goto, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki. Viking 2010; ISBN 9780670012206.

Melanie may be human, but her parents aren't. And that means she has to travel into their world – Half World – a nightmare land, to save her mother. A more grown-up and Japanese version of *Coraline*, with a heroine plagued by self-doubt. Annie.



It Takes a Wizard.

Thomas R Hart, illustrated by Sean Lam. Seven Seas 2009; ISBN 9781934876343.

On one side – technology. On the other – magic. And it takes a wizard to crossover and bring back a kidnapped girl. The wizard is Isaac Silverberg – blamed for the transformation of Manhattan into a magic wasteland. In manga-style, this graphic novel promises much and, as it seems to be the first in a series – may it continue. Annie.



Nomansland.

Lesley Hauge. Henry Holt 2010; ISBN 9780805090642.

Welcome to world after war and fire – a world populated only by women. Some of these women are Trackers – equestrians and archers – who protect their island from the enemy. Men. The girls find a home with relics from the Time Before.



Within this home are objects – high-heels, magazines – all the accoutrements of our world. Think a feminist *The Giver* (Lois Lowry). If this piques your teen girl's interest – or your own – try to track down *The Gate to Women's Country* by Sheri S. Tepper. Annie.

By Royal Command [Young James Bond; book 5].

Charlie Higson.

Puffin Books 2008; ISBN 9780141384511.

This is the fifth and final instalment in the *Young James Bond* series by Charlie Higson. James foils a sinister attempt by communists/ anarchists to assassinate King George V



while on an official visit to the church at Eton College. The gardener who had assembled the fertilisers for the bomb is killed but his accomplice a beautiful young Irish woman runs away with James to Austria. This is the first time that James has fallen in love (with an older woman to boot) and he is forced to confront both his heart and his mind when he questions his actions. By far the most introspective of the series and historically accurate with all the Flemingesque elements that the reader has come to expect. Wayne.

Hicksville.

Dylan Horrocks.

Victoria University Press 2010; ISBN 9780864736246.

New Zealand author.

Originally published in 1998, this new edition of Horrock's graphic novel includes a comic



strip introduction about his childhood, his fascination with comic books such as *Tintin* and his recurring dream in which he finds a stack of previously unread Tintin books. Hicksville is a small town hidden in a corner of the East Cape and here everyone loves comics. Leonard Batts, a journalist comes from LA to do a story on the childhood of mega-successful comic book writer Dick Burger and meets with hostility from all the locals. 15+. Kerry.

The Reformed Vampire Support Group.

Catherine Jinks.

Allen & Unwin 2009; ISBN

9781741756722.

Nina has been a vampire since 1973, at 15 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 oddball 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. Sequel: *The Abused Werewolf Rescue Group* Allen & Unwin 2010; ISBN 9781742373638. 12+. Kerry.



The Iron King.

Julie Kagawa.

Harlequin 2010; ISBN 9780373210084.

Meghan has never left she fitted in. At 16, her world begins to change even more. As she becomes drawn into the world of the faery, she learns the truth about her



origins. And, that she is a pawn in a deadly war. A tale of love, magic and self-discovery. Annie.

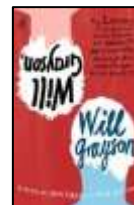
Will Grayson Will Grayson.

David Levithan and John Green.

Text Publishing 2010; ISBN

9781921656231.

This is a tender and honest portrayal of making connections with people during the difficult adolescent years. The story is about two boys who live in the Chicago area, both named Will Grayson, each with their own hangups. There is a marvellous secondary character who is a friend of one of the Wills, Tiny Cooper; gay and loving it to the point of writing and performing a musical of his life. He is the glue that binds the story together. 13+. Kerry.



Ebony Hill.

Anna Mackenzie.

Longacre 2010; ISBN 9781877460487

New Zealand author.

This is the second of her dystopian trilogy following on from *The Seawreck Stranger*. It was an impressive read, the writing very descriptive, the repressive island setting interesting and moody with strong characters. It's a treat to re-enter this ruined world and find out what has happened to Ness. Kerry.



On the Jellicoe Road.

Melina Marchetta.

Penguin 2010; ISBN 9780143011194.

First published in 2006 by the author of

Looking for Allibrandi. This is another coming of age story that explores relationships, family and identity. Taylor is 17, a boarder at Jellicoe School and a reluctant role model for other students. When she was little her father died and her mother left her on the side of the road .She has been cared for since then by her guardian, Hannah .When Hannah suddenly disappears all Taylor has to try and make sense of her past is a manuscript she left behind .This is a story about five friends who lived 20 years ago in the same area .The connections between the past and the present take some time to figure out (and some readers might be inclined to give up). However it is worth persisting as it is very satisfying when the connections are made. An intriguing plot, with interesting and believable characters teenage readers will identify with. Helen S.

The Piper's Son.

Melina Marchetta.

Penguin 2010; ISBN 9780670074235.

This is a sequel to her *Saving Francesca*. Five years have passed and the characters are now around 21 years old. This time the plot revolves around one of the friends who helped



'save' Francesca, Tom. His family has fallen apart and Tom has come unravelled himself, all since his father's beloved younger brother, Joe, was a casualty in the London Underground bombing two years earlier. The family have fallen victim to grief and allowed it to continue ruling their lives. Marchetta always writes with

perception and sensitivity. 14+. Kerry.

Lonely Werewolf Girl.

Martin Millar.

Little, Brown 2010; ISBN 9780749942830.

Kalix is a young teen werewolf, living on the streets of London, addicted to laudanum, depressed and outlawed from her clan after a brutal fight which



severely injured her father, the Thane of the MacRinnalch clan and Master of Werewolves. Hunted down and almost on death's door, she is rescued by two students, Daniel and Moonglow. This is an entertaining interplay between humans, dysfunctional werewolves and the irrepressible Fire Queen and her almost-niece Vex. 14+. Kerry.

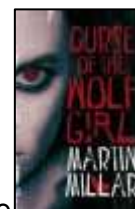
Curse of the Wolf Girl.

Martin Millar.

Little, Brown 2010; ISBN 9780749942885.

Sequel to *Lonely Werewolf Girl*.

Kalix and fire elemental, Vex, are now living with students, Daniel and Moonglow, in London, but only under the condition that they attend college



to learn basic literacy skills. With a reluctant student such as Kalix, who suffers from depression and social anxiety as well as an addiction to laudanum and the TV show, *Sabrina The Teenage Witch*.,nothing can go according to plan. Especially as Vex is just too enthusiastic about school, coloured felt tips and gold stars to actually learn anything. 14+. Kerry.

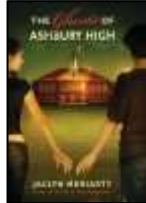
The Ghosts of Ashbury High.

Jaclyn Moriarty.

Arthur A. Levine Books 2010; ISBN 9780545069724.

A welcome return to Ashbury High – setting for *Feeling Sorry for Celia* and *Finding Cassie Crazy*.

It's senior year at Ashbury High, and Em is determined to find out the stories behind the two new scholarship students – Amelia and Riley. Oh, and that there's a ghost at Ashbury High. Not really a gothic ghost story – more a tale of discovering what life is like after school. Told in Moriarty's characteristic style – in notes, essays, journals and blogs, amongst other formats. Annie.



Secret Army [Henderson's Boys; book 3].

Robert Muchamore .

Hodder Children's Books 2010; ISBN 9780340956502.

This is the third book in the Henderson's Boys Series which is set during World War Two and deals with the establishment of CHERUB. Henderson recruits a few more boys to his teenage spy unit and must convince the establishment that they can pass the same training as adults, including parachute training and a mission within Britain. Exciting reading and highly recommended for young teens especially boys. 12+. Kerry.

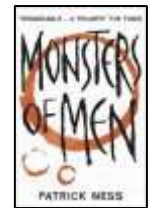


Monsters of Men [Chaos Walking; Book 3].

Patrick Ness.

Walker Books 2010; ISBN 9781406326123.

This is a non-stop heart-thumping read that wraps up on the last page the dystopian thrill ride that started on page one of book one – *The Knife of Never Letting Go*. This book is about War, Revenge and Power, with Todd and Viola caught up in the midst of three armies. 12+. Kerry.



The Inferior.

Peadar Ó Guilín.

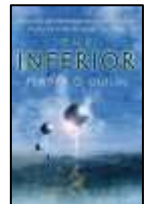
Random House 2008; ISBN 9780552555272.

Not for the faint-hearted, there is a touch of cannibalism here, but I found the story and action far outweigh these squeamish details.

Stopmouth and his brother Wallbreaker are part of a tribe that

faces a daily battle to survive, fighting other species for food or face flesh-trading deals where 'volunteers' come from the weak, injured or older members of the tribe. While existence in Man-Ways is primitive, up above the tribe can see the many globes shooting across high in the Roof of the world.

A sequel, *The Deserter*, is on its way. Kerry.

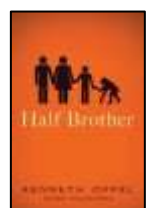


Half Brother.

Kenneth Oppel.

Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9780545229258.

On Ben's 13th birthday he is in a new home, in a new city – and with a brand-new, unexpected – baby brother. Baby brother chimpanzee that is. Zan is now part of their family as an experiment. He is to



be treated as a real baby brother, so Ben's parents can study his language acquisition. Ben comes to love Zan, and begins to wonder about what makes a family, and what makes us 'human'. Annie.

Guantanamo Boy.

Anna Perera.

Penguin 2009; ISBN 9780141326078.

This is the story of an 'ordinary British kid' who loves his football and computer.

When he visits his family in Pakistan he is kidnapped, charged with being

a terrorist and taken eventually to Guantanamo Bay. A harrowing

story, but as the author says 'I

wanted to find a way- through the page of

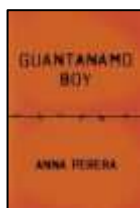
this fictionalised account of one boy's

experience to understand the story behind

the news story , and to see this boy as one

of 'us' rather than as 'one of them.'

Student.



Mice.

Gordon Reece.

Allen & Unwin 2010; ISBN

9781742372358.

Shelley thinks of herself as a mouse. She

is bullied at school. Bullied at

home. After she, and her mother,

move to an isolated cottage, they

feel their troubles have been left

behind. But, one night, the

mouse roars. A thought-provoking thriller.

Annie.



Withering Tights: The Misadventures of Tallulah Casey.

Louise Rennison.

HarperCollins 2010; ISBN

9780007323906.

Rennison entertains with a new teen

'heroine' in the style of Georgia

Nicolson (*Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*, etc).

Tallullah is off at performing

arts college on a summer

course. Six weeks of freedom. Six weeks

of BOYS. Six weeks without parents. And

six weeks of theatre. How could you resist.

15+. Annie.



Bloodlines.

T. K. Roxborough.

Penguin 2010; ISBN 9780143205050.

New Zealand author.

This is the sequel to *Banquo's Son*

and leaves you wishing the third

book was available now!

Fleance is king. He is to marry

Rachel. But not everyone is

happy. Bree's tantrums are worse, and she

attacks Rachel when she is told of the

marriage. And now Rachel has been

kidnapped. In attempting in rescue her,

Fleance puts himself in danger. Wehn they

return to Scotland, there are still issues to

deal with - not least, Rosie. Fleance again

has to deal with the contrary pulls of love

and duty. 15+. Annie.



The Prince of Mist.

Carlos Ruiz Zafón.

English edition translated by Lucia Graves;

Text Publishing 2010; ISBN

9781921656354.

Originally published in Spanish.

When his clockmaker father

moves Max's family out of the city

to an old house by the sea, Max



has no idea that he is destined to play a role in the workings of a very old mystery in which even the progress of time is uncertain. Soon after the family's arrival, Max and his sister Alicia become afflicted with strange and disturbing dreams and Max's sense of unease is only increased once his new friend Roland takes him out to visit the Orpheus, a wrecked ship lying underwater in the bay. Max begins to suspect there is some relationship between his new friend, Roland's tight-lipped light-house keeper grandfather and the strange statues in the abandoned garden next door to his new home. And who is the Prince of the Mist? This haunting, gothic fantasy has enough mystery, atmosphere and spooky thrills to satisfy any fan of the supernatural aged 13+. Translated with undoubted skill, this is a beautifully written tale from a much-loved writer in Spanish. Sanya.

The Cardturner: A Novel About a King, a Queen and a Joker.

Louis Sachar.
 Bloomsbury 2010; ISBN 9781408808504.
 Uncle Lester is rich and old. Rich enough that his whole family suck-up to him, hoping to inherit. So, when the chances comes for them to move up the list (if only in their heads) Alton's parents encourage (force) him to play bridge with Uncle Lester. Alton becomes more and more embedded into Uncle Lester's world of bridge, learning about the game, and life. Annie.



The Beautiful Between.

Alyssa B. Sheinmel.
 Alfred A. Knopf 2010; ISBN 9780375861826.

Connelly is 16 and average. She gets average grades at school. Doesn't make a fuss. Blends into the crowd. She feels like she's Rapunzel – looked away in her high-rise apartment. When a friendship develops between Connelly and the school's prince, Jeremy, she has the chance to break free and discover long-hidden secrets. Annie.



After Ever After.

Jordan Sonnenblick.
 Scholastic 2010; ISBN 9780439837064.

Sequel to *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*, which told the story of Jeffrey's diagnosis from his older brother's point of view. Finally, after four years, Jeffrey isn't That-Boy-Who-Had-Cancer – he is in remission and dealing with life as an eighth-grader – and the possibility that he may have to repeat the year. Jeffery never thought he'd have the chance to live this long – but when his best friend, Tad, comes out of remission – all bets are off. This, of course, is after Tad organises a state-wide boycott of the state tests. Sometimes, survival is putting on your big-boy pants and dealing. Annie.



Heroes of the Valley.

Jonathan Stroud.
 Random House 2010: ISBN 9780552557931 .

Halli loves the old stories. Stories of danger and enemies, the



bloodthirsty Trows. Now there is no adventure. No thrills. He's bored – and tries to spice it up by practical jokes. But when a joke reawakens an old blood feud, Halli finds himself on his own hero's quest. Annie.

My Secret Diary: Dating, Dancing, Dreams and Dilemmas.

Jacqueline Wilson.

Random House Children's Books 2009; ISBN 780552561563.

A follow on from *Jacky Daydream*. *My Secret Diary* recounts the life of Jacqueline Wilson starting when she was about 14-years-old. With real extracts and photos from the diary she kept at that time the book provides an entertaining look at life for a teenager in the 1960s. She writes about school, first



love, stiff petticoats, beehive hairdos, music, dancing and parents. A great read for Jacqueline Wilson fans and anyone who grew up in the 60s. Helen S.

Zombies Vs Unicorns.

Compiled by Holly Black & Justine Larbalestier.

Allen & Unwin 2010; ISBN 9781742375502.

Who would reign supreme: zombies or unicorns? Twelve short stories by 12 amazing authors set out to solve this ancient conundrum. Authors range from Meg Cabot to Margo Lanagan – and all points in between. Holly Black stands strong for the unicorns, while Justine Larbalestier defends the zombies. Fun and fantastical. Annie.



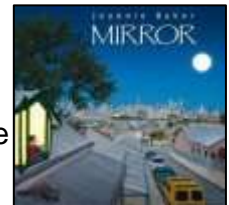
For all ages, adults and families:

Mirror.

Jeannie Baker.

Walker 2010; ISBN 9781406309140.

Jeannie Baker's work is always well worth seeking out. She combines exquisite complicated collage art with powerful ecological themes that require no text - you read the pictures. This time she has been inspired by cultural differences and has produced a book with a difference - it opens to a foldout format and 'reads' both ways simultaneously. Compare and contrast the lives of two boys from opposite points of the world. On one side an Australian boy goes shopping with his Dad for an exotic carpet for their home and on the other side a North African boy & his father come to a busy market to buy a computer and link up to the internet. For all ages. Kerry.



Navigation: A Memoir.

Joy Cowley.

Penguin 2010; ISBN 9780143205715. New Zealand author.

A book to sink into. With the metaphor of the sea providing buoyancy, this is a memoir you can float away on. No words I write can express how wonderfully written – and



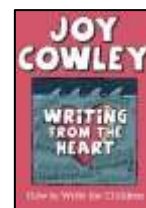
inspiring – this memoir is. I also can't decide if it is better swallowed whole, or dipped into. Perhaps – both. Read through as fast as you can, then return to savour the passages which resonated first time around (which will probably mean re-reading the whole). P.S. before you ask - yes Mum, you are getting a copy. Annie.

Writing from the Heart: How to Write for Children.

Joy Cowley, illustrated by Fraser Williamson.

Storylines 2010; ISBN 9780473175153. New Zealand author and illustrator.

Finally, Joy Cowley's years of writing wisdom have been distilled into this volume and made available to the world. A must for all aspiring authors. This is also available to purchase through the Storylines website. Annie.



The Cat's Pyjamas.

Wallace Edwards.

Hardie Grant Egmont 2010; ISBN 9781921690730.

This is a great picture book for both children and adults. Visually showing 26 different idioms – *Idiom: a group of words whose meaning ... cannot be translated literally* – children and parents will laugh at the mouse sewing on button, (getting the hang of it), the lion getting blasted by the gramophone (facing the music) and the camel wearing ice-cream slippers (cooling her heels). The illustrations are colourful and intricate, and teach children to read for jokes visually as well as in the text. A treasure. Recommended for all ages. Lois.



Who's Cooking Tonight?

Claire Gourley.

Penguin 2010; ISBN 9780143205425. New Zealand author.

Get your teens into the kitchen and give yourselves some nights off this summer! Based on the author's popular website It's my turn to cook tonight this is a stylish and practical recipe book. There are other fabulous cookin books out there designed for teens – but the great thing about this title, is that is a New Zealand book! So we know we can source the ingredients, and don't have to translate their names. Annie.



The Tui NZ Kids' Garden.

Diana Noonan and Keith Olsen.

Puffin 2010; ISBN 9780143204985. New Zealand author and illustrator.

This delightful book presents the growing of fruit and vegetables (and, in a mystifying addition, cacti) in just the right way to enthuse a new generation of kitchen gardeners. It is superbly designed both visually and in the presentation of information and is chock-full of colour photographs, interesting facts, helpful tips for gardening success and



recipes to help our young growers move from garden to table. Favourite fun fact: A sprouting potato can find its way through a maze! An excellent gift. Sanya.

It's a Book.

Lane Smith.

Roaring Brook Press 2010; ISBN 9781596436060.

A picture book for all ages. Give it to those hard to buy for adults who have everything because they will probably appreciate the humour more than young children.

Have you heard the new joke about the mouse, the jackass and the monkey? *It's a Book* is an ode to the book for the electronic generation told in inimitable Lane Smith style with three animal characters you'll take to heart in under 30 pages. It's not a polemic for books against technology, though, but a comic turn by a master of visual language. As Smith himself says, he didn't write it to send a message, he wrote it "for the laffs". And, as if to prove this point, Smith adds value to the book online on his curious pages blog, with a fascinating account of the development of the story, his illustrative techniques and the comic antecedents of his utterly engaging characters. Enjoy. Sanya and Helen B.



A Family of Readers: The Book Lover's Guide to Children's and Young Adult Literature.

Roger Sutton & Martha V. Parravano.

Candlewick Press 2010; 9780763632809.

The Horn Book's editor in chief, Roger Sutton, and executive editor, Martha Parravano, invited a host of experts – mainly authors (including Margaret Mahy) and librarians – to explore various aspects of children's books. This is perfect for book lovers who happen to be parents, as it provides practical advice on sharing your love with your children. A fabulous guide to for those who love children and children's books – and wonder what makes a book work – or not. Annie.

