

My Brother Ben

By Peter Carnavas

Publisher: University of Queensland Press

ISBN 9780702263330 SCIS: 5374071

\$14.99

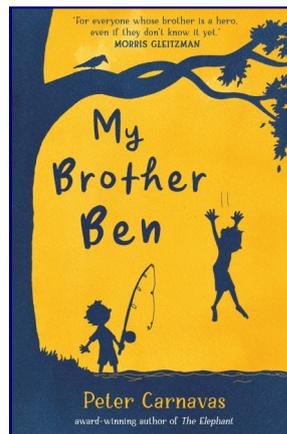
PRIMARY FICTION
BOOK OF THE
MONTH

Blurb:

Luke and his big brother Ben spend the summer on the banks of Cabbage Tree Creek. Quiet Luke sketches birds, while Ben leaps off the Jumping Tree. The boys couldn't be more different but they share the same dream: winning a boat so they can explore the creek properly.

Then Ben starts high school and the boys drift apart. When Luke catches Ben sneaking out at night, he knows his brother's up to something, but what?

A timeless story of birds and boats, and of brotherly love that is bigger than a wedge-tailed eagle, bigger than the sky.



Lamont Review:

Quiet, bird loving Luke is in awe of his heroic big brother Ben. They adventure together on the banks of the local creek, but both dream of one day exploring further in a boat of their own.

Luke is coming to terms with changes. Changes like their Dad, who he refuses to speak to, moving to Perth a year ago, as well as Ben now being in high school and growing away from him.

Will the binds of brotherhood keep them together?

My Brother Ben is a beautiful story with a wonderful Australian setting, that is filled with themes of family, adventure, bird watching, and brotherhood that will be loved by upper primary and lower secondary students, and all those that just love a beautiful story as well.

Reviewed by Rob

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

Dragon Skin

By Karen Foxlee

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781760526108 SCIS: 5374082

\$19.99

Blurb:

From the bestselling and multi-award-winning author of *Lenny's Book of Everything* comes a magical tale about a girl who saves a dragon and rescues her family.

How to save a dragon:

- 1) Assemble equipment. Water, Weet-Bix, sugar, syringe, sticky tape, scissors.
- 2) Believe in everything.

Pip never wants to go home. She likes to sit at the waterhole at dusk and remember Mika, her best friend. At home her mother's not the same since her boyfriend moved in. They don't laugh anymore and Pip has to go to bed early, turn off her light and pretend she doesn't exist. When she finds a half-dead creature at the waterhole, everything changes. She knows she has to save this small dragon and return it to where it comes from. But how?

A story about surviving and saving those you love, by the multi-award-winning author of *Lenny's Book of Everything*.



Lamont Review:

Pip hates going home. Her mother's new boyfriend controls everything, and her Mum is not the same funny and laughing Mum that she used to be.

Pip loves spending time at the waterhole, where she hears the voice of her best friend, Mika. When Pip finds a tiny, almost dead creature, she knows it is somehow her responsibility to look after it. When this small creature turns out to be a dragon, she needs all the help she can get. As it turns out, help comes from unexpected places!

This story is about healing, helping and friendship, with the underlying theme of domestic abuse, in the form of controlling behaviour. Pip is a wonderful character and is full of determination, resilience and love for her dragon and for her Mum. The interactions between Pip, her dragon and her two new friends are wonderful.

A book that will introduce a touch of fantasy, but it is also a story of survival and hope. It would make a perfect group novel, and is suited to those in Year 5 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

The Magic of Magnolia Moon

By Edwina Wyatt & Illustrated by Katherine Quinn

Publisher: Walker Books

ISBN 9781760652722 SCIS: 5374024

\$19.99

Blurb:

For Magnolia Moon, magic is a way to solve problems. And when you're starting a new class at school and your best friend doesn't live across the road anymore, problems seem to come easily.

In her latest adventure, Magnolia Moon invents everyday magic to help her navigate the pitfalls of friendship, school, family, and being ten. A lyrical and imaginative tale which highlights everyday wonders through Magnolia's curious and observant nature.



Lamont Review:

Magnolia is a delightful character that you will love!

Magnolia is navigating life at school without her best friend Imogen May, and life in a busy family, where she feels that 'everyone was stuck inside their own private bubble'.

Can Magnolia's knack of seeing magic in everyday things help her navigate the issues of making new friends, and overcoming the realisation that Imogen May has a new best friend? It may take a little help and understanding from those around her, including Grandma Moon.

Magnolia has a wonderful, inquisitive nature, and has a beautiful outlook on life.

This is a wonderful, lyrical book that will be thoroughly enjoyed by all middle to senior primary students.

Reviewed by Sam

RapperBee: Poems to give you a buzz

By Harry Laing & Illustrated by Anne Ryan

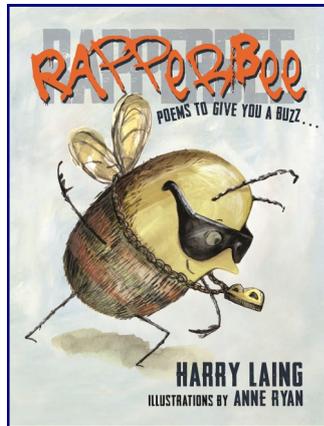
Publisher: Ford Street Publishing

ISBN 9781925804775 SCIS: 5375847

\$14.95

Blurb:

RapperBee: Poems to give you a buzz is Harry Laing's new collection of poetry featuring Anne Ryan's brilliant and anarchic black and white illustrations. Children won't be able to resist the word-play and will love to read the poems out loud!



Lamont Review:

Whilst Australian poetry is not something that we see at lot of for primary aged students, this collection of poems by Harry Laing is well worth inclusion in our Standing Order selection.

The poems come in varying forms, from raps, rhymes and songs, and cover a vast array of topics including cheese, marshmallows, teachers, chickens, dreams, plastic, dollar coins, pencils, and bees (just to name a few). Although the poems and topics are all very different they have been written by the one author, so there is a continuity that is evident throughout.

The poems range from funny and silly, to more serious topics, like the survival of the Lord Howe Island Insect. Readers will thoroughly enjoy trying to decipher the 'onelineforthwind' poem.

This style of writing will hopefully inspire your students to think creatively about writing, and maybe even encourage them write some poetry of their own!

It will be enjoyed by all primary aged students.

Reviewed by Sam

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