

Mina and the Whole Wide World

By Sherryl Clark
Publisher: University of Queensland Press
ISBN 9780702263231 SCIS: 5364533
\$14.99

PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

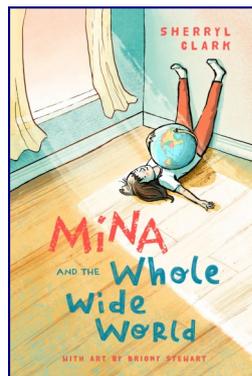
Blurb:

Mina wants her own bedroom more than anything else in the whole wide world. And it's almost ready! Just one more lick of sunny yellow paint and it's hers.

But when Mina's parents take in an unexpected guest, they give her room away. At first, Mina is too upset to speak. She doesn't care that this new boy, Azzami, needs a place to stay.

At school, the other kids call Azzami names, and Mina wishes he'd stand up for himself. Then she sees his drawings, and for the first time really thinks about the life of the quiet boy in front of her.

Here is a story about finding friendship where you least expect it and making room for everyone across this big wide world.



Lamont Review:

Mina is so excited. Her brand new bedroom is almost ready for her to move in! But then Azzami arrives to stay, and he gets her room instead.

Mina is so mad and upset she can't speak. No one understands how much she was looking forward to having her own room.

When Azzami goes to school with Mina, he doesn't speak either, and the other kids pick on him. However, one day in class Azzami starts to draw amazing pictures.

At home, Mina discovers that he has drawn his story and put it on his walls and she sees Azzami in a whole new light.

This is a beautiful story, that is also a wonderful introduction for younger readers to a discussion of refugees and the struggles they face in a new place. Gently written, with great characters and strong themes of friendship and helping others, this book will become a favourite. It is perfect for readers in Year 4 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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

The Best Friend Promise: MerTales 1

By Rebecca Timmis

Publisher: Albert Street Books / Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760526528 SCIS: 5364397

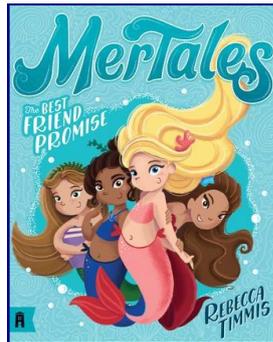
\$14.99

Blurb:

Today is Pearl's ninth birthday, and she is planning a sea-sational day with her best friends. But when Pearl takes a shortcut on the way to merschool and sees a shooting star fall into the ocean, things begin to drift off course...

Suddenly, her mermaid tail begins to shimmer and sparkle. What could it mean? Well for a start, Pearl discovers she can now talk to animals, which comes in very handy when one of her friends is cornered by a hungry reef dragon!

It's time for a mermazing adventure in Cockleshell Cove!



Lamont Review:

This is the first title in a delightful new series that emerging readers will thoroughly enjoy.

Pearl is so excited, as it is her ninth birthday. She planned to have the most sea-sational day and a party that night with all her friends, including best friends Coral and Shell.

But on her way to school something magical happens. She sees a bright green shooting star and then it vanishes into the ocean. Or did it?

From this moment on, magical things start to happen to Pearl, including being able to talk to animals. But why has Sandy Starfish been spying on Pearl all day? Does she know about Pearl's magical powers?

This is a lovely story of kindness, courage, magic, new friendships and learning to not be too judgmental! With lots of word play based on ocean and sea life names, this is a fun story that readers aged 6 - 9 will love.

Reviewed by Sam

Bella and the Voyaging House

By Meg McKinlay

Publisher: Fremantle Press

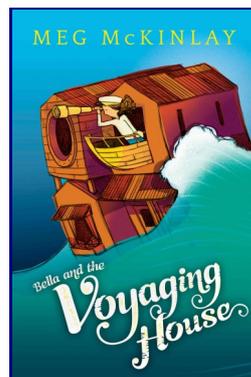
ISBN 9781760990695 SCIS: 5364538

\$12.99

Blurb:

What's a girl to do when her house won't go home? Bella and her house are off on another adventure, in the sequel to *Bella and the Wandering House*.

Bella's house likes to travel, setting sail across the ocean while everyone sleeps. Bella's parents don't mind as long as the house is home by daylight. One night, Bella has a wonderful idea for her grandfather's birthday. She wants to find a figurine he made of her grandmother, lost overboard in an accident. Bella and the house go in search, but things don't quite go according to plan...



Lamont Review:

Bella lives in a very special house - it likes to travel the ocean at night!

Bella loves her house and she loves her grandfather as well. It's his birthday soon and Bella thinks she has come up with the perfect present, she just has to convince the house to go where she wants!

This is another magical adventure from Meg McKinlay. I have not read Bella's first adventure, but you definitely don't need to in order to enjoy this latest story. Readers will love Bella and her grandfather, especially the amazing things that he makes from bits and pieces that no one else wants.

A wonderful story about family and being brave enough to go on adventures.

Perfect for readers in Year 4 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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

Space Kids: Sabotage

By Aleesah Darlison & Illustrated by Nancy Bevington

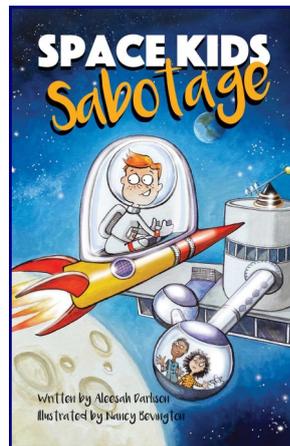
Publisher: Big Sky Publishing

ISBN 9781922387172 SCIS: 5366533

\$12.50

Blurb:

Welcome to the world of Misty Space Station and intergalactic adventure! The Space Kids live far from Earth on Misty Space Station. While their parents are involved in maintaining the station and welcoming tourists, the kids get themselves into all sorts of hilarious and dangerous adventures. When eleven-year-old Nash arrives on Misty Space Station, he meets new friends, the Space Kids. But danger awaits the trio. It appears that someone is sabotaging Misty. Could it be grumpy Mr Nakimoto? Will they solve the mystery and save the space station? And, just who is their new friend Bingo Crafter?



Lamont Review:

This is the first in a terrific new space series by Australian author Aleesah Darlison.

Eleven-year-old Nash isn't sure he wants to go into space with his Dad, because in the four years since he has lived on Misty Space Station, they have hardly seen each other.

But when Nash arrives, he makes new friends and realises what good things they were doing for the planet. But then Nash uncovers a sabotage plot being carried out by evil robots, working for the equally evil Worldlink.

Can Nash save the space station? And might he even start to like living there?

Full of adventure, a devious plot and heroic deeds, *Space Kids* is a welcome new series, ideal for all middle primary children.

Reviewed by Rob

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

Shockingly Good Stories

By R.A Spratt

Publisher: Puffin / Penguin

ISBN 9781761043376 SCIS: 5364564

\$19.99

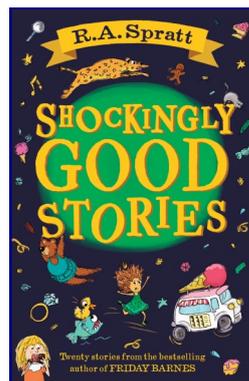
Blurb:

Piranhas on the run, stolen sandwiches, chocolate waterfalls and so much more!

From R.A. Spratt, bestselling author of *Friday Barnes*, comes this collection of twenty short stories perfect for fans of Roald Dahl, David Walliams and Paul Jennings.

Featuring fractured fairytales told by none other than Nanny Piggins, previously unpublished Friday Barnes mysteries and a bunch of other hilarious and highly original tall tales.

This book will delight kids from seven to seventy, whether they're after a bedtime story, entertainment for a long car ride or distraction in the doctor's waiting room!



Lamont Review:

This book will be a perfect introduction to short stories for readers in middle to upper primary.

With Nanny Piggins telling the stories, crazy fairytales and new Friday Barnes mysteries to solve, this book really is packed with lots of *Shockingly Good Stories*!

There are lots of hilarious moments, and this would make a perfect book to be read out loud in class.

Short stories can also be a great way to encourage more reluctant readers, with a complete story being told in only a few pages. This collection of short stories is a fun, funny and entertaining way to encourage reluctant readers and help boost their confidence.

It is sure to be a hit with both teachers and students alike. Best suited to readers in Year 4 and above.

Reviewed by Michelle

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