

The Right Way to Rock

By Nat Amooore

Publisher: Puffin / Penguin

ISBN 9781760897703 SCIS: 5361192

\$14.99

Blurb:

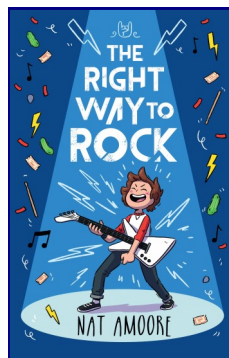
The rockin' story of two new friends, one arts fiasco and a whole lot of music.

Without music, the world is just blah. That's my take on life, anyway.

Mum says rock is the only music worth listening to, but I think everyone should find their own beat.

When I hear that Principal Keiren plans to cut all of the arts classes at Watterson Primary, there's no way me and my new mate Flynn are gonna let that happen. We're dragging our secret Broadway appreciation society into the spotlight.

It's time for Watterson- The Musical!



Lamont Review:

This is the story of one boy's determination to save The Arts program at his primary school. Mac is in Year 6 and has a secret passion for musicals. He is also an awesome guitar player, and writes great lyrics.

When his teacher introduces him to Flynn, who is in high school, and his secret Broadway Appreciation Society, Mac's life will never be the same.

Mac and Flynn become best friends, and Mac completely accepts Flynn and his Tourette Syndrome. Flynn writes amazing music, and together they write a musical to save The Arts in their town.

I truly enjoyed this story of friendship, love, family, and most of all, acceptance, and the bravery to just be you and follow your dreams.

It is also an inspiring story of how much you can change the world, if everyone works together, believes in themselves, and are not afraid to ask for help. It takes determination, courage, resilience and lots of laughs to write and stage a musical, and Mac and Flynn have these qualities in spades.

Contrary to popular belief, not all Tourette Syndrome sufferers swear and in this story, Flynn's go to word is 'gherkins'. This is a wonderful story about acceptance, as well as helping readers to understand more about Tourette Syndrome.

It is sure to be a hit, especially with music loving and community-minded students. Perfect for all students in upper primary and lower secondary.

Reviewed by Michelle

The Boy Who Stepped Through Time

By Anna Ciddor

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760526443 SCIS: 5358945

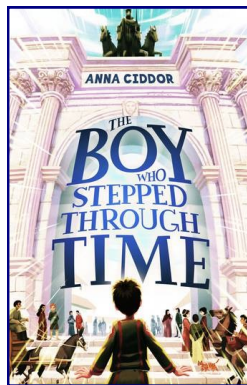
\$16.99

Blurb:

When Perry steps into a crumbling ruin while on holiday in France, he is not expecting to be transported back 1700 years to Roman times. While he hunts desperately for a way home, he must blend in as a slave - even if it means eating mice for dinner!

Gradually, Perry is caught up in the fascinating world of grand Villa Rubia and a life he could never have imagined. But when he makes a new friend, he thinks he might already know her terrible fate.

Perry is faced with an impossible choice: to find his way home or stay and guard his friend's life - and risk being trapped in the past forever...



Lamont Review:

When Perry and his family go to a Roman festival while on holiday in France, he never imagined he would be transported back to actual Roman times as a slave!

This world is so strange and different from everything he is used to, but he quickly makes friends and starts to enjoy his new life.

When Perry realises that one of his new friends, Valentia, is in danger, he has to decide whether to stay and save her, or find his way home.

This is a wonderful time-slip adventure with so much historical detail that it seems as if you are actually in Ancient Rome with Perry. The characters are lots of fun, and the story full of action and adventure.

The friendship between the three main characters is great, and a real highlight of the book. A perfect introduction to Ancient Rome, as well as being a great adventure story, for students in upper primary and lower secondary.

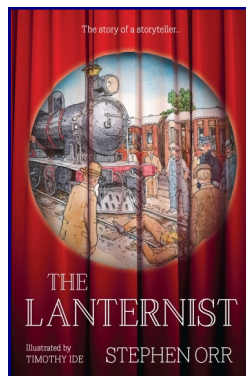
Reviewed by Michelle

The Lanternist

By Stephen Orr & Illustrated by Timothy Ide
Publisher: MidnightSun Publishing
ISBN 9781925227840 SCIS: 5359805
\$19.99

Blurb:

The slide clunks into the lantern, and Phantoms come alive on the wall. The father-and-son Magic Lantern team of Bert and Tom Eliot are masters of The Art of the Story. The only problem is that they are missing a wife and mother. Then one morning eleven-year-old Tom wakes to find his father missing, too. The Lanternist's apprentice is thrown out of home, forced to work for the arch-criminal Jimmy Sacks, arrested and imprisoned. Will he ever be able to escape with his new friend Max and make the long, flea-bitten, rat-infested journey to Sydney in search of his parents? *The Lanternist* is a story about stories, and how they show us a way through life, despite callous landladies, corrupt officials, criminal companions and the problems with living in incinerators. But mostly, it is about searching, and making your own endings. Celebrated author Stephen Orr's first foray into young adult literature is a thrilling historical adventure.



Lamont Review:

Set in Australia in the late 1800's and early 1900's, we see a world as experienced by eleven-year-old Tom Eliot.

Tom works with his Dad, a Lanternist. Whilst showing the audience a wondrous series of picture, he captivates paying customers by adding stories to the pictures. But with the newly introduced moving pictures, business is tough. Then to make things worse, Tom's Mum takes off to Sydney with another man.

Things are not good, and get even worse, when Tom's Dad leaves Adelaide to go to Sydney to find his wife, leaving Tom behind. What was supposed to be for a week stretches on, and Tom is taken in by a pawn broker who uses children to steal for him.

Tom's dreams of going to Sydney to find his Dad and Mum, and to go back to living a normal life, seem impossible. But are they?

This is a story about storytelling, the importance of family, corruption, and street life set in Australia 130 years ago.

With great historical content, and a very determined main character, this is a great read for those in the upper primary and lower secondary levels.

Reviewed by Rob