The Peacock Detectives
By Carly Nugent
Publisher: Text Publishing
ISBN 9781925603705   SCIS: 1862530
$16.99

Blurb:

The last time William Shakespeare and Virginia went missing Cassie found them sitting on a coiled hose behind the fire station, and Dad called 'Cassie Andersen, Peacock Detective'. So this time she knows what to do - she'll look for clues and track them down. But the clues lead her in an unexpected direction and Cassie finds herself investigating a confusing mystery about her family.

The Peacock Detectives is a warm and engaging story for middle-grade readers about dealing with change and finding out who you are.

Lamont Review:

Cassie’s Saturday started like every other, except that two strange things happened - the peacocks who live across the road went missing and she started writing her story.

Cassie is a very observant person, so when her neighbours ask for her help to find the peacocks, she starts taking notes and looking for clues. Along the way, she notices strange things happening in her family too. Can she put the clues together?

Well-written and with characters that readers will fall in love with, this story is about family, friends and dealing with change. It is about growing up, helping your friends, and starting to understand more about yourself.

This is a great book for readers in upper primary, both boys and girls.

Reviewed by Michelle

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available on our website for this title.
The Champion Charlies #1: The Mix-Up
By Adrian Beck
Publisher: Random House
ISBN 9780143791249 SCIS: 1867173
$14.99

Blurb:

Charles was the best player in the boys' football team. Charlotte was the best player in the girls' side. But this season they're both playing in the same mixed team. Is there room for two Champion Charlies on one side? And can they get past their rivalry to help form the greatest football team Jindaberg Primary has ever seen?

With prankster teammates, a karaoke coach, dancing dads and an arch rival with an axe to grind, the Champion Charlies soon learn that achieving success is not going to be easy... but it sure will be fun!

Lamont Review:

Friends Charlotte and Charles ‘CJ’ Jackson both live for football. They both can’t wait for their seasons to start again.

But when the Principal Swift says that the Jet’s don’t have enough players for a boys and a girls team, they are shattered! What will they do now?

The solution of the boys and girls team entering the combined competition is found, but then other issues soon arrive. Who will be the Captain? Can they work together to be the best team ever?

This is a great new series that highlights friendship and working together.

It will be enjoyed by readers aged 7 and up.

Reviewed by Sam
Trouble for Toby
By Janet Reid & Illustrated by Amanda Francey
Publisher: Wombat Books
ISBN 9781925563351  SCIS: 1868399
$9.99

Blurb:
Toby has one mission at school: to stay out of trouble. Only then will his parents let him have a pet.

But that’s just it, Toby has trouble staying out of trouble.

It wasn’t his fault that a lizard found its way into Miss Mott’s sleeve or that a snail turned up in Ivy’s lunchbox.

Join Toby and his friends on this hilarious adventure as they navigate the sandpit, adventure playground, and sports shed in their mission to stay out of trouble. Add a dancing spider, a red-nosed dobber and the SNAKEBUSTERS for what will be an unforgettable read.

Lamont Review:
All that Toby wants is a pet. He keeps asking his parents and they just keep saying ‘We’ll think about it. But only if you’re good at school.’

Unfortunately, that is easier said than done for Toby! Even when he tries to stay out of trouble, he can’t. The well intentioned games that he and his friends start out playing, always seem to end badly. He is imaginative and impulsive, and this can lead him into trouble!

This is a story that will have your students thinking about their actions and the consequences, but it is also about play and fun, and ultimately about doing the right thing.

A great read for all junior to middle primary students.

Reviewed by Sam

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available on our website for this title.
Lottie Perkins: Movie Star
By Katrina Nannestad & Illustrated by Makoto Koji
Publisher: ABC Books/Harper Collins
ISBN 9780733339097 SCIS:1868245
$9.99

Blurb:
'Lights! Camera! Action!'
That's my cue.
'Hairrold,' I sigh. 'I think I'm in love.'
My name's Charlotte, but you can call me Lottie. I'm a movie star.
At least, that's my thing this week.
Charlotte Perkins is seven years old and can't wait to grow up - if only she could decide what she wanted to be!
Luckily, no dream is too big for little Lottie Perkins!

Lamont Review:
Lottie Perkins is a an exceptional child - just ask her! But although Lottie thinks she is exceptional, not everyone else does. Lottie has a knack for trouble...

She has big dreams and big ideas, and this week her dream is to be a movie star! But Harper Dark, her arch enemy, thinks she would be a hopeless actress. So Lottie and her best friend Sam set out to prove her wrong.

With themes of friendship, bullying, following your dreams, perseverance and believing in yourself, junior girls are sure to love this new series.

Reviewed by Sam
Lottie Perkins is an exceptional child - just ask her! But although Lottie thinks she is exceptional, not everyone else does. Lottie has a knack for trouble...

She has big dreams and big ideas, and this week her dream is to be a ballerina! Lottie wants to star in the ballerina role in Swan Lake at the local Bella Ballet Company. But the nasty Harper Dark, in her perfect tutu, has her sights set on this role too. What is Lottie to do?

With themes of friendship, bullying, following your dreams, perseverance and believing in yourself, your junior girls are sure to love this new series.

Reviewed by Sam
Amal Unbound: A Novel
By Aisha Saeed
Publisher: Text Publishing
ISBN 9781925773026 SCIS:1862438
$16.99

Blurb:
Twelve-year-old Amal loves learning and dreams of becoming a teacher. Then something unimaginable happens - after an accidental run-in with the son of her village's corrupt landlord, she is forced to work as his family's servant to pay off her own family's debt. At the opulent and corrupt Khan estate, Amal realises she will have to find a way to work with others in order to bring about change, and to achieve her dreams. Inspired by Malala Yousafzai, Amal Unbound is a heartwarming story for brave girls everywhere.

Lamont Review:
Amal lives a quiet life with her family in a small village in Pakistan. She goes to school everyday and helps her Mum with her younger sisters.

When her Mum becomes housebound after the birth of her youngest baby this means Amal, as the eldest daughter, must stop going to school until her Mum is well again.

When on a shopping trip one day, Amal has a run in with the village landlord, and she knows her family is in trouble. In return for her ‘disrespectful behaviour’ she must go and work at his villa as a servant to pay her families’ debts. With her dream of becoming a teacher dashed, how will she cope in such a strange household on her own?

This is the story of one young girls dreams and how quickly life can change. It’s a wonderful book about resilience, courage and changing the world, one small deed at a time.

Most of all, it is a story of hope and inspiration to girls everywhere.

It will best suit upper primary girls.

Reviewed by Michelle

Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available on our website for this title.
Real Pigeons Fight Crime
By Andrew McDonald & Illustrated by Ben Wood
Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont
ISBN 9781760129293   SCIS: 1864303
$14.99

Blurb:

Ever wonder why pigeons always act so weird? It’s because they’re out there chasing the bad guys and saving your butts!

Did you know your city is protected by a secret squad of crime-fighting pigeons? It’s true! With master of disguise Rock Pigeon, bendy Tumbler, strong Frillback and super-finder Homey, the REAL PIGEONS will solve any mystery and fight any bad guy to keep the city safe!

Perfect for fans of Aaron Blabey’s Bad Guys and Dav Pilkey’s Dog Man books, the Real Pigeons series is a hilariously silly and highly visual introduction to the joys of reading and crime-fighting.

Lamont Review:

This is the first in a fabulous new series that is perfect for junior readers who are starting to branch away from picture books, and with ‘three mysteries in one’, this will add to the feeling of accomplishment that they have finished a book!

Follow Rock, Tumbler, Frillback and Homey as they embark on adventures to save their city. All three stories, The Great Breadcrumb Mystery, The Bat Trapper and Danger at the Food Truck Fair are full of mystery and fun.

The pigeons show bravery and commitment and although this is a highly humorous book, there are some important messages about friendship, teamwork, courage and ‘having a go’ portrayed throughout.

With great illustrations and lots of laughs, this is sure to be a hit.

Reviewed by Sam