

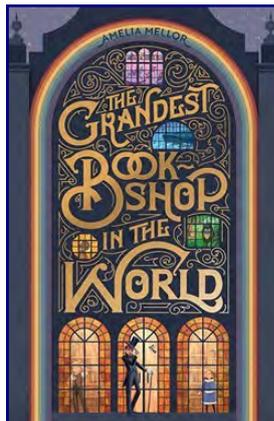
## **The Grandest Bookshop in the World**

By Amelia Mellor  
Publisher: Affirm Press  
ISBN 9781925972955 SCIS: 1980404  
\$19.99

**PRIMARY FICTION**  
**BOOK OF THE**  
**MONTH**

### *Blurb:*

Pearl and Vally Cole live in a bookshop. And not just any bookshop. In 1893, Cole's Book Arcade in Melbourne is the grandest bookshop in the world, brimming with every curiosity imaginable. Each day brings fresh delights for the siblings: voice-changing sweets, talking parrots, a new story written just for them by their eccentric father. When Pearl and Vally learn that Pa has risked the Arcade - and himself - in a shocking deal with the mysterious Obscurosmith, the siblings hatch a plan. Soon they are swept into a dangerous game with impossibly high stakes: defeat seven challenges by the stroke of midnight and both the Arcade and their father will be restored. But if they fail Pearl and Vally won't just lose Pa - they'll forget that he and the Arcade ever existed.



### *Lamont Review:*

Based in the Coles Book Arcade, which opened in Bourke Street, Melbourne in 1883, our author has taken many of the fascinating and amazing things that were in the store and created an equally wonderful story.

Bookshop owner, Mr Cole, does a deal with an Obscurosmith (an evil magical trickster), to attempt to bring his daughter Ruby back to life. But everything goes wrong, and now two of his children, Pearl and Vally have entered into a deal with him to try and save their father, the incredible Coles Book Arcade, and all of their memories.

But this evil trickster has set them seven challenges that become increasingly more difficult and treacherous. With the rules seeming to change and the odds stacked against them, can they survive and save everything or will they lose it all?

As a book-lover I absolutely loved the setting, but the storyline and characters were equally wonderful.

This is one of the best middle-grade readers that I have read in many years, and there have been many thousands. An amazing setting, magical trickery, feisty and courageous children, and their desire to do good in the face of evil. Family, loyalty and love of wonderful books, it just doesn't get any better!

*Reviewed by Rob*

## Little Jiang

By Shirley Marr & Illustrated by Katy Jiang  
Publisher: Fremantle Press  
ISBN 9781925816471 SCIS: 1982040  
\$14.99

### Blurb:

Mei Ling Pang was born at an inauspicious time on an inauspicious day, so wherever she goes, misfortune follows. When Little Jiang hops out of his grave and into Mei's life, fangs and all, her luck goes from bad to worse. But in trying to help Little Jiang, Mei might just make her own future brighter.



### Lamont Review:

All that Mei wants to do is find a friend and help her parent's struggling Chinese restaurant. But Mei has always been told that she brings misfortune. Could this really be true, and that everything bad that has happened in their life is her fault?

When she awakens Little Jiang from her nasty neighbour's grave yard things don't get any better for Mei! In fact, what follows is a ghostly and supernatural story, full of Chinese legends and folklore.

The Jiangshis have overtaken her town. But with the help of the Peony Princess and the Bagua Master, can Mei save her town and her family too?

This is a fantastic, imaginative story, that also has themes of friendship, family and belonging. It will be enjoyed by all students from Year 3 and up.

*Reviewed by Sam*

*Teacher Notes prepared by the publisher are available for this title on our website.*

## **Emergency! Carly Mills Pioneer Girl Book 2**

By Jane Smith

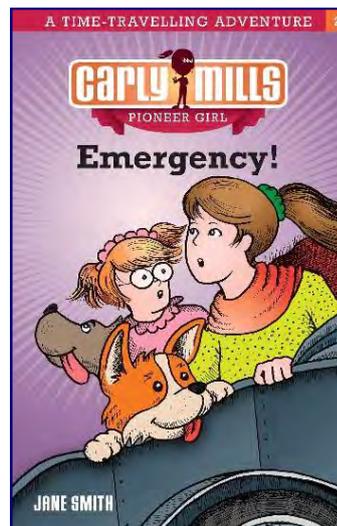
Publisher: Big Sky Publishing

ISBN 9781922387387 SCIS: 1985345

\$12.50

### *Blurb:*

When Carly moves from the farm to boarding school in the city, she knows it's going to be tough. But then her magical shawl takes her back to 1891 and into the path of Queensland's first female doctor, Lilian Cooper. Carly learns what it means to be strong, brave and determined and how everything is better with a friend by your side. Book 2 of the ground breaking new time-travelling series featuring the world's most inspirational pioneering women.



### *Lamont Review:*

The second book in this fabulous time-travelling series (Book 1 was brought to you in our May Standing Order) highlighting the ground breaking work of Queensland's first female doctor, Lilian Cooper.

Carly arrives at boarding school in Sydney, and when her magical shawl is discovered by one of her new classmates, she finds herself back in 1891 with Dr Lilian Cooper and her friend, Jo Bedford.

Carly and her friend Dora find themselves time-travelling back and forth during the life of Dr Cooper, following her work and the struggles that she had to be accepted in a male dominated world, especially the medical field.

It is a wonderful historical story that shows the amazing courage and fortitude of the pioneering women of Australia and will be enjoyed by those 8 +.

*Reviewed by Sam*

## **Zoe, Max and the Bicycle Bus**

By Steven Herrick

Publisher: University of Queensland Press

ISBN 9780702263002 SCIS: 1980399

\$16.99

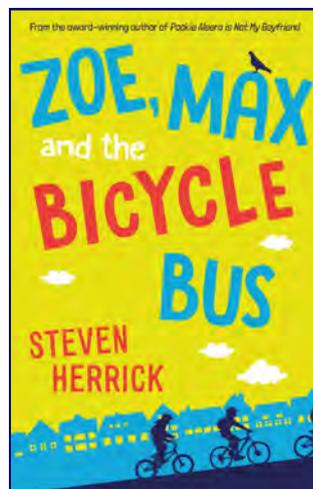
### *Blurb:*

The sun is shining and today feels like an adventure, only one I can go on whenever I want because I have a bicycle and friends and a city just waiting to be explored.

With their new teacher's help, the kids in Class 5D ride to school together in a bicycle bus. Olivia can fix a puncture in two minutes and Max can ride on one wheel. Lily wishes she wasn't quite so wobbly and Jordi's been waiting forever to ride on the road. Dylan has a speedy getaway from alley cats, Dabir's glad to be part of a group and Zoe's bike even has a name (Esmeralda). Everyone loves their new way of getting to school.

But there's a narrow stretch on Fishers Road with no white line to separate the cyclists from the local traffic, so Zoe and Max decide they need to make it right (even if that means breaking a few rules).

Award-winning author Steven Herrick's latest verse novel is an ode to bike-riding, the environment and fixing the future.



### *Lamont Review:*

This is a wonderful verse novel from the highly talented Steven Herrick.

This book is a joyful celebration of friendship, kids, bikes and the environment.

Readers will love the many and varied students in Class 5D, as well as their teacher, and it is also a fantastic introduction to storytelling in verse.

A perfect book for all students in Year 5 and up and is sure to be a favourite in your library.

*Reviewed by Michelle*