

Lamont Books Standing Order

June 2014

Primary Fiction

Loyal Creatures

By Morris Gleitzman
Publisher: Viking/Penguin Australia
ISBN 9780670077427
\$19.99

Primary Fiction
Book of the Month

Blurb:

Like many of his mates from the bush, Frank Ballantyne is keen to join the grand adventure and do his bit. Especially as a chest full of medals might impress the currently unimpressed parents of his childhood sweetheart. So Frank ups his age and volunteers with his horse Daisy ... and his dad.

In the deserts of Egypt and Palestine he experiences all the adventure he ever wanted, and a few things he wasn't expecting. Heartbreak, love and the chance to make the most important choice of his life.

From Gallipoli to the famous charge at Beersheba, through to the end of the war and its unforgettable aftermath, Frank's story grows out of some key moments in Australia's history. They were loyal creatures, the men and horses of the Australian Light Horse, but war doesn't always pay heed to loyalty. This is the powerful story of a young man's journey towards his own kind of bravery.



Lamont Review:

This is truly an amazing story about friendship and loyalty.

Set in 1914, during the battles that took place in Egypt and Palestine, Frank Ballantyne and his father face the dilemma of war. Do they enlist?

Everyone in their town has strong views on whether to enlist, and Frank is determined that he will. But Frank is only 15 and his Dad made a promise to his Mum that he wouldn't let Frank go to war. Should promises sometimes be broken?

So Frank and his beloved horse Daisy, and his dad and his horse Jimmy, find themselves on a boat headed to the war zone. What they encounter is brutal, and some of the fighting scenes are quite graphic, but this is far more than just a war story. The overwhelming feeling reading this book is the pure love, friendship and devotion that Frank has for his horse, as well as the loyalty that the horses showed to their soldiers.

All students aged 10 and up will find this a compelling read.

Reviewed by Sam

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Primary Fiction

Kelsey & The Quest of the Porcelain Doll

By Roseanne Hawke

Publisher: University of Queensland Press

ISBN 9780702253317

\$14.95

Blurb:

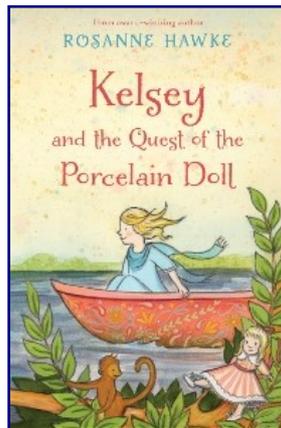
A captivating story of adversity, adventure and love from award-winning author Rosanne Hawke.

'Nanna, can you tell me a story just as if I were with you?'

Kelsey is in Pakistan and wants to go home. Mum and Dad are busy helping flood victims and she misses her friends. But most of all, Kelsey misses Nanna Rose.

Luckily, Kelsey can talk to Nanna on Skype. To help Kelsey feel better, they create a story about a porcelain doll called Amy Jo who wants to find someone to love her. As Kelsey and Nanna imagine Amy Jo's quest, Kelsey starts to realise Pakistan isn't that bad after all.

But how will the porcelain doll's story end? Will Amy Jo find the person she's destined for or be on a quest forever?



Lamont Review:

This is a delightful story about Kelsey, an Australian girl who reluctantly finds herself in Pakistan with her family to help the community rebuild after a devastating flood.

She misses her friends, and especially her Nanna Rose, but at least she has Skype and can keep in touch with her Nanna.

Nanna Rose and Kelsey love making up stories and so they create the story of Amy Jo, a porcelain doll. Nanna's story of Amy Jo's adventures and travels around the world to find just the right person to love and hold her help Kelsey adjust to her life in Pakistan. Amy Jo's story is revealed to the reader in alternating chapters with Kelsey's story.

Kelsey's new friend Shakila also helps her to adjust. Her friendship with Shakila makes Kelsey realise how different their lives really are. Kelsey soon finds herself questioning if having lots of 'things' makes you rich, as Shakila thinks, or whether having only few 'things' that you appreciate and lots of family around is the real definition of being rich.

With Kelsey and Amy Jo's stories tying together beautifully at the end, younger to middle primary girl readers will thoroughly enjoy this story and they may find themselves thinking, like I did, that Amy Jo really does have feelings!

Reviewed by Sam

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Primary Fiction

Bella Dancerella Loves to Dance

By Poppy Rose

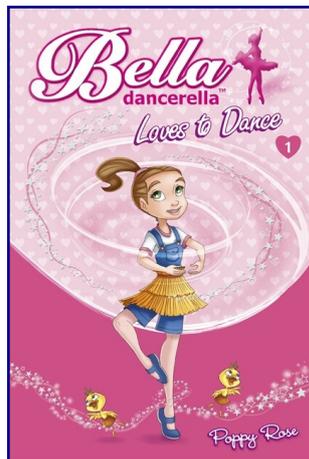
Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN 9780733332456

\$14.99

Blurb:

A gorgeous new series for girls aged 4 - 7. Perfect for fans of 'Pearlie in the Park' and 'Magic Ballerina'. Bella really wants to take lessons at Miss Tweedle's Ballet School. When Dad says no, Bella's barnyard friends hatch some plans to help her. Can the animals and Bella convince Dad to change his mind?



Lamont Review:

A fun filled story of Bella and all her farm yard friends.

Bella dances when she should be helping her Dad with the animals, she dances when she should be cleaning out the stable, in fact, she just loves to dance.

Your ballet loving girls will thoroughly enjoy how the animals trick Bella's Dad into taking Bella to ballet school. Perfect for girls in Grade 2 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

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Primary Fiction

The Toy Sale – Hey Jack!

By Sally Rippin

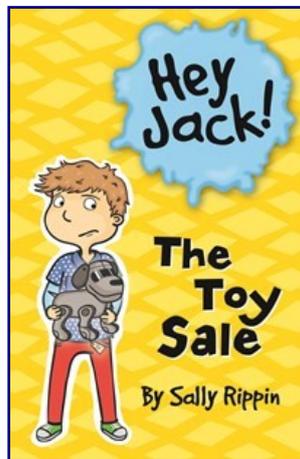
Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

ISBN 9781760120535

\$7.95

Blurb:

Jack is selling the toys he doesn't play with anymore. There's some old Lego, a scruffy teddy bear and a robot dog that doesn't work. But when Jack sees other kids having fun with his stuff, will he regret the whole idea?



Lamont Review:

In this instalment of the wonderful Hey Jack! series, Jack decides to have a have toy sale.

This should give him enough money to buy the footy card holder that he really wants. But which toys should he sell and which ones should he keep?

When he finds himself having sold a toy he really liked Jack has a dilemma. What should he do?

Who will help him make the right decision?

A valuable story with a lesson within, that your emerging readers are sure to love.

Reviewed by Sam

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Figgy in the World

By Tamsin Janu

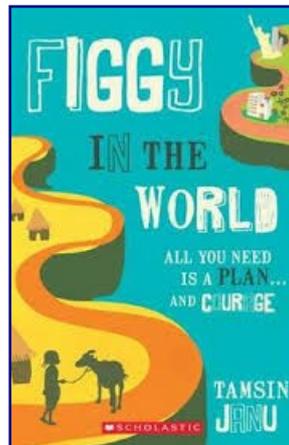
Publisher: Scholastic

ISBN 9781742990453

\$15.99

Blurb:

Figgy has two problems. One is her name. Nobody in Ghana has that name. The other is that her grandmother is ill and needs special medicine. Figgy can't do much about her name, but she can do something for Grandma Ama. She will go to America and bring back the medicine, and Kwame, her special goat, will go with her. Out in the wide world she will meet some bad people, but she will also find good friends.



Lamont Review:

It's great when we have the chance to introduce a young debut author.

Figgy In The World is set in Ghana and the innocent voice that tells this story is both refreshing and fun.

When Grandma Ama falls ill Figgy, who is eight years old, leaves home with her pet goat and a plan to travel to America to get medicine to fix her.

As her unlikely journey begins she soon meets orphan Nana and together they experience both the best and the worst in the people that they encounter.

Although Figgy and Nana never reach America, the ending shows what the human spirit can achieve.

This will be an eye-opener for younger children, 8 years old and up, who will gain an experience of life far outside of their own. It is also wonderfully well written and a thoroughly nice story.

Reviewed by Rob

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Primary Fiction

Dandelion Clocks

By Rebecca Westcott

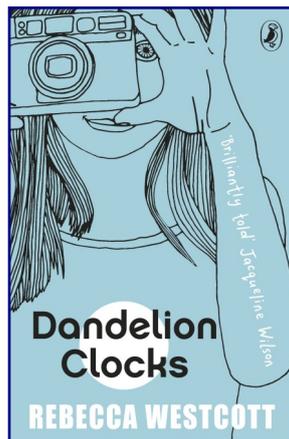
Publisher: Penguin

ISBN 9780141348995

\$14.99

Blurb:

I gather up the first collection of photographs of my mum and flick through . . . What all these pictures have in common is they show how Mum lives every day - like it really, really matters. Mum's suddenly started giving me life's vital lessons: how to make Bolognese sauce, how to put on make-up, how to make rules my brother can cope with . . . She's even given me her old diaries. They're really funny - and actually sort of helpful. But I feel like there's something she's not telling me . . . A story to be felt and not forgotten.



Lamont Review:

Liv is about to experience the most traumatic 12 months of her life...

The story starts just as Liv's mum, Rachel, is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Although the main part of the story is sad, this book is beautifully written - you will laugh and cry and then smile again as Liv, her brother, and her parents cope with her Mum's illness.

A really difficult topic that is dealt with in the story with sensitivity, love and humour. Every character is essential to the story and I found it really difficult to put this book down.

It will be loved by girls everywhere, especially those aged 10+.

Reviewed by Michelle