

Get that Book!



Recommendations
By Pupils at
Chevening CEP



**To
Book lovers
All over the world**

Struggling to find that next
'Can-not-put-it-down' novel?

Well, the Y6 pupils of
Chevening CEP School
are here to help...

With original watercolour interpretations
of the book covers; each entry gives an insight into
the main characters, plot; and reasons why these books
have made it on to our 'Recommended Reads' list.

If you have some show-stoppers yourself,
why not email a review to us?
We can include it in the next edition of
'Get that Book'.

(qureshi@chevening.kent.sch.uk)

Get that Book!

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Also from Chevening Press

The Faith (ebook)

The Faith (A4 Colour and B&W editions)

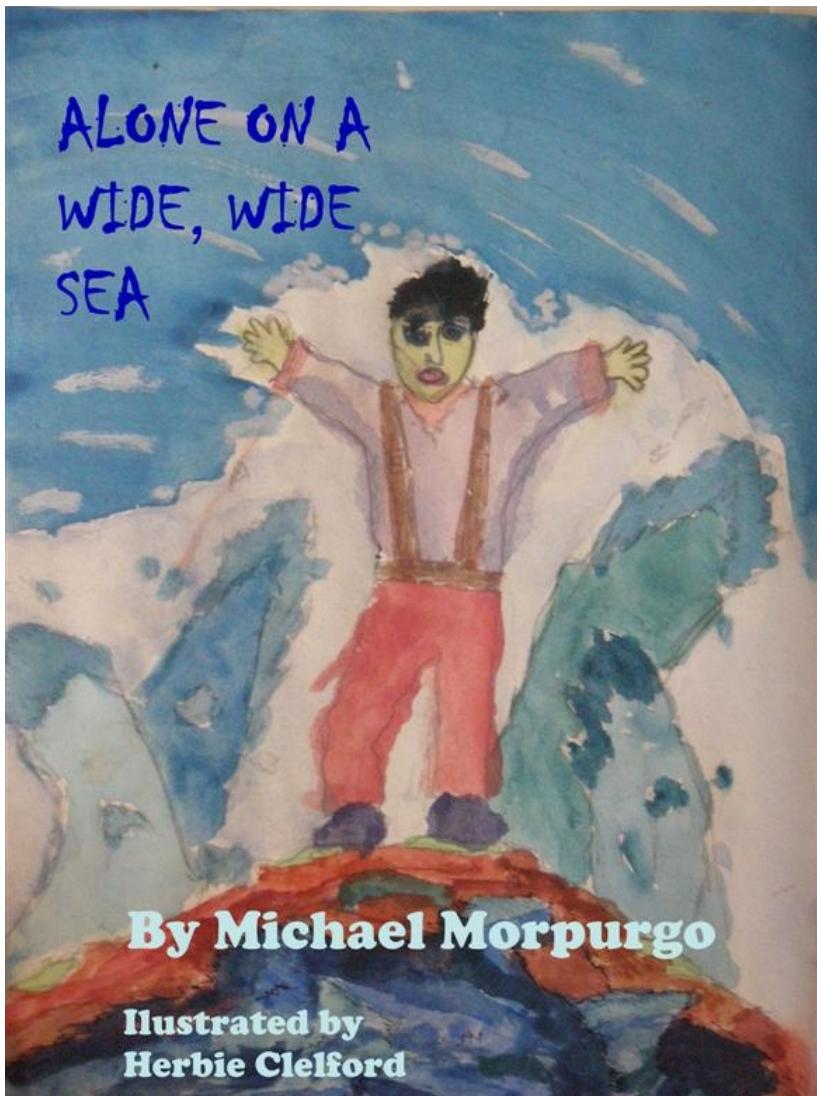
The Faith (A5 Colour and B&W editions)

12 Carols of Exaltation & Joy

Secrets of a Ballistic Cat

Oscar's Keyrings

Alone On a Wide, Wide Sea



ALONE ON A WIDE, WIDE SEA

By Michel Morpurgo

Reviewed by Herbie

Tear jerking, eye watering, AMAZING! Once again the legendary storyteller, Michel Morpurgo has succeeded. With every page the story grows; with every page the tears run down your cheeks; with every page your heart is filled with joy and also sadness. Once you pick this book up, you know you won't be able to put it down.

So go ahead and read it; it's great, just amazing, BRAVO!

*"God save thee ancient Mariner,
From the fiends that plague thee thus!
Why look'st thou so with my crossbow
I shot the Albatross."*

Quotation from the ancient mariner

Arthur Hobhouse is an orphan. At the age of six he lives a normal life, but little does he know his world will turn upside down. From the back-braking work and scorching sun of Cooper Station, to Aunty Megg's cozy house (otherwise known as 'The Ark') and then back again to Sydney; his childhood home, he travels far. Unfortunately this is where his life begins to fall apart, and his mind begins to crumble. Only Kitty's key keeps him safe; Kitty's lucky key.

On this journey of friendship and love, cruelty and suffering, sea and land; what dangers will he face, what grief will he take, and what pain will he cause?

This book is true to life; it does not ignore death and loss, and so if you are looking for a happy ending you may not find it here. I recommend this book to anyone over the age of nine.

BE WARNED - it contains mildly bad language. But overall it's an amazing book. It's enough to make anyone cry tears of joy and sadness.

Once again AMAZING!

By Herbie

Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets

Harry Potter and the Chamber Of Secrets



**Illustrated
By Jack Hardy**

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

By JK- Rowling

Reviewed by Jack



5 Stars

STUNNING! My favorite strong friendships and loyalties are represented well throughout this story. There are a few passages which may frighten some younger children since it contains a giant spider and a giant snake. There is some blood and violence surrounding the snake too. (That's the best bit about it if you're a blood lover though.)

I would recommend this book for children about 10 years and over but if you hate blood and creepy things - take it from me DON'T read it. This isn't the only Harry Potter book - oh no - there are many more. There's a whole range of Harry Potter books. Here are some of them: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone; Chamber of Secrets; Prisoner of Azkaban; Goblet of Fire; Order of the Phoenix; and more.

This story is set in many places: Harry Potter's house, the School of Hogwarts and the outside world of magic. Harry Potter isn't an ordinary school boy - well he is but he has powers, powers beyond your imagination; but he can't do anything he wants with them because of course that would be breaking the rules.

One of Harry Potters main rules is NOT to use his powers outside Hogwarts school, otherwise they will be taken from him by the maddening Ministry of Magic.

Are The Books Expensive?

£35.00 for a whole box set - is that expensive? It depends on how much you really want to read the books and how much you want to spend. I would recommend you buy one book, read it; and if you like it then get more. So go on, go and get your book now and ENJOY.

Probably best to start with the first book.



WARNING!

Lots of blood and BIG creepy crawlies.

By Jack

Harry Hill's Bumper Book of Bloopers

By Harry Hill

Reviewed by Adam M



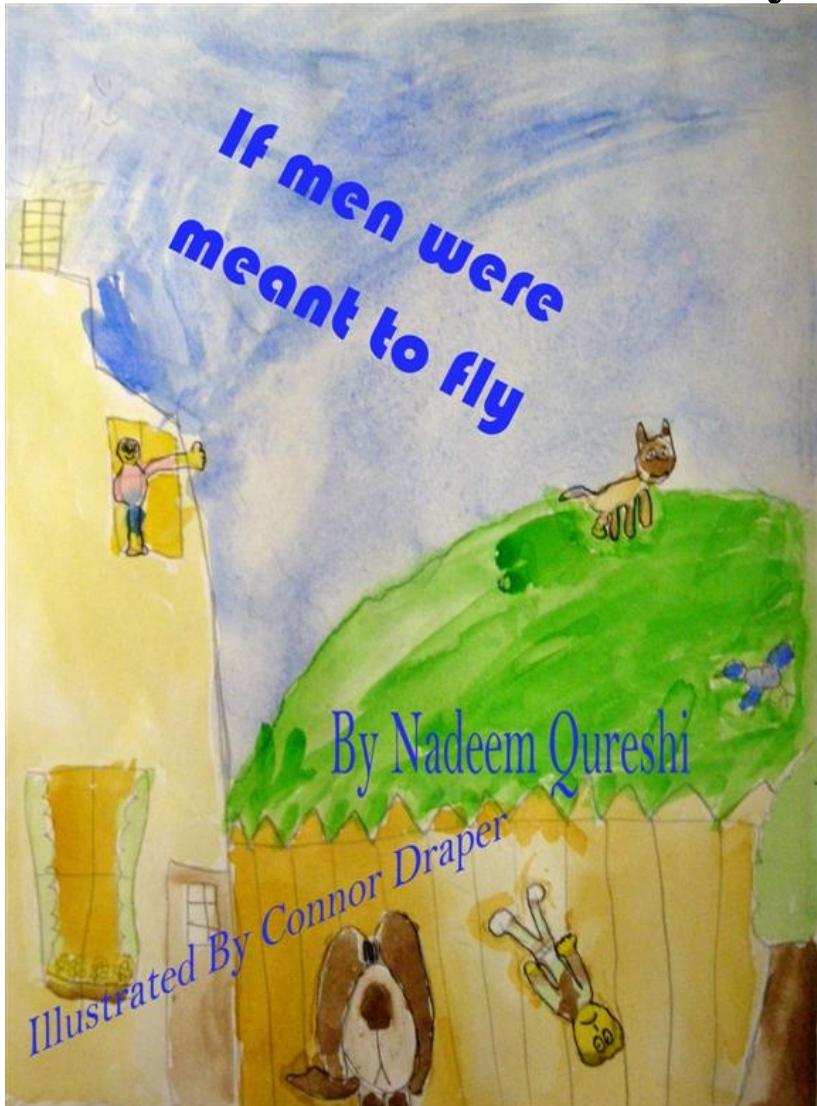
As you all probably know, Harry Hill is a master at cracking jokes. He also likes writing books like “Tim the Tiny Horse” and “Tim the Tiny Horse at Large”. As the years go on he gets funnier and funnier; well next year I don’t know how he’s going to get better than this. This book is full of funny mistakes in newspapers, signs and menus from restaurants! To be honest this book’s front cover isn’t exactly gripping but I don’t think you should ever judge a book by its cover!

The great thing about this book is that there is no plot at all so you can just flick through the pages to find a part that you like and then start reading. This book is a very good present for a birthday, especially if the person likes funny books! When you first read it you will think it’s all just a load of nonsense but then as you get further you will not want to stop!

Why is this book so funny you may ask? Well if you’ve seen ‘TV Burp’ you’ll know what I mean; but if not you’ll just have to trust me!

For a great book I think this book deserves a whopping 5 stars!
Reviewed by Adam M

If Men Were Meant to Fly



If Men Were Meant to Fly

By Nadeem Qureshi

Reviewed by Connor

Hilarious! I didn't want to put it down. This is the first book Nadeem Qureshi has ever written but even so it is amazing!

The main character starts his adventure after his..... so far unusual life with 12 wives - yes you read it right 12 wives! You'll understand when you read it! Well, if your owner is trying to put you in a dress and you are more of an 'Action-type of man', you wouldn't want to, would you? So the best thing to do is run away; or so he thinks. But this is probably not a good idea as he nearly gets killed (lots of times)! Will things ever change as he runs from adventure to adventure?

This book is aimed at confident readers who are about 6 or 7; but I still found it very funny and I am 10! So if any of your family or friends enjoy stories which are funny; or they are a confident reader and they are 7; get it now. And as it is only around £1.50 on Kindle, for this greatness, anyone can read it.

There are also others planned in the series, so watch out for more Action Adventures! ☺



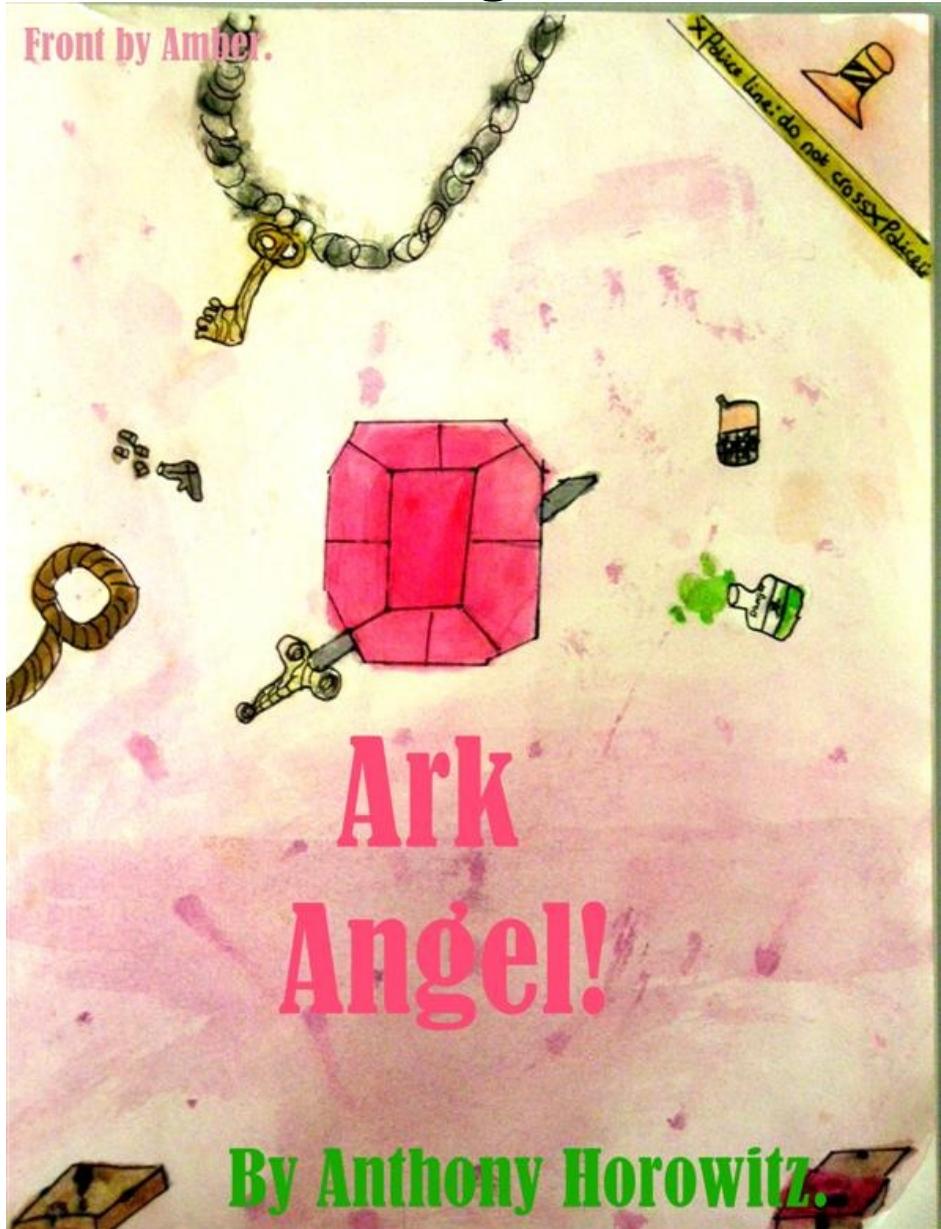
www.lulu.com/spotlight/LongStoryShort

By Connor

Ark Angel

Front by Amber.

Please line do not cross please



Ark Angel!

By Anthony Horowitz.

Ark Angel

by Anthony Horowitz

Reviewed by Amber



Intense, thrilling, colossal, epic - Ark Angel is an action-packed adventure story about a young boy called Alex Rider.

Alex is in hospital after being in a terrible adventure in the previous book (Scorpia). The bad guy, Devrin (a big criminal in parts of the world) plots to send Ark Angel (a flying hotel in space) on to a small city in America.

Can Alex save the population?

Find out in Ark Angel, a truly tremendous book written by Anthony Horowitz.

Other books by the author:

Storm Breaker, Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpia, Snakehead, Crocodile Tears, The Falcon's Malteser and there are lots more.

A quote from Emma, who also has read the book – “I’ve only read a little bit but I already know its one of the best books I have ever read!” It should be aimed at all children above 9 years old who enjoy an electrifying, heroic story!

It’s amazing - a fantastic novel to read!

Read it if you dare!

Review written by Amber

Theodore Boone

By John Grisham

Reviewed by Freddy

Brilliant! This is one of the best books I have ever read; constantly making me turn the page to read more. This magnificent creation by John Grisham is set in a small American state of Strattenburg where there is a 13 year old boy named Theodore Boone. This imaginative boy really wants to follow his Mum and Dad's career of being a lawyer and if he is lucky, a judge.

But suddenly a murder has been committed at the house of Mr Duffy, next to The Creek Golf Course, and the victim is his wife. Everyone, even the Judge, thinks Mr. Duffy is to blame, but no one has any way to prove it... But there is a faceless witness who saw the whole crime happen, and one other person who knows the whole truth and he is 13. You may have guessed it, Theodore knows the full truth but will he tell.....?

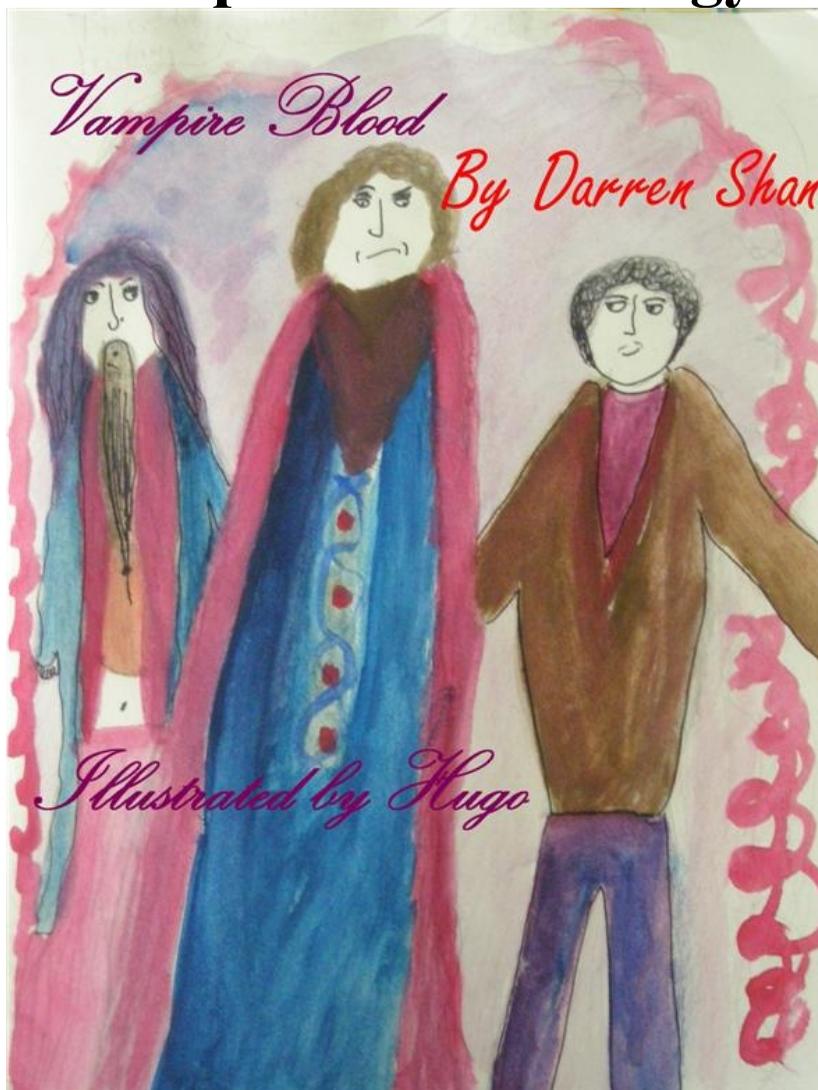
I personally think this is great for confident readers, 10 years of age and up; who really like action, suspense and crime stories because this book has it all. But beware you must have some time on your hands, because you will want to read more and more.

So I give this book:



Freddy

The Saga of Darren Shan ~ Vampire Blood Trilogy



The Saga of Darren Shan

Vampire Blood Trilogy

Reviewed by Hugo

The nightmare begins...

In this book Darren is a normal schoolboy with a wild friend called Steve. They visit a freak show, after being told not to, and leave late at night! At the freak show they encounter lots of scary things, like a wolf-man and a snake woman.

But the main thing that Darren sees is an act with a spider and a man. It draws Darren in, not knowing the terrible secret that lies beneath.

This book is not for the faint hearted! It is compelling and thrilling. The author captures you and invites you into the scary world of Vampires! It makes you feel as if you are Darren yourself; and exploring the dark depths of your imagination.

The author uses words that make you scared of the dark, such as vampires, blood, coffins, freaks, menace and evil!

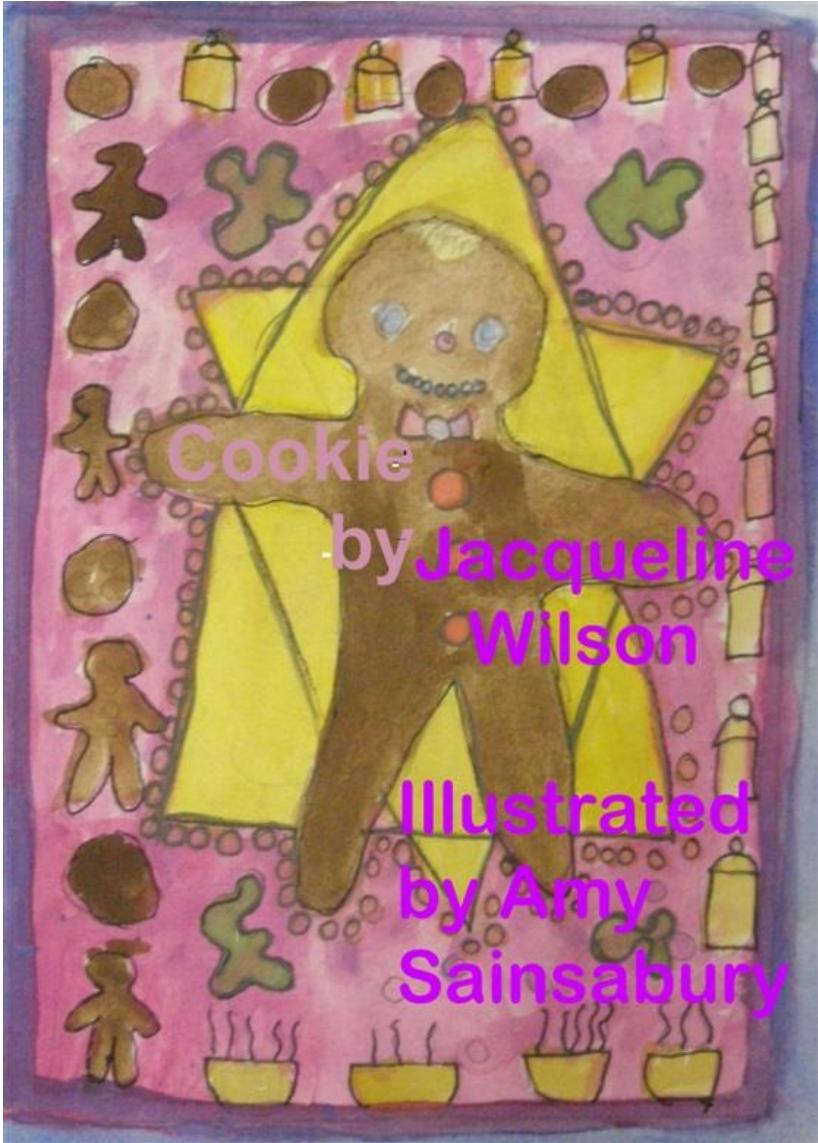
I would recommend this book for those who like dark, gothic books with a twist; and who like to be a little bit terrified at night!

This book is the first of a long series of Darren's adventures.

Read it if you dare!

By Hugo

Cookie



Cookie

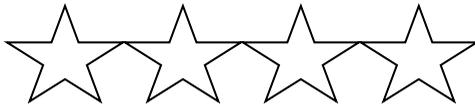
by Jacqueline
Wilson

Illustrated
by Amy
Sainsbury

Cookie

By Jacqueline Wilson

Reviewed by Amy



This is a great book about a girl called Beauty. She was teased at school about her name and her looks in the playground. In the end Beauty changes her name to Cookie and she and her Mum start to do cooking together. So in the end the girls at school don't tease her any more.

If you like reading books, this will be an amazing book for you to read. It's called Cookie by Jacqueline Wilson.

By the way, if you like Tracey Beaker from the TV series you would like Jacqueline Wilson - as she writes all of the books like Midnight, Lilly Alone and Lottie's Project - and many more. You can find them in libraries at school and out of school as well.

This book is good for people aged 8 to 10. I think it is good so you might like it too.

I will give this book 4/5 stars.

Amy

Darren Shan ~ Vampire War

Vampire War

By Darren Shan

Illustrated by Charlie Swainsbury



Darren Shan ~ Vampire War

Reviewed by Charlie

A most exciting thriller full of ups and downs, twists and turns; like a roller-coaster ride. This book is hard to put down. Once you start to read it you've entered a different world where Vampires and Dragons exist.

Years ago the Vampires and Vampanese were at peace until a Vampire known as Mr. Crepsly had a fight with a Vampanese. This led to the war of scars between Vampires and Vampanese and two young friends Darren Shan and Steve Leopard are now arch enemies.

I personally would recommend this book for 11 and over. This is a great read with 12 phenomenal books in the Saga.

WARNING!

Book contains fairly bad language.

I will give this book a whopping...



By Charlie

Dear Olly...

Dear Olly ...
BY MICHAEL MORPURGO ...



Dear Olly...

By Michael Morpurgo

Reviewed by Natalie

“A sentimental, tear jerking thriller in a mist of heart-warming atmosphere!”

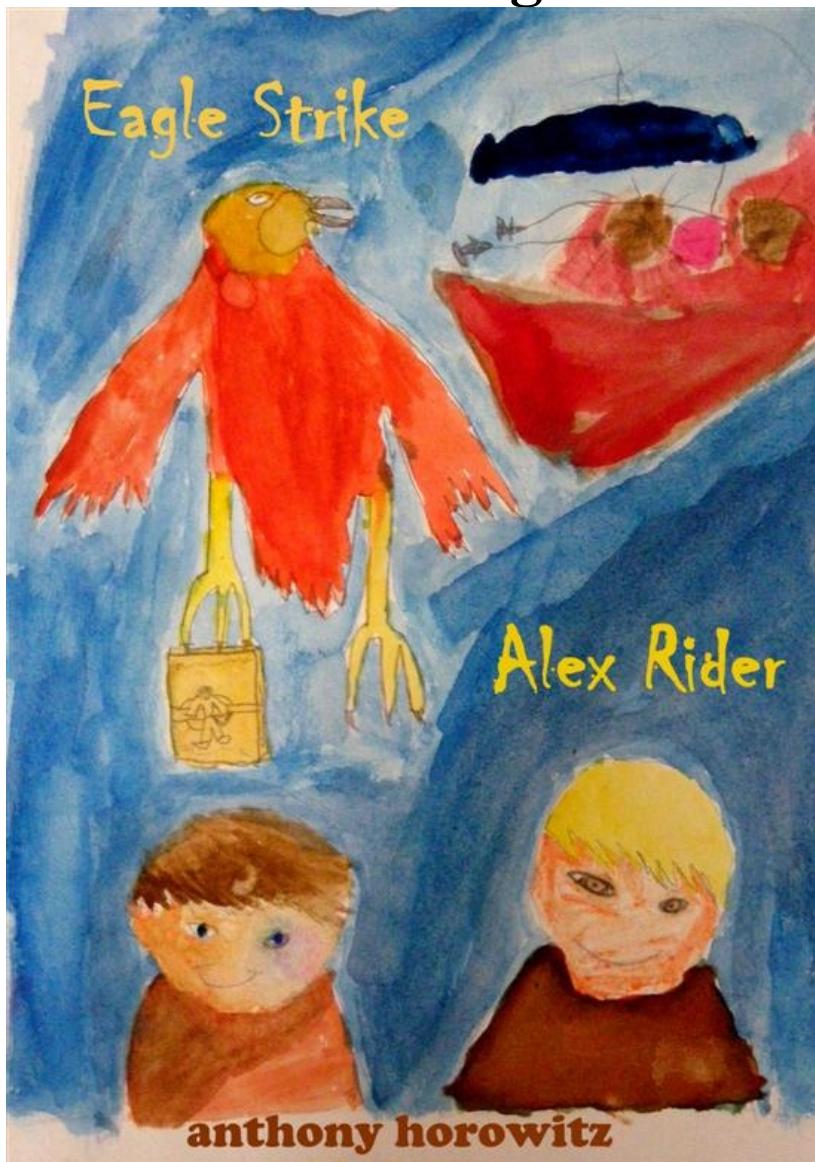
Fantastic! The Michael Morpurgo books never fail to impress but this passionate tale is one beyond imagination. It ushers amazing ideas into every day reactions and one-off situations.

Olly, an intellectual teenager, faces an extraordinary hardship; her brother chooses to decamp in Africa and leave her alone with her comforting mother and nosy, ‘over-understanding’ relatives. Encouraged only by his treasured letters, choking phone-calls and never-ending love; she carries on Matt’s autumn ritual of feeding, housing and seeing out Matt’s beloved swallows. And this is where the hero comes in! But I’ll leave you to write that chapter review.

This moving, stirring, 3-movement book is a definite 5 star winner.

By Natalie

Alex Rider ~ Eagle Strike



Eagle Strike

Alex Rider

anthony horowitz

Alex Rider ~ Eagle Strike

By Anthony Horowitz

Reviewed by Matthew

Flabbergasting! Another great book by Anthony Horowitz about a young teenage spy called Alex Rider.

Alex, when he goes on holiday with his friend Sabina, notices an old enemy - Yassen Gregorovich.

It's un-missable. A fun but serious addition to a fab series.

In this book, Alex has to stop the massive celebrity and his computer game from destroying the world. How does he do it? You'll just have to read on to find out.

I would recommend this book for ages 10 years or over. Five stars, he's done it yet again!

By Matthew

Rose and the Magician's Mask

Rose and the Magician's mask



By Holly Webb

Illustrated by Emma Straight

Rose and the Magician's Mask

By Holly Webb

Reviewed by Emma

Five stars

I really enjoyed this book because there is always a mystery in it. This book is part of a series of books by Holly Webb. I recommend that you start at the beginning of the series to understand the plot of the books.

Rose is a magical servant girl who is an apprentice to the King's Magician - MR Fountain (a great magician); but when the powerful magic mask disappears, Rose has to save the world as the powers are not known.

She travels to Venice to find it but who knows what could happen...?

Holly Webb is a bestselling author who has written 4 books about Rose's life. She has also started a new series called 'Lily', which is just like Rose. Here are some of the other books Holly Webb has created:

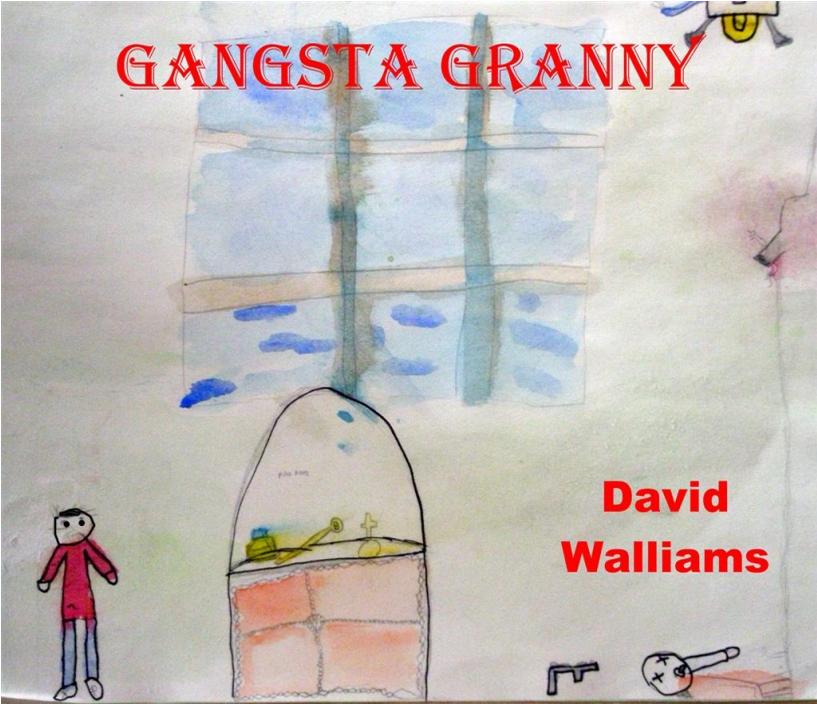
Rose, Rose and the Lost Princess, Rose and the Magician's Mask, Rose and the Silver Ghost, Lily 2011, Lily and Shining Dragons 2012, Molly Magic, My Naughty Little Puppy.

You can get to the Holly Webb website by going to www.holly-webb.com.

By Emma

GANGSTER GRANNY

GANGSTA GRANNY



Gangster Granny

BY DAVID WALLIAMS

REVIEWED BY JACOB

Outstanding. This book is incredible. It is funny, adventurous, full of action and has loads of mystery. It is hard to put it down.

There is one cliff-hanger after another and unexpected events throughout; you can't get enough. Why get four different types of books when you can get an all-in-one?

The main characters in this book are Ben and his Granny. Ben dreads staying with his Granny every Friday night. Then accidentally he finds out his Granny has a dark secret. A dark secret that he is now part of... the biggest, most daring crime ever.

This book has amazing description and incredible character development. It is just long enough that you get into the book; but short enough that you don't get bored.

My only criticism is that it takes a bit of time to get into the story. The book takes your mind on all sorts of adventures.

By Jacob

LEMONY SNICKET'S: THE REPTILE ROOM



The Reptile Room

By Lemony Snicket

Reviewed by Oscar

Lemony Snicket is one of the best authors around these days – well that's what I think. Not only is his writing mesmerising but it contains an element of surprise in every book. They all have something brilliant and different inside them. Much like Anthony Horowitz, there's always some kind of mystery enclosed in his novels that is waiting to be solved.

In this story (The Reptile Room) Klaus, Sunny and Violet all have an adversity to overcome and a crime to solve.

Mr. Poe, their guardian, has dropped them off at Uncle Monty's house and that's when trouble breaks out! Count Olaf arrives and there is a mysterious murder break out. The children know who did it but will they tell.....?

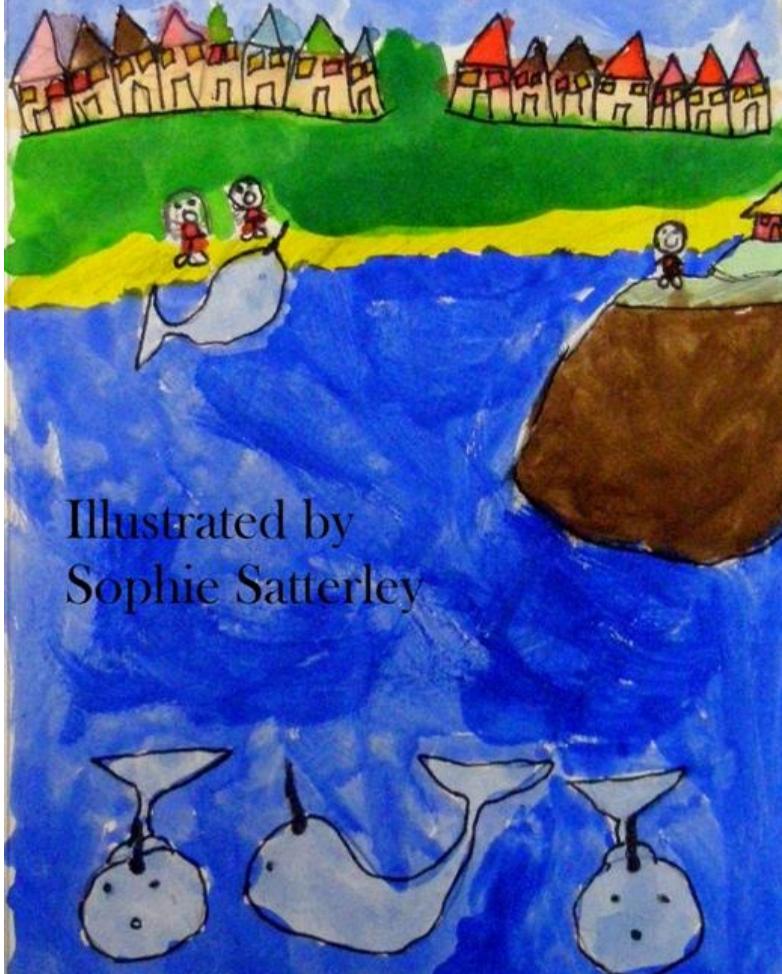
I would recommend this brilliant book to anyone! Who would dare miss it?



By Oscar

Why the Whales Came

Why the Whales Came
by Michael Morpurgo



Illustrated by
Sophie Satterley

Why the Whales Came

By Michael Morpurgo

Reviewed by Sophie

“A Magical Michael Morpurgo Mystery”

Fantastic! Before reading this book, I thought it would be the best book in the world, and I was right! I have thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I highly recommend “Why the Whales Came” to anyone who enjoys stories that have suspense, even if you’re not a Michael Morpurgo fan.

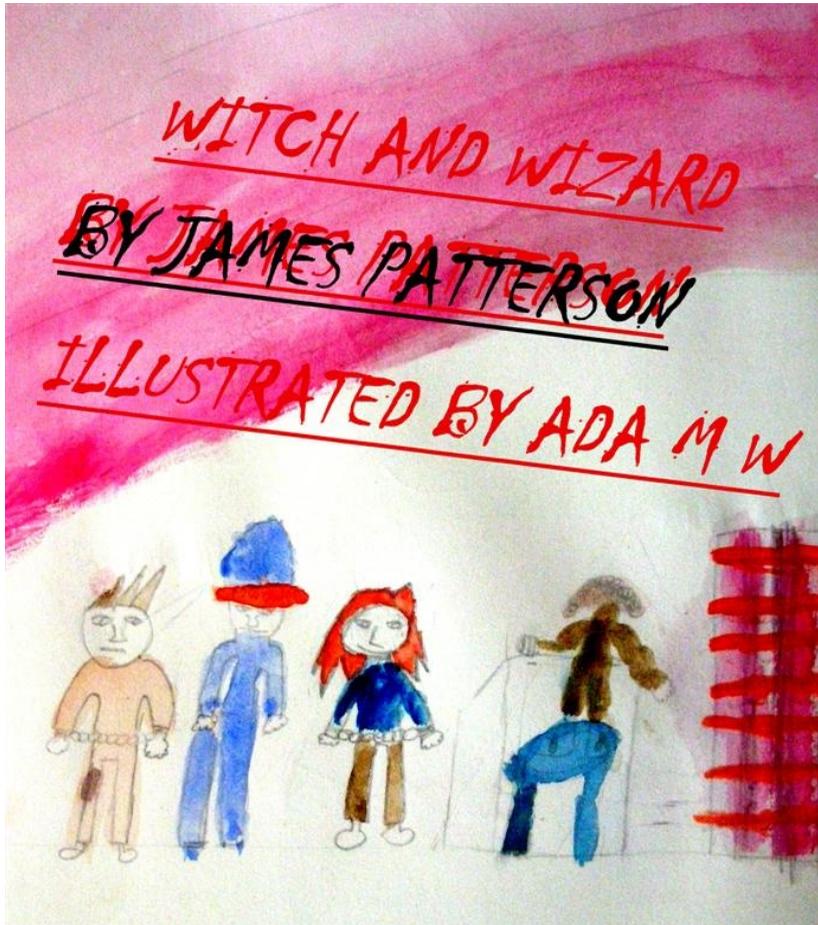
“Why the Whales Came” is about a little girl who has a next-door neighbour who is her best friend (a boy). They are severely told not to go near the birdman; but being children, they take no notice. I’ll leave the rest for you to find out.

In contrast to other Michael Morpurgo books, this book has a lot more suspense. In this story they seem to find themselves nearly dying, but you’ll have to find out how and why yourself.

I think “Why the Whales Came” is an older children’s book (around 10-13) but I believe that if you like books that have mystery, then this book will be the book for you.

Reviewed by Sophie.

Witch & Wizard



Witch & Wizard

By James Patterson

Reviewed by Adam W

“I staggered to the window, forcing my body back to life after two hours of being passed out on the sofa, and peeked through the slats.”

Awesome!! This book is probably the best book I have ever read. It has adventure, mystery and suspense. Everything a person like me would want in a book. It has everything it says on the blurb. I love the book so much, I have read it though twice.

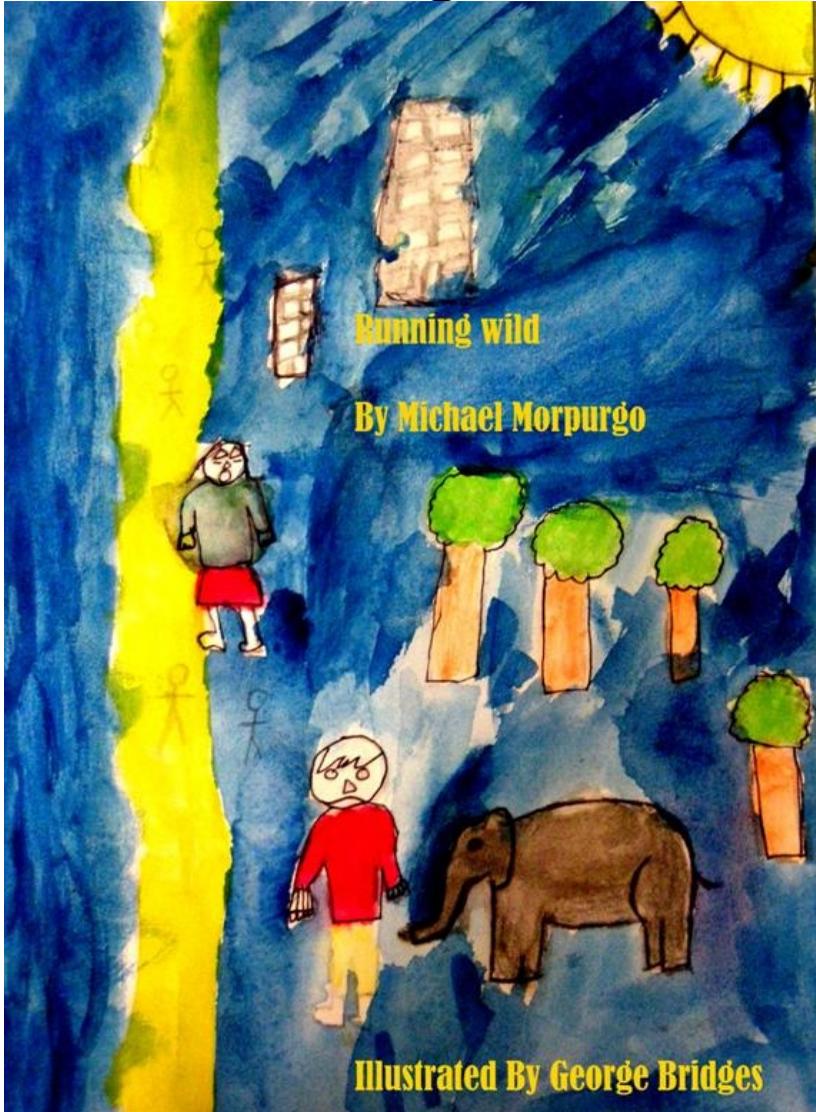
The author James Patterson is very famous and is expected to write very good books, as in the past he succeeded. As well as Witch and Wizard (I think this one is the best). He has written loads of books and won a couple of awards for them as well. Most people think of him as someone who just writes books for adults but he doesn't. He writes books for children equally as well. When some adults ask me what I am reading and I say Witch and Wizard by James Patterson they say - “Isn't he a bit old for you?” I am normally surprised, so I say “He writes children's books as well.”

The book is an ‘edge of your seat’ book and sometimes it even makes you hold your breath. Whatever bit you are reading there is always some action in it. Everyone I have lent it to has said it was brilliant. Amazing! 😊

To sum it all up - it is an immense book. Just the right book for people who like a breath-taking ride (which is most of us). It is a ‘must read’! I would recommend it for people 9+ because of the magic and to ensure that they understand it.

By Adam W

Running Wild



Running Wild

By Michael Morpurgo

Reviewed by George

Wow!!! FANTASTIC! What an amazing book! This is easily the best book I've ever read. It's a thrilling and moving novel, with so much mystery. From the first page you know it's going to be exciting.

If you like long, exciting, jaw dropping stories - this is for you. Compared to some other of his books, this one rules out most of them. He has got some classics and this should go with the classics - no doubt about that.

When 10-year-old Will's father dies in the Iraq war, his mother surprises him with a trip to Indonesia. But little could she have known what awaited them both there. The first thing that Will knows is that if anything goes wrong with Oona (the elephant he is riding on along the beach); he is all alone. Then suddenly she takes off into the jungle with Will on her back. And that's when Will sees the wave come crashing down.

With his mother almost certainly drowned, nothing to cling onto but an elephant; and nothing to help him but the clothes on his back; Will faces a terrifying future. But maybe the jungle and Oona the elephant can help him escape the terrible danger.

I would recommend this book to 7+ children and anyone who likes thrilling adventures.

By George

The Quest Begins Seekers



The Quest Begins ~

Seekers

By Erin Hunter

Reviewed by Dominic

Astonishing! Erin Hunter starts the series with a book that gripped me with anticipation; not knowing a U-turn in the tale was lying in wait!

The book is all about three small bear cubs, all having to face their own individual problems. Guided by the Pathway Star, will these young bears survive on their own? Just read this book!

Kallik, a young polar bear cub, fascinated by her Mother's stories about the Pathway Star, is left devastated after her Mother, Nisa, is killed by Orca whales and her brother, Taqiq, runs in the opposite direction. She is torn between following the Pathway Star and finding her brother. But the world is a big place for a young bear to venture alone, frightened; and having to face the dangers of the Earth.

Kallik's story moved me to tears because she had nearly lost everything but kept going because she believed she could do it.

Lusa, a small black bear, enthralled by Oka's (you'll find out about her later) tales of the wild, leaves the zoo she has always called home to find Oka's lost cub. Lusa made a solemn vow to Oka that she would find her cub and tell him Oka had regretted leaving him. She is faced

with the threats of the planet Earth; but the small, night-black bear doesn't give up despite leaving all her family, friends and most of all, the free food.

At the very end of the book she makes a jaw dropping discovery...

Toklo, a young Grizzly is overwhelmed when his sick brother Tobi dies before his eyes. Things go from bad to worse for this immature bear as his Mother Oka abandons him on the river bank. Alone, scared and thin as a twig, Toklo must travel unaccompanied until a flat face adopts him. Or is he a flat face? Toklo finds the flat face can do amazing things. He and his new friend Ujurak are following the Pathway Star to a secure haven where the bear spirits dance all the time.

I think anyone who loves a good adventure book should read this incredible adventure story by an author with such imagination as Erin Hunter.

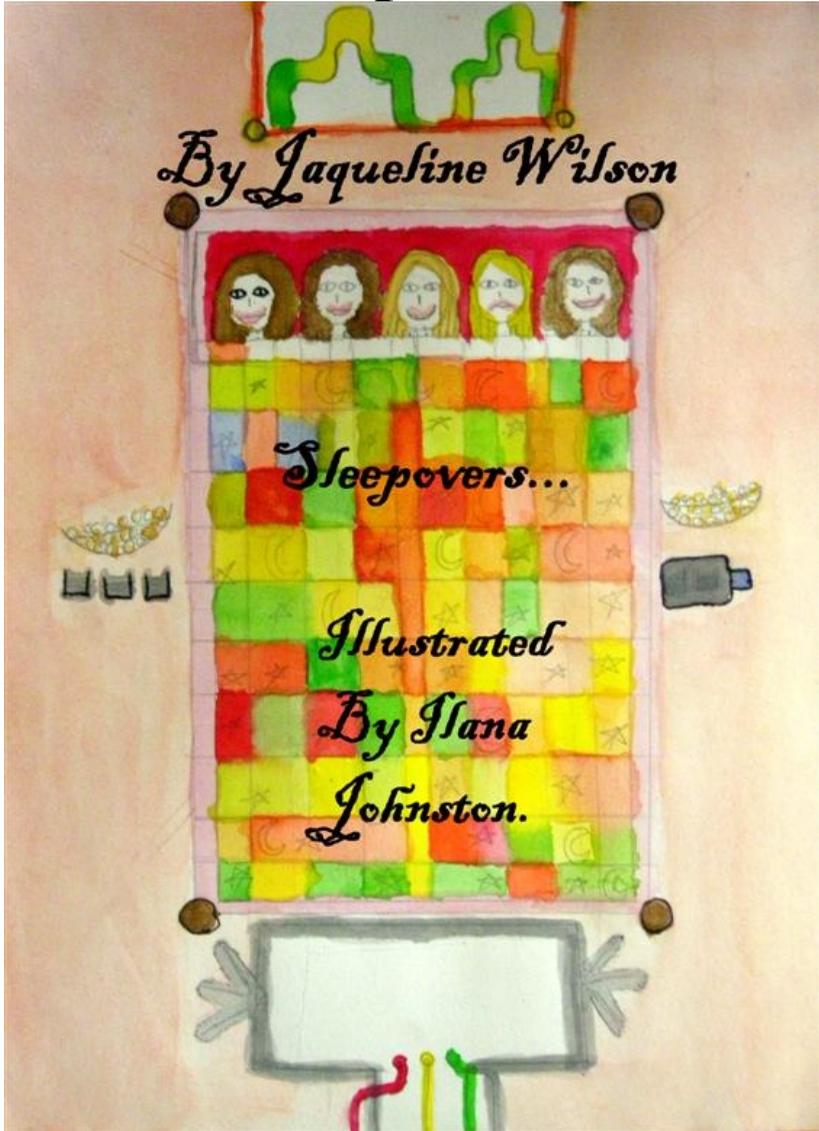
Adults should also read this book because the book also tells you what we are doing wrong to the environment. All in all, this is a great read for anyone over the age of seven!!

By Dominic



Warning: Very sad at times.

Sleepovers



Sleepovers.

**By Jacqueline Wilson
Reviewed by Ilana**

Amazing! Just amazing, this book is very good because if you like having sleepovers (like me) this is the book to tell you how it's done.

This fabulous book is about a girl called Daisy and her 4 friends, who all have sleepovers every year for their birthdays. Daisy decides to join the 'Sleepover Alphabet Club'. Daisy's birthday is coming up and she decides to have a sleepover party but

I have always loved this book because I name the 5 girls on the front as my friends and I collect all of Jacqueline's books. I love Jacqueline's style of writing. These books are for any ages up to teenagers.

On the first page it gives you a huge range of Jacqueline Wilson's books so you could collect them all (like me)!

Enjoy the book.

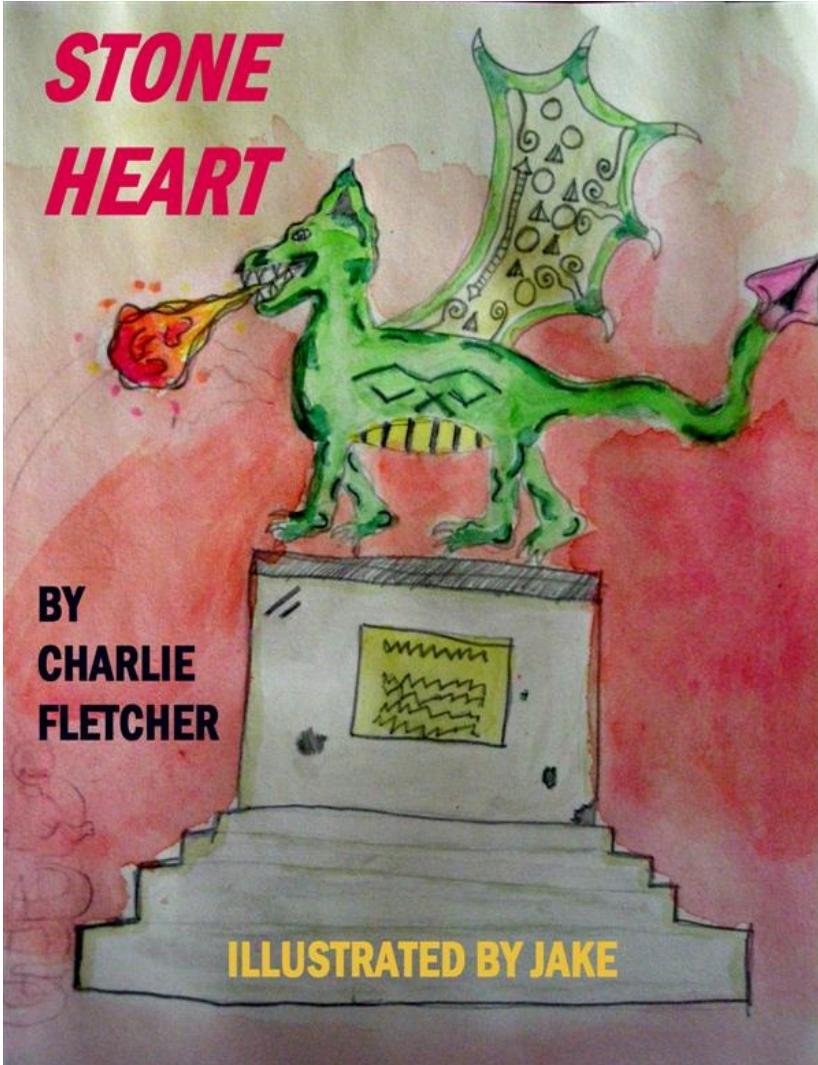
By Ilana

Stoneheart

**STONE
HEART**

**BY
CHARLIE
FLETCHER**

ILLUSTRATED BY JAKE



Stoneheart

By Charlie Fletcher

Reviewed by Jake



Amazing! A brilliant book full of suspense, tension and mystery.

This thrilling adventure, set in the streets of London, has characters like . . .

- George, a normal boy, who finds out what he is really made of.
- Edie, a ‘glint’, who sees into the past when she touches something and is in need of a friend.
- The Gunner, a World War I soldier, who is a statue and takes George and Edie under his wing.

Written in short, punchy sentences - Charlie Fletcher, the author, draws you in and the fast moving pace and descriptions he uses bring the story to life in your head. It is set in the many layers of London where the statues talk, think, move and fight; and you are very special if you can see all of this.

This book, the first in the series, is probably best for children who, (like me) are 10 years old or over, due to the strong language. It left me speechless and wanting more. This is a fabulous story and I would recommend it to anyone who has a vivid imagination!

By Jake

THE FALCON'S MALTESERS

The falcon's maltesers



By Anthony Horowitz

Illustrated by Sam Connolly

THE FALCON'S MALTESERS

BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ

REVIEWED BY SAM

Legendary!!! This is a part action, part detective book featuring two brothers called Tim and Nick who start a detective agency. Tim is the older brother and he is not very smart. Nick is younger and he is more streetwise.

A dwarf called Johnny Naples leaves a package with them. You might think that is easy to look after a box of maltesers, although after you've read this book you will have a whole different way of looking at a box of maltesers.

The thing that Nick and Tim don't realise is that a whole bunch of criminals are going after the box and just guess what kinds of things that Nick gets into! You may think that the box of maltesers is just an ordinary box; but what Tim and Nick find out is that the barcode on the box is a key to a safe full of...

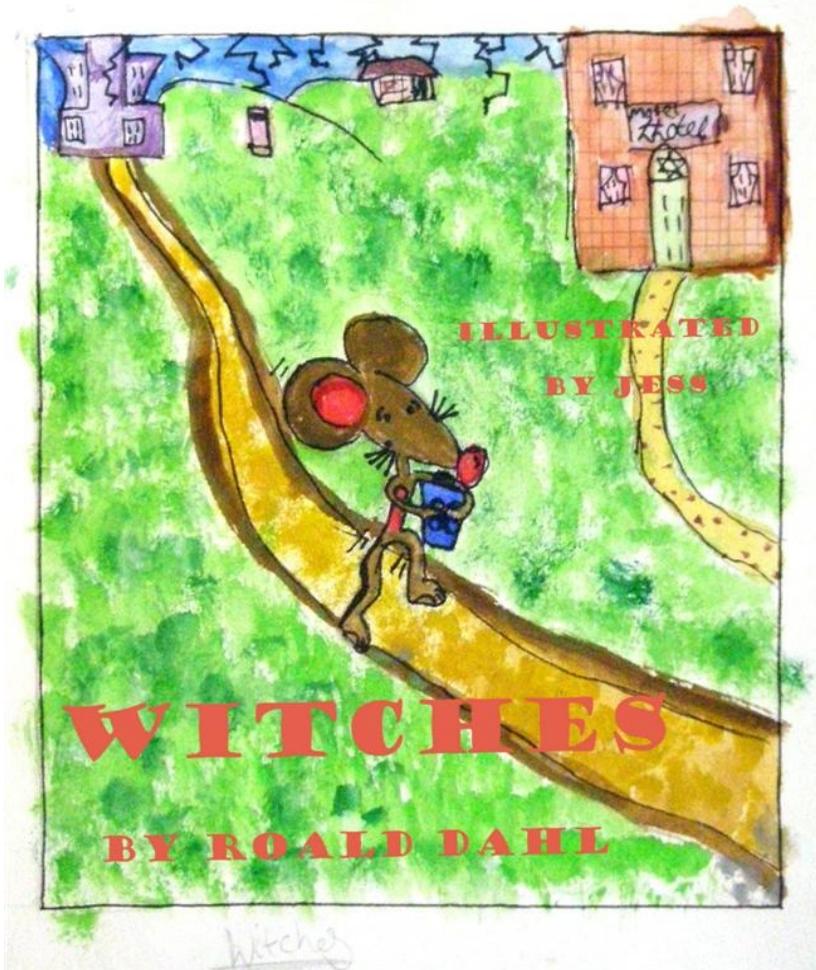
Sorry – you'll have to read the book! All in all, this is an exciting and funny book, full of mysteries.

So read it NOW!!!

By Sam Connolly



The Witches



The Witches

By Roald Dahl

Reviewed by Jessica

“A scalp scratching, nail biting, mind boggling book!”

Outstanding! I guarantee this jaw dropping book will make you fall off your chair with laughter! If you like humour, adventure and action, you should definitely read this book. I love the excitement in the atmosphere and I'm sure you'll love it too. With fantastic illustrations, take it from me, this is a truly brilliant book!

It starts with an eight year old boy and ends with a smaller and more hairy creature. This boy has encountered unusual human-like creatures far from our imaginations... Witches - with their peculiar features. You do not want to come into contact with one; or you're in for a frightfully bumpy ride.

Will the boy survive the encounter..?

Roald Dahl is one of the best-selling authors in the world. He is very successful and has an indescribable imagination! His story “The Witches” is not only a book but has been adapted into a stage play and a two-part radio dramatisation for the BBC.

I recommend this book to everyone!

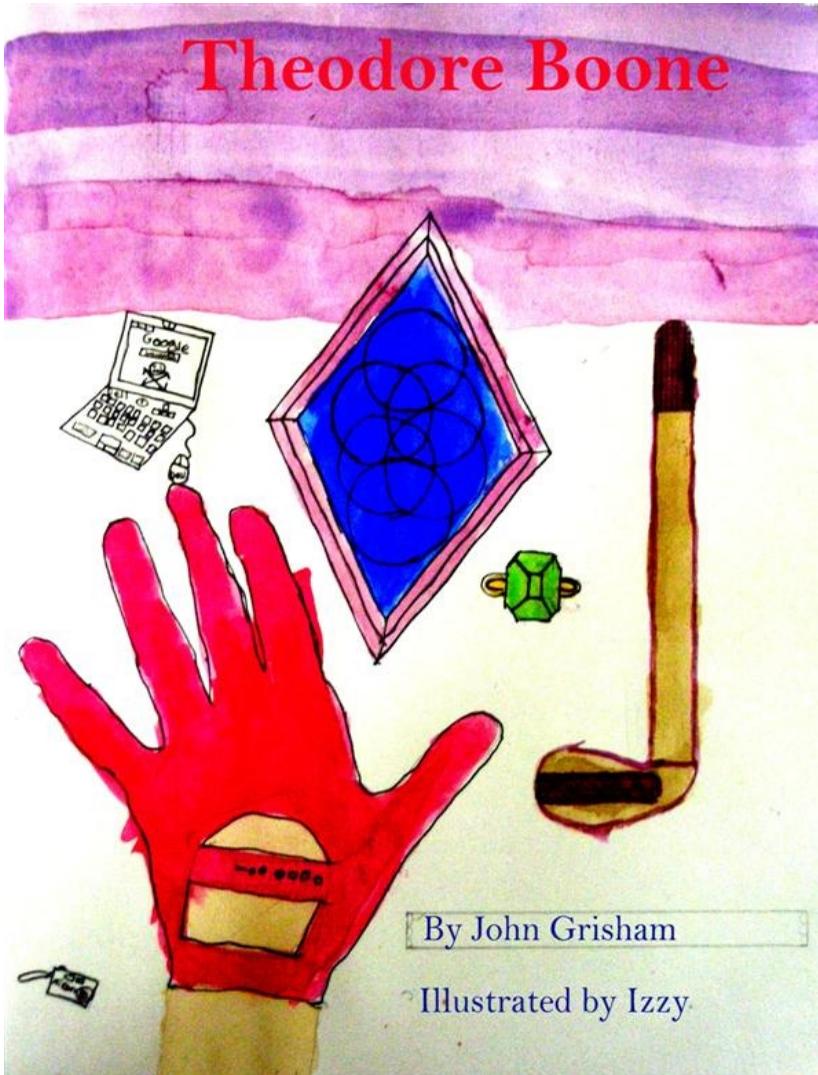
WARNING

Book may involve a highly dangerous potion - 'Formula 86 Delayed-Action Mouse Maker' used by the Grand High Witch herself!

By Jessica

Theodore Boone

Theodore Boone



By John Grisham

Illustrated by Izzy

Theodore Boone

By John Grisham

Reviewed by Isobel

"In the small city of Strattenburg, there are many lawyers and though he's only thirteen years old, Theo Boone thinks he's one of them."

Wow! Just part of the blurb of this amazing book. This is a great book for an adventure loving reader. You get the murders and trials plus lots of extra detail which you don't often get in other books.

It is all about the murder trial accusing a man called Mr. Duffy of killing his wife, Mrs Duffy. But just when everyone thinks it's over, Theo makes a discovery that only one person, yes only one person, knows the truth. To find out about the rest I guess you will need to read the book.

This book had me reading past my bedtime, that's how thrilling it was; and I managed to finish this book in two and a half weeks. I would recommend this book for 10 to adult; or for a confident 9 year old reader.



By Isobel

Dragon Rider



Dragon Rider
By Cornelia Funke

Dragon Rider

Cornelia Funke

Reviewed by Ben (2007 ~ Y6)

Fantastic - edge of your seat book.

This extremely exciting book will keep you on the very edge of your seat with the adventures of three creatures tied together by fate.

Firedrake, Ben and a cheeky young Brownie called Sorrel go through a breathtaking adventure to reach the rim of heaven - where dragons can live in peace and harmony.

I personally think this is the best book I have ever read.

Unlike other books I've read, Dragon Rider is the first book to have a recognisable creature named as something else: for example, a Brownie is a cat. But like some other books such as "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Dragon Keeper", Dragon Rider is another great book centred on the amazing adventures of dragons.

Ben, Sorrel and Firedrake face lots of horrible creatures on their journey, such as poachers, dwarfs, pixies and a heartless monster from the past who's been waiting for a very long time to destroy the last dragon on Earth.

Travelling through towns, mountains and even over seas; this book is a cracker of a journey. It has great characters like...

Burr-Burr-Chan - A mountain brownie

Maia - A she-dragon

Gravelbeard - A dwarf

Plus lots more like Ben a normal boy from London.

All books have weaknesses but dragon rider has very few. Overall Dragon Rider is an extremely good story, which I'd recommend to anyone who is searching for fantasy and excitement in the pages of a book.

Go on read it!

Benjamin

Gatty's Tale

GATTY'S TALE



BY
KEVIN CROSSLEY ~ HOLLAND

BY CERUS

Gatty's Tale

by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Reviewed by Robyn (2007 ~ Y6)

A joyful, tear-jerking book.

Incredible! Once more Kevin Crossley-Holland makes a superb creation! This book does not give you time to slump back in your seat, for once it's done with one tantalising moment, it's on to another. Short, snappy sentences are perfect for this type of book. Again Holland is pure genius!

In the year 1203 we meet Gatty (servant to Sir John) who has a voice of an untrained angel. One day Sir John hears her singing in the field and contacts his good friend Lady Gwyneth - who states that she is in need of a second chamber maid and Gatty's voice may be just the thing she needs. Lady Gwyneth and some associates are going on a dangerous and daring pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the holy land; but who knows whether they will make it...?

This is a story of plain field girl who faces thieves, murderous Saracens and ghastly men. But once she gets through all the tasks that await her there is a glorious prize to be had – one that no-one would ever have dreamt of!

It amazes me how much Kevin Crossly's writing can touch someone so much compared to his other creations.

Beautifully written, Gatty's Tale deserves a medal for the tenderness but simplicity of story.

While reading you totally get to know Gatty and the rest of the characters and begin to feel their worries and woes.

All in all I would recommend this book to anyone!

Robyn

I, Coriander

I, Coriander



By Sally Gardner

Illustrated by Cerys

I, Coriander

by Sally Gardner

Reviewed by Charlotte (Y6 ~ 2007)

Moving and entrancing!

"I have lit the first of seven candles to write my story by. On the table next to me is the silk purse that holds my mother's pearls and beside it is the ebony casket whose treasure I am only now beginning to understand. Next to that standing nearly as brightly as the moon, stands a pair of silver shoes."

This is just one of the many mesmerizing quotes filling Sally Gardner's book, "I, Coriander". Apart from being mesmeric, the book has many other key elements, such as it being: tense, exciting, scary, and emotional.

The story is about a young girl called Coriander Hobie who lives with her Mother, Father, Danes (the house keeper), and Joan (the cook); in their rich London house next to the River Thames in the mid 1600's. While she was young, Coriander remembers only happiness - that was before she knew that the world was an evil place; and that she was soon to be hit regularly; have her Mother and Father stolen from her; and to be locked up in a chest and left to die.

As well as being a good book, it also has some background information about the civil war, as that was the time the story was set. There are also some drawings of what London used to look like back in the 1600's.

If this sounds like a cruel book to you, don't get put off, there are many happy parts along the way. However there is quite a lot of brutality so I suggest no one under the age of 10 should read it.

If you love a good read then this is the book for you. There isn't a single page I wanted to skip because it's such a moving and entrancing story. Who would want to miss anything so good?

Charlotte

Point Blanc (Alex Rider)

Point Blanc

by Anthony Horowitz



Point Blanc (Alex Rider)

By Anthony Horowitz

Reviewed by Joanna (Y6 ~ 2007)

A Super Spy Sequel Suspense Story.

Excellent! After reading Point Blanc, the sequel to Stormbreaker, I was pleased that Anthony Horowitz decided to write another book. I have thoroughly enjoyed both of them. I highly recommend them to anyone who likes a good read and is a fan of James Bond and other spy books.

Point Blanc is about new MI6 agent Alex Rider, who is sent on a mission to investigate a French academy (Point Blanc), where the British Agency believes something is happening which shouldn't! Two millionaires who have died both have a son at the academy. Is this a coincidence, or something more sinister...?

In contrast to other spy stories however, Alex Rider is a fourteen-year-old school boy. The idea of sending a kid to do all of these dangerous missions is excitingly different and he goes armed with stereotyped teenage agent gadgets - which include metal-eating spot cream!

I think Point Blanc is aimed at older children (around 10-14 years). However I believe people with a good sense of humour and a wild imagination will enjoy the suspense and adventures of this teenage spy.

Joanna

Harry Potter

HARRY POTTER



**ILLUSTRATED
BY TOM**

BY JK. ROWLING

Harry Potter

By JK Rowling

Reviewed by Tom

Amazing!!! Harry Potter is a mind-blowing series of books. They have all sorts of magical adventures for you to unlock. They are such good books that when I picked up the first I just could not stop reading; and to be honest, they are pretty much my favourite books. The main characters are Harry and the family who he stays with in the school holidays... The Dursleys – Uncle Vernon, Aunt Petunia and the quite spoilt Dudley. Then there are Harry's mates, who he meets at Hogwarts School of Magic, - red-haired Ron Weasley and brainy but swotty Hermione. (Hermione is actually based on Jk Rowling when she was a girl.) Let's not forget Harry's main enemy at school though - Draco Malfoy. The teachers include Professor McGonagall and Professor Dumbledore.

The plot revolves around Harry trying to stop his arch enemy – Voldemort, who tries to destroy Harry and his friends. However, Harry fights back with his magical powers...

I would recommend this book for ages 10+ because it has some mild language in it and it is hard to understand the context and the style of writing. But all in all I would rate the books an outstanding 5 STARS!!!

Lily Alone

By Jacqueline Wilson

Lily Alone

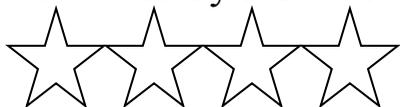
Illustrated by
Jasmine



Lily Alone

By Jacqueline Wilson

Reviewed by Jasmine



A great book, 4 Stars

Fab, Jacqueline Wilson strikes again. This book tells of an 11 year old girl left at home alone to look after her 3 younger siblings, whilst her single mum goes on holiday with her new boyfriend. Their flat isn't the safest place; so why not go camping at the park? This is where their adventure begins alone...

This is no fairytale with a happy ending - this is realistic. The book is full of emotion, an impossible task for Lily to take on - responsibility for Bliss, Baxter and Pixie.

Lily, a child herself, is forced to seek help after an accident hospitalises Bliss. The authorities are informed and the children are separated. The mother's role in the book is minimal and instead it concentrates on the adventures the children have. She returns and wants the family reunited. But will her neglect and abandonment of her children keep them apart forever?

The inspiration behind 'Lily Alone':

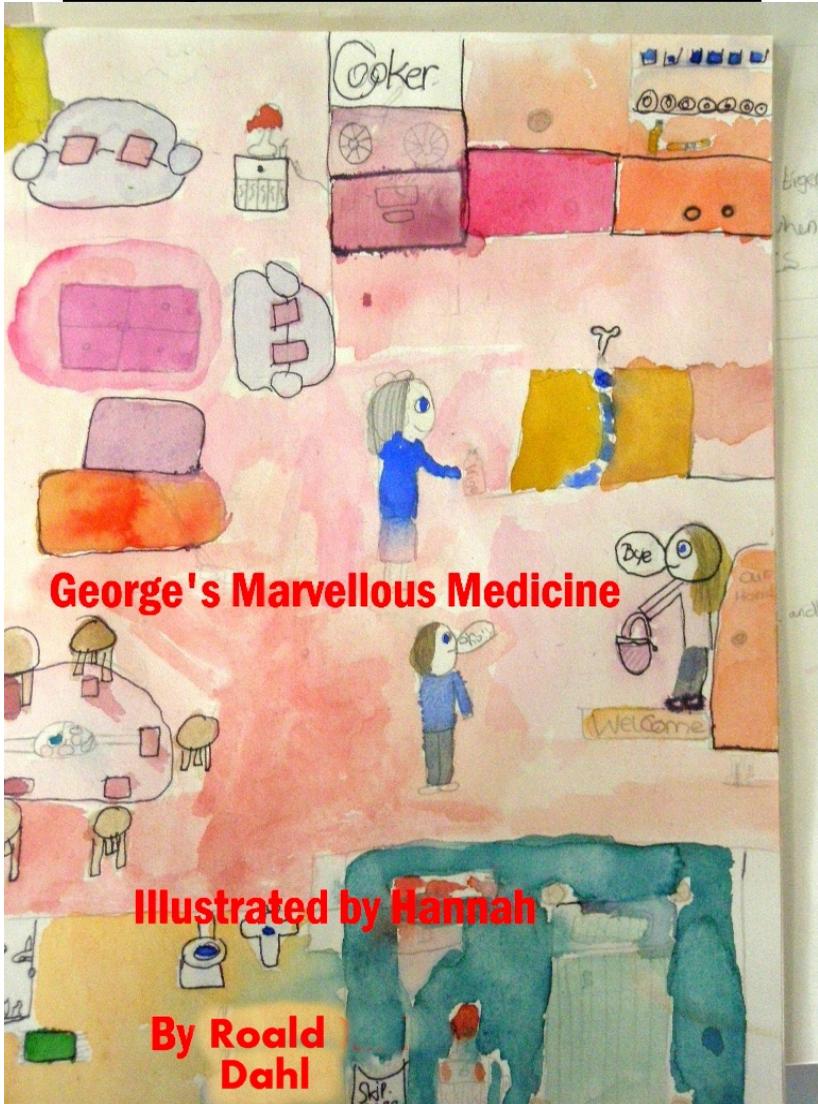
Jacqueline Wilson was walking in Richmond Park, which has a huge diameter of about 10 miles; and she saw children playing. Jacqueline wondered what it would be like if some children camped there.

I would have given this book 5 stars but the paragraphs about a certain theme are a bit long. I would recommend this book anyone who likes Jacqueline Wilson and likes a good adventure.

If you're a Jacqueline Wilson fan look out for 'The Worse Thing about My Sister' out on the 2nd of February 2012.

By Jasmine

George's Marvellous Medicine



George's Marvellous Medicine

By Roald Dahl

Reviewed by Hannah

Rating 4 stars



A fantastic, family story.

Recommended age 6 or above.

The story is about a boy who is left alone with his old granny; but he doesn't like her very much. He has to give his granny medicine every hour. (His mum has gone to the shops so it is up to him to give Granny the medicine.)

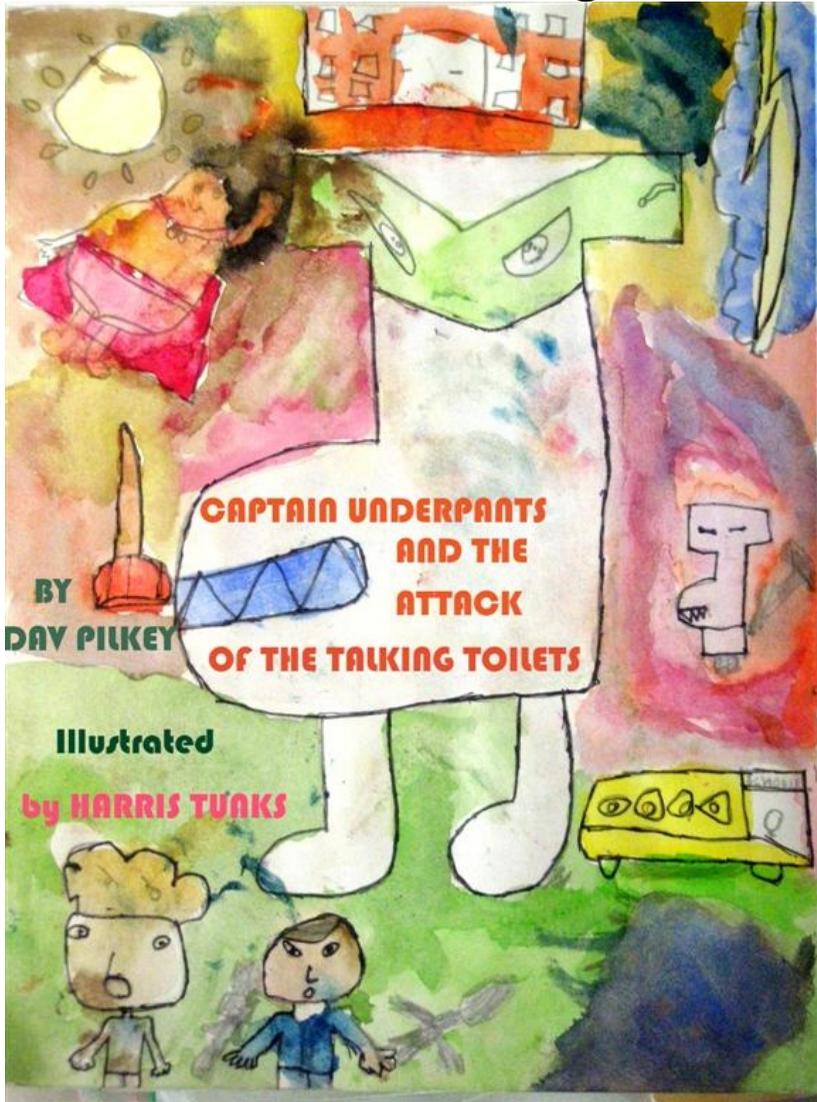
A FUN story for all the family. You should also go and see the pantomime because it's fun, exciting and they include the audience a lot.

There are other books that Roald Dahl has written like: Matilda, BFG, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory plus many more!!!

I know that all my friends like this book and that they all liked the pantomime very much too!

By Hannah

Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets



Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets

By Dave Pilkey

Reviewed by Harris

Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets - what nonsense!

If you think the title sounds funny, you should read the book. The second hilarious novel by Dav Pilkey (and in my opinion the best). This good humoured story is about a grumpy headmaster who ends up turning into a ridiculous super hero; with two mischievous boys - George and Harold - as other main characters. Captain Underpants never normally fails against the idiotic enemies who appear in each book; but will he succeed this time?

Using the superior 'flip-o-rama' you can make the page act out a scene - you just flip the page as quick as you can. Captain Underpants is a funny, action packed book for those who love a bit of a thrill. This book is more of a loose book for those who just want to sit down and laugh at the jokes.

For me it's a 5 star book. Once you have read the series, you feel sad because there is no book quite as good. This is not an educational book, just a super-doooper novel. Do you love humour? Well then get this book now from about £4.15.

Having a Captain Underpants novel is like having a comedian - you can't stop laughing. If you were in The Jerome Horwitz Elementary School, then you would have the Tree House Inc. Comic Makers (Gorge and Harold) to laugh with all day. So therefore, that's why I think Captain Underpants is a super book.

About the author:

Dav Pilky used to get in trouble at school quite a bit so he would sit outside the head-teacher's room and that's where Captain Underpants got created. I recommend this book for the age range 7-9 year olds and for a reader of wanting action, comedy and fun.

Did you know the first idea of Captain Underpants came from the author during his second year of Primary School? Perhaps you could do the same?

Reviewed by Harris

Join in the Fun...

If you have a favourite book, why not send a review and a picture to us? We could include it in the next edition of **Recommended Reads**.

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Together we Learn, Believe and Achieve

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