

Tish

By Edwina Wyatt & Illustrated by Odette Barberousse
Publisher: Berbay Publishing
ISBN 9780648953388 SCIS: 1999398
\$19.99

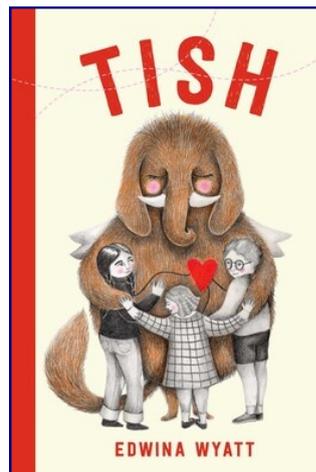
PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

Blurb:

'Where did you come from?'

The beast wanted to explain that Nowhere was a place halfway between Curiosity and Courage. But he couldn't. For that, he would need a map; the heart is a vast place where one can easily get lost.

Tish is the story of a lovable imaginary friend who is looking for his place in the world and finds it through his companionship with three different children who need him. It's a story of friendship, goodbyes and longing, and a tale of having the confidence to believe.



Lamont Review:

Tish is a beautiful story about growing up and letting go.

Told from the perspective of imaginary friend Tish and his interactions with three different children, Charles Dimple, Annabeth Arch and Isabella Applebee, who are all very unique, we see how the simple acts of caring and friendship can have a huge impact on our lives.

All three children needed Tish in their life to help them overcome their own challenges. But what about Tish? How does he cope when they outgrow him and he is no longer needed?

The story is broken into three sections, Somewhere, Elsewhere and Anywhere, with each relating to the different children. It is beautifully and eloquently written, and will have readers thinking about these simple concepts in a different way.

This story will be thoroughly enjoyed by those in the middle primary grades.

Reviewed by Sam

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

Fozia and the Quest of Prince Zal

By Rosanne Hawke

Publisher: University of Queensland Press

ISBN 9780702263071 SCIS: 1999390

\$14.99

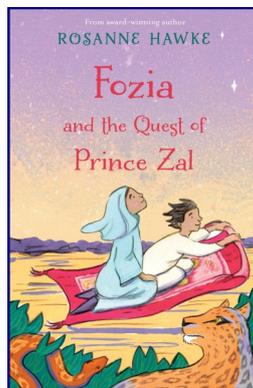
Blurb:

Set in the aftermath of the 2010 floods in Pakistan, this is a sensitive tale of community spirit, kindness and the magic of family.

Fozia stiffened when she saw the familiar brick-kiln chimney loom ahead. Black smoke spewed into the sky - so it was working again. What if the owner recognised her?

Twelve-year-old Fozia has survived the worst flood in Pakistan's history. But her life will never be the same. With her parents missing, Fozia now lives with Jehan's family in a new village. As she slowly rebuilds her life, she fears everything could fall apart if her secret is uncovered... or if the brick-kiln owner finds her.

To keep the memories of her family alive in her heart, Fozia tells her friends a fairytale. Prince Zal rides a magic carpet on a quest to find his little sister, battling leopards and dangerous fairies along the way. But can he succeed if the truth behind Fozia's story is revealed?



Lamont Review:

Rosanne Hawke has written another compelling story, this time based around the floods in 2010 in Pakistan. Fozia has lost her family and is being cared for by her friend Jehan's family.

This is a story of the very best of human nature, filled with kindness, love, compassion and friendship. Readers will love the story that Fozia tells about Prince Zal, which is woven throughout Fozia's own story.

I would advise reading the glossary of Urdu words at the back of the book before you start reading, to help you to understand the words used in book.

A wonderful story that is perfect for upper primary students.

Reviewed by Michelle

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

The Puzzling Pearls: Plum and Woo #1

By Lisa Siberry

Publisher: Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

ISBN 9781760507688 SCIS:1999378

\$16.99

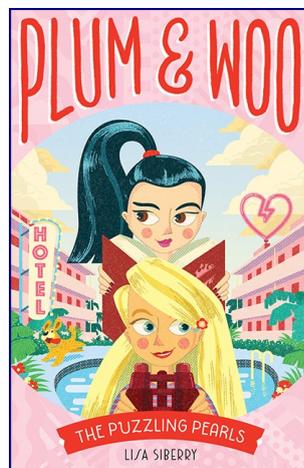
Blurb:

A dazzling, whip-smart mystery series about two very different girls and a whole heap of danger.

Hannah Plum loves fashion, fun, and junk food. Patti Woo is obsessed with detective novels, lives in leggings, and is definitely not Hannah's friend. But the two girls are stuck at the beachside Heartbreak Hotel together while Hannah's dad and Patti's mum are out birdwatching and – yuck! – falling in love.

When a hotel guest's beautiful pink wedding dress is stolen, Hannah is determined to get to the bottom of it. With a reluctant Patti in tow, the two girls are launched into an ever-deepening mystery. Why is a wedding planner sending secret signals to an unknown guest? Who's leaving creepy wet diving relics in the hotel rooms? And could some long-lost, famous pink pearls be at the heart of it all?

If Plum and Woo want to survive the summer, they'll need to solve this mystery in style. But first, they'll have to survive each other...



Lamont Review:

Hannah and Patti have nothing in common, except their parents, who both love bird watching.

When the four of them go on holidays, the girls spend the days at Heartbreak Hotel. But when a wedding dress is stolen, Hannah and Patti begin looking for clues to solve the mystery.

This is a fun, fast-paced novel that will suit middle to upper primary readers perfectly. Filled with fashion and mystery, Hannah and Patti have to learn to get along and help each other in order to solve the mystery.

Great themes of family and friendship are interwoven throughout the story, this is a totally enjoyable mystery story.

Reviewed by Michelle

Heroes of the Secret Underground

By Susanne Gervay

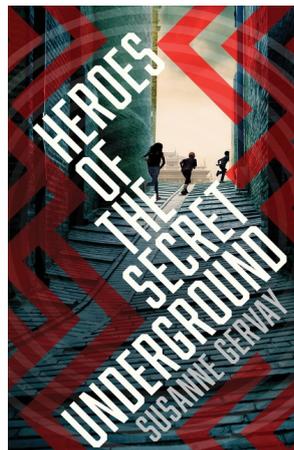
Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN 9781460758335 SCIS: 1996244

\$16.99

Blurb:

A timely and powerful time-slip story inspired by the author's family in Budapest during the Holocaust. Louie lives with her brothers, Bert and Teddy, in a hotel run by their grandparents. It is one of Sydney's grand old buildings, rich in history... and in secrets. When a rose-gold locket, once thought lost, is uncovered, it sends Louie and her brothers spinning back in time. Back to a world at war: Budapest in the winter of 1944, where their grandparents are hiding secrets of their own... From bestselling author Susanne Gervay comes a heart-racing timeslip story inspired by her own family's escape from Budapest during the Holocaust.



Lamont Review:

When searching the tower of the Majestic Boutique Hotel, twelve-year-old Louie, his older brother Bert and younger brother Teddy, are suddenly back in war-torn Budapest in 1944.

Led by the mysterious Naomi, they set about to retrieve two family heirlooms - a rose gold locket and a candelabra. They also witness the remarkable bravery of their grandparents who are trying to save many Jewish children.

But can Louie and his brothers deceive the Nazis and return to their own time?

This book was a revelation. Uplifting and inspirational, and with themes of family, remembrance, war, reconciliation, and peace, this novel is ideal for readers aged 10 and older.

Reviewed by Rob

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

Paws

By Kate Foster

Publisher: Walker Books

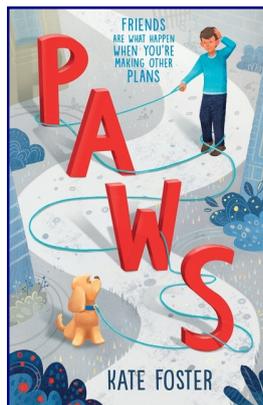
ISBN 9781760652661 SCIS: 1999372

\$16.99

Blurb:

At home, Alex's best friend is Kevin the cockapoo, although what he wants most of all is a friend at school. But that is harder than he ever expected. A touching story about learning that friendship isn't one size fits all and is often found where you least expect it.

Everything is changing for 11-year-old Alex and, as an autistic person, change can be terrifying. With the first day of high school only a couple of months away, Alex is sure that having a friend by his side will help. So, he's devised a plan – impress the kids at school by winning a trophy at the PAWS Dog Show with his trusty sidekick, Kevin. This should be a walk in the park... right?



Lamont Review:

Alex and Kevin are best friends. But Kevin is a dog, and what Alex really needs is a friend at school. Alex is an autistic person, and with high school just around the corner, finding a friend is quickly becoming a priority.

This is a wonderful story of finding friendship in places where you are not really looking. This is a beautifully written book, told from Alex's perspective of the difficulties he faces and what he does to cope when things overwhelm him.

It has great characters and is a story about friendship, family and dogs that readers will really enjoy.

Whilst Alex is in the final year of primary school, this story will also resonate with those starting out in high school who might be trying to make friends in a new environment.

There are also discussion questions at the back of the book which make this a wonderful book for classroom use as well. Readers in upper primary and lower secondary are going to absolutely love Alex and Kevin.

Reviewed by Michelle

Huda and Me

By H. Hayek

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760526023 SCIS:1999382

\$14.99

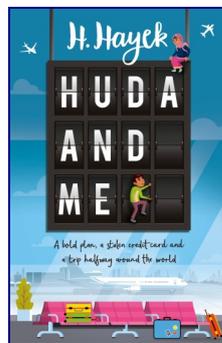
Blurb:

A cheeky, fun and fast-moving tale of two Lebanese-Australian kids who decide to escape their horrible babysitter by running away... to the other side of the world.

Huda's sitting in the airport lounge, fiddling with our tickets. I can tell she's excited because she has a little smile on her face and she keeps glancing at her pink digital watch. I can't believe we're doing this. I can't believe we're running away from home. Well, we're not really running away. We'll come back. We're running to our parents. On the other side of the world.

When their parents have to travel to Beirut unexpectedly, twelve-year-old Akeal and his six siblings are horrified to be left behind in Melbourne with the dreaded Aunt Amel as their babysitter. Things do not go well, and Akeal's naughty little sister, Huda, hatches a bold plan to escape. After stealing Aunt Amel's credit card to buy plane tickets to Lebanon, Huda persuades her reluctant favourite brother to come with her. So begins Huda and Akeal's hair-raising and action-packed journey to reunite with their parents half a world away, in a city they've grown up dreaming about but have never seen.

A fresh and funny story of sibling love, adventure and courage, *Huda and Me* is one of a kind.



Lamont Review:

Set in Melbourne, Akeal's family of seven siblings are thrown into turmoil when their Tayta falls ill in Lebanon.

Mum and Dad leave the horrified siblings behind in the care of the awful Aunt Amel, who quickly treats them like her own personal servants... Things are not going well at all!

Akeal's ever confident nine-year-old sister Huda has had enough, and takes matters into her own hands, booking them plane tickets to Lebanon. But can they really travel half way across the globe to their parents who will make everything alright?

This is a wonderful adventure with themes of culture, discrimination, siblings and family, and determination. These are some deep topic but handled lightly, and with good outcomes, that make it a terrific novel for readers 9 - 13 years old.

Reviewed by Rob