

The Right Way to Rock

By Nat Amooore
Publisher: Puffin / Penguin
ISBN 9781760897703 SCIS: 5361192
\$14.99

**PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH**

Blurb:

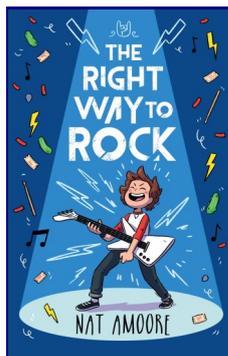
The rockin' story of two new friends, one arts fiasco and a whole lot of music.

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

Little Gem and the Mysterious Letters

By Anna Zobel

Publisher: Puffin / Penguin

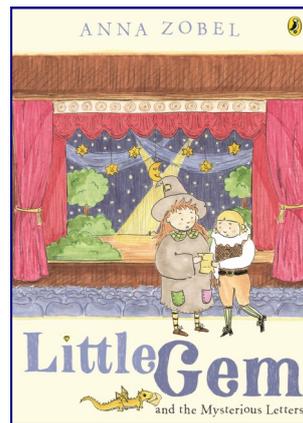
ISBN 9781760896096 SCIS: 5361186

\$14.99

Blurb:

An adorable and charming new story about everyone's favourite witch Little Gem. A sparkling gem of a read for anyone who loves *Polly and Buster* or *Mummy Fairy and Me!*

Little Gem is settling into her life at Ellsworth Pining with the help of Ghost Henry and her other friends. Everyone is preparing for the Midsummer Festival and Little Gem is in charge of the special effects for the Midsummer Play. But when Little Gem's magic starts to go wrong and she receives several mysterious letters, Gem is worried that the festival is going to be a disaster! Will Little Gem be able to work out who is sending the letters and regain her confidence before opening night?



Lamont Review:

This is a wonderful new story in the Little Gem series. The first book was included in our February 2021 package, although you do not need to have read Book 1 to thoroughly enjoy this story!

Little Gem is loving her new life away from Witchcraft school, where she couldn't seem to do anything right, and felt sad and alone. Her life in Ellsworth Pining is far from all that - she has friends and is needed as the local town witch, even though she is still learning. Her spells, when they work, have helped the people of the town and she is truly happy living with Henry the ghost.

Gem and her friends are busily preparing for the Midsummer Festival that is such a special part of life in their town, and Gem is increasingly kept occupied by the letters that she receives from the townsfolk asking for help to solve their problems. But when Little Gem starts to receive anonymous threatening letters in yellow envelopes, and her spells are increasingly going wrong, she starts to doubt that she is really loved and wanted. Who would want to destroy the festival, and see Gem leave Ellsworth Pining?

With the help of her friends, they set about trying to find out!

Gem is a delightful character, and supported by her new friends, they show the importance of friendship, believing in yourself and each other, and working together to solve a problem.

A perfect story for emerging readers.

Reviewed by Sam

The Ballad of Melodie Rose

By Kate Gordon

Publisher: University of Queensland Press

ISBN 9780702263217 SCIS: 5358927

\$14.99

Blurb:

A heartfelt story of one girl's determination to save her beloved home and the lyrical companion tale to *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn*.

When Melodie Rose is abandoned on the doorstep of Direleafe Hall, she realises she must be a ghost. Strangely, she is not sad. With the three other ghostly girls who haunt the school and a gloomy crow on her shoulder, Melodie has never felt more at peace. Finally there is a place for her to call home.

So when a lady in white arrives with plans to flatten her beloved school, Melodie Rose must act fast to save all she holds dear. But what can one powerless ghost do?

The Ballad of Melodie Rose is a life-affirming tale of belonging, being brave and being seen.



Lamont Review:

Melodie Rose is a character that you will absolutely love. And whilst this book is a companion to the wonderful story *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn* it is also very much a stand alone title.

After she finds herself abandoned on the steps of Direleafe Hall, Melodie Rose finds herself in a difficult and confusing situation. She is convinced that she is a ghost. How else could she explain the fact that she can see the three ghosts, Florence, Lucy and Nell, that inhabit the run down school, and that they can see her? But then how can Ms Gallow, who runs Direleafe Hall, and is her Grandmother, see her too?

Memories of her life with her Mum and Dad, and how she came to be at Direleafe Hall start to emerge. And although she feels safe there, the thoughts of her own family and what really happened play more and more on her mind. But things are about to change, when the lady in white buys the run down school and plans to demolish it. Melodie Rose knows that she cannot let this happen, as her very being and that of her ghost friends depend on it.

With the help of the wise and mysterious Hollowbeak the crow, Melodie Rose and her friends are determined to save their home. But of course, not all plans work out, and Melodie Rose must delve deep into who she really is if she is to save the school.

This is a wonderful story of finding the true you, and having the courage to do it. It has wonderful characters and relationships, and it will be thoroughly enjoyed by middle to upper primary school students.

Reviewed by Sam

The Boy Who Stepped Through Time

By Anna Ciddor

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760526443 SCIS: 5358945

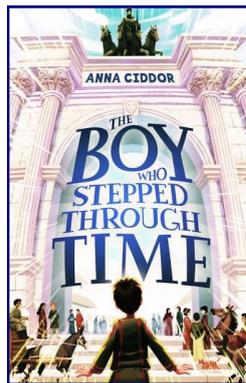
\$16.99

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