Kensy and Max: Breaking News
By Jacqueline Harvey
Publisher: Random House
ISBN 9780143780656  SCIS: 1848615
$16.99

Lamont Review:
Kensy and Max are 11-year-old twins who are very bright and observant.

Their lives are turned upside down when they arrive in London and learn their parents are missing. Everywhere they go there are strange people and even stranger things happening. Can they solve the mystery before something really bad happens?

Upper primary readers are going to fall in love with Kensy and Max. This book is full of mystery and adventure, codes, clues and is really fast paced. The twins have very distinct personalities, as do all the supporting characters.

This is a fun and entertaining mystery that will be a sure fire hit with both boys and girls in Year 5 and 6.

Reviewed by Michelle.
Tiggy and the Magic Paintbrush: A School Day Smile
By Zanni Louise with Gillian Flint
Publisher: Five Mile Press/Bonnier
ISBN 9781760680404   SCIS: 1854408
$12.99

Blurb:

Tiggy is spirited and full of imagination, though she can sometimes be just a little bit shy, and a little bit worried about things that are out of her control. But everything is A-Okay, because Tiggy has a special secret - a magic paintbrush that can bring to life anything her imagination dreams up! Today is Tiggy's first day of school, and she is super excited! But she's also not quite sure what to expect, and that makes Tiggy a bit nervous. Tiggy has her trusty magic paintbrush with her, but can it help her make new friends?

Lamont Review:

The first day at school can be scary, but Tiggy shows us that with a bit of confidence and a smile, all will be ok.

With little tips on how to get along with others and make friends sprinkled through the story, this is sure to be a welcome addition to your library.

It is the first book in a great new series for your emerging readers that is both enlightening and engrossing. Perfect for those young girls who can read, but need age appropriate content for 5 to 8-year-olds.

Reviewed by Rob
Turtle Trackers
By Samantha Wheeler
Publisher: University of Queensland Press
ISBN 9780702259951 SCIS: 1848583
$14.95

Blurb:
Ten-year-old Isaac is flat out. Helping his mum run a caravan park on the Queensland coast means no time for fun. So when he finds a sea turtle nesting on the beach, he's disappointed that he can't volunteer as a turtle tracker to watch over her eggs and hatchlings.

To make matters worse, famous travel blogger Eddie Eastwood and his mischievous dog come to stay. Isaac must pull out all the stops because a zero-star review from Eddie would spell disaster for his mum and the park.

How can Isaac find the time to protect the turtles and make a difference?

Lamont Review:
Samantha Wheeler really does have a wonderful way of blending a real life conservation issue into a story that will appeal to readers.

Isaac is a fabulous kid! Not only is he acting way beyond his years with all that he has to do to help his Mum keep the caravan park running, he is totally passionate about the turtles that nest on the beach near their home, and in particular, the impact that others are having on their well being.

You will absolutely get caught up in his enthusiasm, but his passion and eagerness to help does not come without issues!

There are strong themes of conservation, but also of friends and family relationships, as Isaac and his mum work through their grief of losing their husband and dad, and trying to find a balance and happiness again in their lives.

It is full of fabulous facts and the reader will learn things about turtles that they never knew!

A thoroughly enjoyable read for middle primary and above.

Reviewed by Sam
Lamont Review:

The Perfect World - this is something that I am sure we have all thought about, but what would a ‘perfect world’ really be like?

Keagan is a computer geek who loves sci-fi. So when he is mysteriously drawn into the strange shop amongst some deserted warehouses called Matilda’s Collectables, he has no idea what awaits him.

He finds himself in ‘another world’, where everyone is a clone and everyone is ‘perfect’. Or are they? The clones decide that Keagan is not perfect, so he must be sent to the ‘dumping ground’. And this is where the real adventure begins!

In the ‘dumping ground’ he finds a friend in Eone, and together with the Elders, they decide that the time is right to try and change their situation.

This new series by George Ivanoff is sure to be a hit. It is full of action and adventure, but there is far more to it than that. It will get your students thinking about individuality, differences, acceptance and who controls the world.

Boys and girls aged 8 + will thoroughly enjoy it!

Reviewed by Sam
The Boy From Earth
By Darrell Pitt
Publisher: Text Publishing
ISBN 9781925603392  SCIS: 1855405
$16.99

Blurb:

Twelve-year-old Bobby Baxter's not the bravest kid on Earth. His list of things that scare him is up to number 689, and includes lightning, crowds, spiders, alien abductions, crocodiles, falling from great heights, falling from small heights and eggs.

So when he learns that he's the first Earthling ever chosen to attend the Galactic Space Academy, light years away from home, he's terrified - and that's before he discovers that someone at the academy wants the boy from Earth gone.

Lamont Review:

If you have ever wondered what might be beyond Earth, then this action-packed story will really get your imagination going!

Bobby Baxter finds himself whisked away from Earth to the Galactic Space Academy on the planet Andarma. He is the first Earthling ever to be chosen to train for entry to the Space League, which is the Confederation's galactic police force. But why Bobby?

The training and conditions are harsh, and Bobby finds himself just wanting to go home to his Dad and his pet snail, Roger.

But something is up at the Academy. Strange things keep happening. Who is trying to sabotage Bobby and why?

This is a really action packed and fast moving story with lots going on! But it isn't all just about action, as Bobby learns to work with others and believe in himself, and he shows more courage and bravery than he ever knew he had.

It is a great read for students in middle primary and up.

Reviewed by Sam
**Ice Wolves - Elementals Book 1**  
By Amie Kaufman  
Publisher: Harper Collins  
ISBN 9781460755273 SCIS: 1848531  
$17.99

**Blurb:**

Everyone in Vallen knows that ice wolves and scorch dragons are sworn enemies who live deeply separate lives. So when twelve-year-old orphan Anders takes one elemental form and his twin sister, Rayna, takes another, he wonders whether they are even related. Still, whether or not they’re family, Rayna is Anders’s only true friend. She’s nothing like the brutal, cruel dragons who claimed her as one of their own and stole her away. In order to rescue her, Anders must enlist at the foreboding Ulfar Academy, a school for young wolves that values loyalty to the pack above all else. But for Anders, loyalty is more complicated than obedience, and friendship is the most powerful shapeshifting force of all. New York Times bestselling author Amie Kaufman delivers heart-pounding adventure and breathtaking magical inventions in this unforgettable story about finding one's place in a sharply divided world.

**Lamont Review:**

Ice Wolves versus scorch dragons - this is sure to be fun!

In the world of Vallen, twin 12-year-old orphan street kids, Anders and Rayna, live for each other. But when Anders is caught picking pockets, Rayna is quick thinking enough to come up with a story that they are in line to be tested to see if they are changelings - those who can turn into an Ice Wolf, Vallen’s protectors from scorch dragons.

But when Rayna’s turn arrives she turns into a Dragon and Anders turns into a Ice Wolf. Never before have siblings turned into enemies. Are they even related?

When Rayna disappears with other Dragons, Anders is taken to the Ulfar Academy to hone his new found abilities. But turning water into ice spears turns out not to be Anders’ strength. Maybe he is not a true Ice Wolf after all?

With a thrilling conclusion, Anders finds an unexpected strength, but can he and Rayna hope to reunite Dragons and Ice Wolves? We must wait for future instalments to find out!

Full of action and intrigue, this will have serious appeal to many younger readers, aged 8 and older. I loved it!

Reviewed by Rob
The Super Life of Ben Braver
By Marcus Emerson
Publisher: Allen & Unwin
ISBN 9781760631680 SCIS: 1855411
$12.99

Blurb:

Ben Braver is an ordinary kid living, well, an ordinary life... So when he's chosen to go to a secret school for kids with super powers, he sees it as a chance to be special. He's hoping his super powers will kick in soon, but it's not looking promising... Then he discovers the bully from his old school is at his new school as well, and things just get worse. And then a strange sickness spreads through the school. Can Ben solve the mystery of the zombie-like infection? And will his super powers ever show up? A funny and action-packed new series from the author of the bestselling Diary of a 6th Grade Ninja.

Lamont Review:

Ben Braver is an ordinary kid doing ordinary things. That is until he is whisked away to a secret school for students with super powers.

But what is his power and how is he going to find it?

Ben is a wonderful character that you will fall in love with. There is a mystery running through the story, along with lots of laughs that will keep you entertained.

This is an action packed, hilarious novel that will perfectly suit all those readers who ever wanted to be a super hero (so basically all of us!).

Both boys and girls in Year 4 and up will enjoy this one.

Reviewed Michelle