

## Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon

By Gabrielle Wang

Publisher: Puffin / Penguin

ISBN 9781761046513 SCIS: 5405369

\$16.99

Primary Fiction  
Book of the  
Month

### Blurb:

Meet Zadie Ma, a girl who writes magical stories that sometimes come true. Can Zadie bring to life her most important story of all . . . the one where she finds Jupiter, the dog of her dreams?

From one of Australia's most esteemed and award-winning children's authors comes a heartwarming story set in postwar Melbourne about courage, friendship, the magic of stories and one girl's unwavering love for her dog.

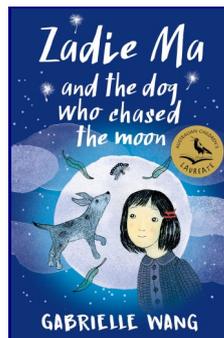
Zadie Ma has a special talent for telling stories . . . and it seems that some of Zadie's stories come true. Zadie's dearest wish is to have a dog of her own and so she starts to write the story of a poor unwanted dog called Jupiter, who's just waiting to be rescued by a loving girl like Zadie.

One morning when she's supposed to be minding the family shop for her mother, Zadie sets off to look for Jupiter. The scene that unfolds isn't quite the same as in her story but she does find a real dog, and his name is Jupiter. Once Zadie has rescued him, she realises she can't just take Jupiter home because her mother won't let her keep a dog. Luckily her bold new friend Sparrow lets Zadie keep Jupiter at her house till Zadie can work things out.

But a series of unlucky events means that Zadie can't write the happy ending she dreams of for her story, and now she may lose her beloved Jupiter forever.

Can Zadie's most important story of all finally come true?

Gabrielle Wang is the Australian Children's Laureate for 2022-3.



### Lamont Review:

Zadie Ma dreams of owning a dog. Zadie is of Chinese heritage, and her family are just making ends meet running their Milk Bar in Melbourne. Her father is still suffering from his memories of the war.

But when the adventurous Sparrow moves in next door, Zadie realises she can chase her dreams. In fact, when she writes stories, they seem to come true in real life. So what is she waiting for?

This is an uplifting and delightful read about the power of a story, friendship and one girl's desire for a pet of her own.

Written by the Australian Children's Laureate, the theme of storytelling is at the forefront. Also covering heritage, family, friendship, Australian history, racism, and community, this will be an excellent classroom novel for middle to upper primary.

Reviewed by Rob

## The Wrath of the Woolington Wurm: Miss Mary-Kate Martin's Guide to Monsters 1

By Karen Foxlee & Illustrated by Freda Chiu  
Publisher: Allen & Unwin  
ISBN 9781760526627 SCIS: 5405391  
\$14.99

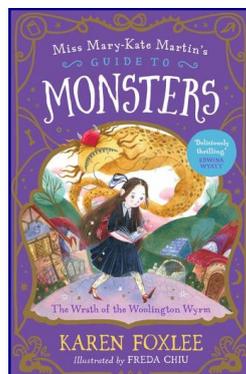
### Blurb:

There are those that hunt monsters to harm them and there are those that hunt monsters to help them. Which one are you?

Dressed in sparkly red shoes and carrying her strawberry-scented notebook, Mary-Kate is accompanying her archaeologist mother to the tranquil English countryside to investigate some interesting bones found in an old well. But once they arrive, they realise that the village of Woolington is not as peaceful as it seems. Mysterious noises, earth tremors and a terrifying legend have the locals frightened.

Could there be any truth in the myth of the beast who lives in the ancient well? And if so, why would it return? Mary-Kate might be anxious, but she is not afraid to get to the bottom of this monstrous mystery.

A delightful fantasy-adventure from the award-winning and bestselling author of *Lenny's Book of Everything* and *Dragon Skin*, with lively line illustrations by Freda Chiu.



### Lamont Review:

Mary-Kate worries a lot. She needs things to occur in a certain way - there is no room for change or something terrible may happen.

Her mother is a Professor of Archaeology and is constantly away for her digs. But this time she is taking Mary-Kate on her trip, and Mary-Kate is worried.

When they arrive at Woolington, Mary-Kate soon discovers the mystery of the infamous Woolington Wurm. Blamed for killing children and many other horrible things over the centuries, Mary-Kate is determined to uncover what is fact and what is fiction.

Can she succeed with the help of her new friend Arabella Woolington?

This is a beautifully written monster mystery with themes of progress at the expense of nature, discovering the truth and facing your fears, that is an ideal read for anyone aged 7 and older.

Reviewed by Rob

## **Stacey Casey and the House that Time Remembers**

By Michael C. Madden

Publisher: Big Sky Publishing

ISBN 9781922615886 SCIS: 5405338

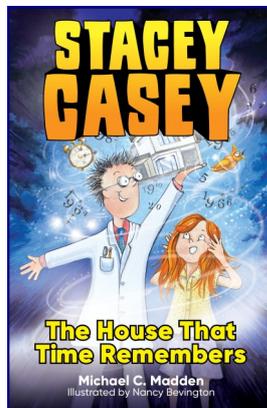
\$14.99

### *Blurb:*

*Stacey Casey* is a fun and adventurous middle grade series that will take kids on a wild ride into the past.

On their journey, readers will discover surprising and sometimes hidden and fascinating historical facts. Stacey and her friend Oliver travel back in time where they encounter villains, heroes, tantalising mysteries and intriguing adventures that will keep kids guessing. The *Stacey Casey* series is a wonderful combination of time travel, friendship, courage, science, history and mystery all wrapped up in one.

Stacey Casey's father is a terrible inventor. But now, despite years of failed inventions, he has created a functioning time machine. Well...kind of! Instead of sending him back in time, he turns their entire house into a time machine, transporting everyone and everything in it. Stacey and her friend Oliver find themselves in 1965 faced with a series of extraordinary events. They find a bizarre artifact and encounter strange man who seems to know Stacey ... but why is he chasing them? Who set the school on fire? And what's with all the famous people they keep meeting? Can the friends solve the string of unanswered questions and find their way home?



### *Lamont Review:*

Stacey's Dad is an inventor, although most of the things he makes never work properly. Only this time it's different - his invention works!

He has turned their whole house into a time machine and Stacey, her friend Oliver, and her Dad suddenly find themselves in 1965, in their own town.

So much is different, but a lot is the same. What follows is a fun and adventurous story, with a bit of mystery and some famous figures thrown in for good measure.

This is the first book in the series that is sure to be a hit with readers from Year 4 and up. It has great themes of friendship, adventure, science and history, so will appeal to a broad range. It would also make for a fun classroom story.

*Reviewed by Michelle*

## **Guardians: Wylah The Koorie Warrior 1**

By Jordan Gould and Richard Pritchard  
Publisher: Allen & Unwin  
ISBN 9781761180033 SCIS: 5405384  
\$15.99

### *Blurb:*

Wylah is brave, clever and strong-willed, and all her best friends are giant megafauna animals. But she isn't a warrior. Not yet, anyway.

Then comes the day when her family is stolen by the dragon army, and her life is forever changed. She must find the courage to set out on a journey to save them.

What will it take for Wylah to become a warrior, like her Grandmother before her?

Introducing an unforgettable cast of characters, *Wylah The Koorie Warrior* is a heart-stopping and imaginative adventure, inspired by First Nations history and grounded in culture.



### *Lamont Review:*

Wylah loves her family and her tribe, but she especially loves her Grandmother and her giant megafauna animals - Kamba, Kapa, Woo and Kinpa.

Her Grandmother says it is time for Wylah to start teaching the young ones cave art, but on her first day, her family is stolen by a dragon army and her wonderful Grandmother is no more.

Wylah is frightened, but knows she is the only person who can save her family. Can she become a warrior, like her Grandmother before her?

This is a wonderful story with a cast of fantastic characters. Wylah is brave and courageous, and the book has strong themes of friendship and family, and is inspired by First Nations culture and history. It also a fantastic adventure story, and I'm sure this series will become a favourite in your school.

*Reviewed by Michelle*

## The Sugarcane Kids and the Red-bottomed Boat

By Charlie Archbold

Publisher: Text Publishing

ISBN 9781922458520 SCIS: 5405343

\$14.99

### Blurb:

Middle-grade readers can join the Sugarcane kids as they collect clues and try to solve a mystery in this bright, fun and captivating Australian adventure.

Bernie mutters to me. 'No way. Who'd go into the mangroves at night?'

I swallow. Not me. Not into Sebastian land. No one would head into crocodile heartland in the middle of a dark night. No one, unless they had a very good reason.

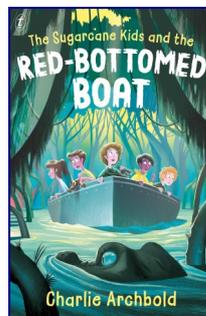
Andy and his best friend Eli live in a small coastal town in far north Queensland. When Eli's cousin Jacob is arrested for a jewellery theft, Andy and Eli both know he is innocent. The police have evidence. But something is not right, and Andy and Eli need to work out what, and fast or Jacob will end up in jail. So, with the help of twins Bernice and Fletcher (AKA Bernie and Fletch) and Andy's trusty sausage dog, Washington, they set out to hunt for clues to what really happened. The trail points to a mysterious red-bottomed boat rumoured to be hidden deep in the mangroves.

Does it hold the evidence they need to prove Jacob's innocence?

Can they find it without getting lost forever?

And how will they outwit Sebastian, the legendary gigantic saltwater crocodile?

Charlie Archbold's action-packed new middle-grade adventure is a fun story of sleuthing, courageous deeds, the triumph of good over evil - and the power of friendship.



### Lamont Review:

Eli and Andy are best friends who live in far north Queensland. Eli's cousin Jacob has been accused of stealing jewellery, but the boys are certain that he is innocent.

With his court case fast approaching, they decide that the police aren't going to find the real crooks, so they are going to have to do it themselves. With the help of their friends, Bernie and Fletch, they set about hunting for clues and everything points to a mysterious red-bottomed boat, half buried in the mangroves, named Ruby.

But the mangroves are in Sebastian territory, and you don't want to go into territory belonging to a gigantic crocodile unless you really have to. Can they find new evidence to help Jacob, or will the evidence be lost to Sebastian?

This is an action-packed adventure, with lots of clues and clever detective work.

The characters are all relatable, as is the school setting, and the relationship between Eli and Andy, and their families. At its heart this is a story about friendship and family, and helping each other.

Perfect for students in Year 3 and up, especially those who love a good detective story.

Reviewed by Michelle

## **Amanda Commander: The Pinky Promise**

By Coral Vass & Illustrated by Heidi Cooper Smith

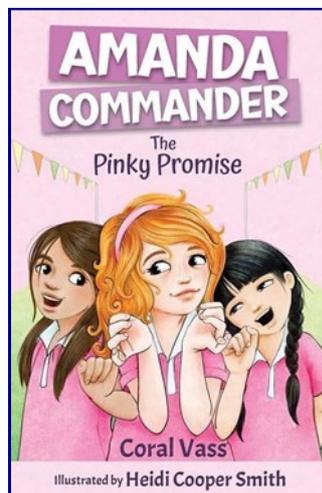
Publisher: Wombat Books

ISBN 9781761110788 SCIS: 5399295

\$12.99

### *Blurb:*

With the school's Cross Country coming up, the Dolphin Squad puts together a plan to make it fun, even for Mai, who doesn't like running. But when the race starts, and the plan goes out the window, and Amanda has to decide whether to go to Districts with the rest of the squad, or stop to help someone.



### *Lamont Review:*

This is the second title in this fabulous series for junior to middle primary readers. The first title was part of our March selections, however, they can all be read as stand alone stories too.

Amanda, Mai and Lu are best friends, and have their own group, the Dolphin Squad. They do everything together.

It is time for the annual compulsory school cross country and the Dolphin Squad make a pinky promise. Even though Amanda really likes running, and the same cannot be said about her friends, especially Mai, they will all run and finish the race together.

But when the new girl, Rosie, and the popular girl at school, Eve, decide to run with them as well suddenly things are not going according to plan. Can Amanda forgive her friends? Will they all learn a valuable lesson about helping others and being true to your word?

This is a lovely story about friendship, forgiveness, kindness and helping others.

*Reviewed by Sam*

## The Lost Ryu

By Emi Watanabe Cohen

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

ISBN 9781761180101 SCIS: 5405378

\$16.99

### Blurb:

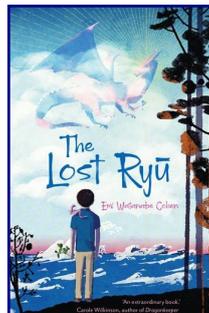
In this middle grade fantasy set in Japan, ten-year-old Kohei teams up with his new neighbour to search for the truth, both about Kohei's family history and the disappearance of the giant dragons that fought in the war.

Kohei Fujiwara has never seen a giant dragon in real life. The big ryu all disappeared from Japan after World War II, and twenty years later, they've become the stuff of legend. Their smaller cousins, who can fit in your palm, are all that remain. And Kohei loves his ryu, Yuharu, but he has a memory of the big ryu. He knows that's impossible. In his mind, he can see his grandpa - Ojiisan - gazing up at the big ryu with what looks like total and absolute wonder. When Kohei was little, he dreamed he'd go on a grand quest to bring the big ryu back, to get Ojiisan to smile again.

But now, Ojiisan is really, really sick. And Kohei is running out of time.

Kohei needs to find the big ryu now, before it's too late. With the help of Isolde, his new half-Jewish, half-Japanese neighbour, and Isolde's Yiddish-speaking dragon, Cheshire, he thinks he can do it. Maybe.

From debut author Emi Watanabe Cohen comes a story of magic, a mysterious family legacy and the lengths to which we'll go to protect the people we love.



### Lamont Review:

Kohei is a young Japanese boy who is trying to piece together his family history, the truth about what happened to his father, and why his grandpa, Ojiisan, is sad and angry.

Kohei has a small ryu, or dragon, called Yuharu, who he loves. She is wise and always by his side. There were once were big ryu, but they are now longer around. Kohei is convinced that if he can find a big ryu, his Ojiisan will be happy again.

What transpires is Kohei, and his new friend, Isolde, and her ryu, Cheshire, travelling on an a dangerous adventure that will see them encounter the magical underwater world of the giant ryu. But will Kohei find the answers that he is really looking for about his family, particularly about his parents, or will it bring up even more questions?

This is a wonderful fantasy story about family, friendship and how events of the past can influence who we are today.

It will be thoroughly enjoyed by all fantasy loving readers in middle to upper primary.

Reviewed by Sam