

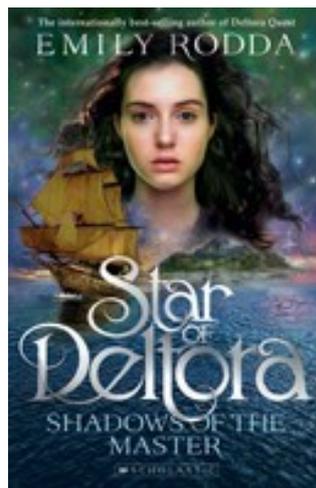
Shadows of the Master: Star of Deltora 1

By Emily Rodda
Publisher: Scholastic
ISBN 9781742990620
\$9.99

Primary Fiction
Book of the Month

Blurb:

Britta has always wanted to be a trader like her father, sailing the nine seas and bringing precious cargo home to Del harbour. Her dreams seemed safe until her fathers quest to find the fabled Staff of Tier ended in blood and horror. Now his shamed family is in hiding, and his ship, the Star of Deltora, belongs to the powerful Rosalyn fleet. But Brittass ambition burns as fiercely as ever. When she suddenly gets the chance to win back her future she knows she has to take it whatever the cost. She has no idea that shadows from a distant, haunted isle are watching her every move.



Lamont Review

Britta has trading in her blood and is bored helping her mother in their shop. When her friend, Captain Gripps, puts her name forward to be an apprentice to the famous Rosalyn Trader and sail the seas trading goods, she jumps at the chance. But will her past remain a secret or are there other forces at work?

Another wonderful new series from Emily Rodda. This is an exciting fantasy story set amongst the backdrop of Deltora and will introduce a new generation of readers to the Deltora Quest series.

Great characters and a page turning story will keep both readers thoroughly enthralled.

It will suit Years 5 and up.

Reviewed by Michelle

Pig Dude

By Michael Wagner & Illustrated by Adam Nickel

Publisher: Billy Goat Books

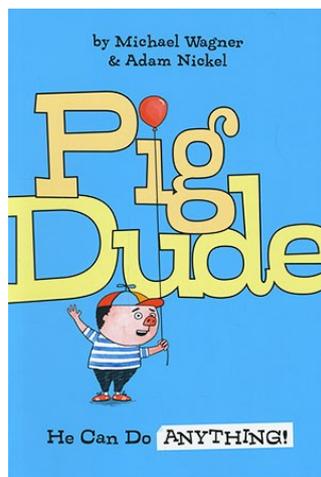
ISBN 9780994251718

\$11.99

Blurb:

Mama truly believes in Pig Dude. But can he really do anything? There's only one way to find out. It's time for Pig Dude to attempt the impossible!

Follow Pig Dude on a hair-raising, heart-warming adventure that celebrates what can be achieved when someone believes in you.



Lamont Review:

Pig Dude is not your normal boy.

He struggles to do the things that others can do, such as reading, and has no confidence in himself. But his Mama believes in him and tells him that he can do anything!

When Pig Dude takes this literally and decides that he can fly, we follow his crazy and funny attempts.

The format of this book will with its larger print and bright and colourful illustrations, will appeal to emerging readers.

It portrays a lovely message about how having the love and belief of others can help get you through and give you the confidence to try anything!

Both boys and girls will enjoy this story.

Reviewed by Sam

Kizmet and the Case of The Tassie Tiger

By Frank Woodley

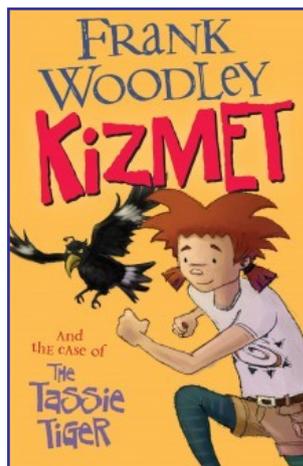
Publisher: Puffin/Penguin

ISBN 9780143308546

\$9.99

Blurb:

From Frank Woodley, much-loved comedian, storyteller and talented artist, comes a hilarious series about an inquisitive young girl, a cheeky currawong bird and a bumbling detective. Kizmet, Gretchen and Detective Spencer are called to investigate serious claims of livestock being attacked by a creature in the bush . . . and the possible sighting of a Tasmanian tiger. But Tassie tigers are extinct, aren't they? Can Kizmet get to the bottom of this mystery?



Lamont Review:

This is a fun new detective series with a difference.

Told from the perspective of Gretchen, the currawong bird, we follow Kizmet and her bumbling father, Detective Spencer on an adventure in Tasmania to find out if the reported sightings of the extinct Tasmania Tiger are true.

Although it may be Kizmet's father that is the Detective of IMPACT—International Mysteries, Puzzles And Crimes Taskforce, it is Kizmet who is the real detective. Can she work out if the Tasmania Tiger is real or if there is something else going on? Between Dr Cecil Spencer, with his lisp that will have all the children trying to work out what he is actually saying, his assistant Alice and Mrs Berbay, the owner of the soft drink company Tiger Pop, where do the real answers lie?

This is a story that readers aged 8 + will enjoy.

Reviewed by Sam

Stuff Happens: Tom

By Pat Flynn

Publisher: Puffin/Penguin

ISBN 9780143308850

\$9.99

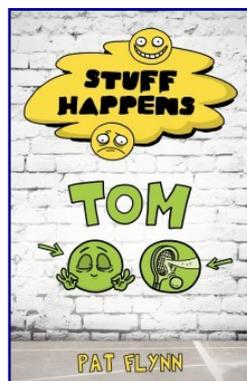
Blurb:

Stuff happens sometimes. Everyday stuff.

At school, at home, with sport, with mates.

For Tom it happened during a tennis match.

Tom Connors is a very good tennis player. When it comes to hitting a ball over a net he can do it better than almost anyone else his age, including the state-ranked Zac Zepharis who trains at the same club as Tom and also goes to Monvale Primary. Tom's problem is that he struggles to control his nerves in a match, particularly on his serve. His left arm seems to have a mind of its own and he can't even toss the ball up straight, let alone hit the serve powerfully into a corner of the box like Zac can. Tom was fine until 6 months ago when he held match point against Zac in the club championship, only to serve a double fault and lose the match. He thinks about this loss all the time, and ever since his serve and game have got progressively worse. Can Tom find a way to overcome his nerves?



Lamont Review:

In this ever popular and fabulous series for boys, it is Tom's turn to learn that 'stuff happens!'

For Tom, stuff happens when you lose your confidence and then struggle to get it back.

Tom is a good tennis player and loves the sport. But when he loses a match that he thought he was going to win by double-faulting, his love of the sport and his confidence in his own ability are thrown out the window. He just can't seem to get past that game, and it affects every game he plays now. Can the new topic that they are studying at school, 'The Power of Mind' help him?

A fabulous story about asking for help and learning to control things in your life, as well as learning how to accept and handle disappointment.

Reviewed by Sam

Hooked on Netball: Netball Gems 1

By Bernadette Hellard and Lisa Gibbs

Publisher: Random House

ISBN: 9780857987631

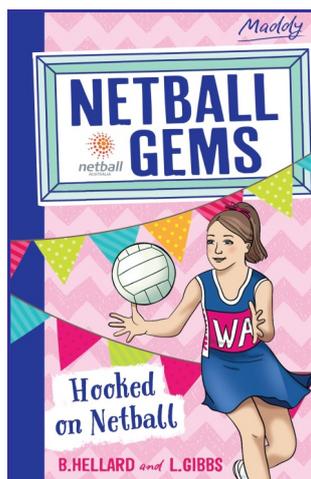
\$12.99

Blurb:

Meet Maddy and her friends from the Gems!

Maddy can't wait to play her first game of netball with her new team. She's been training hard and is eager to try out her skills. But Maddy's excitement soon turns to nerves when she realises that things might not go exactly as she imagined. What position will coach Janet put her in? What if she gets asked to sit on the bench? Suddenly, the netball courts are the last place Maddy wants to be!

Perhaps some inspiration from one of the Australian Diamonds players will finally get Maddy hooked on netball!



Lamont Review:

Maddy is just learning to play netball and her team will be playing their first game after weeks of training. She is very excited, but also nervous as she realises how much harder it is to play than train.

With help from her coach and all her team mates, Maddy gets better each week. When her Mum gets tickets to the Australian Diamonds vs New Zealand Silver Ferns, Maddy gets to meet her idol, Madison Robinson, the Australian Wing Attack. Maddy is well and truly hooked on netball!

This book is perfect for all your budding netballers with a great story and interesting characters.

It also has a player profile and great netball drills to improve your game.

Best suited to netball fans in Year 3 and up, this is the first book in a new series.

Reviewed by Michelle

Leo da Vinci vs The Ice-cream Domination League

By Michael Pryor & Illustrated by Jules Faber

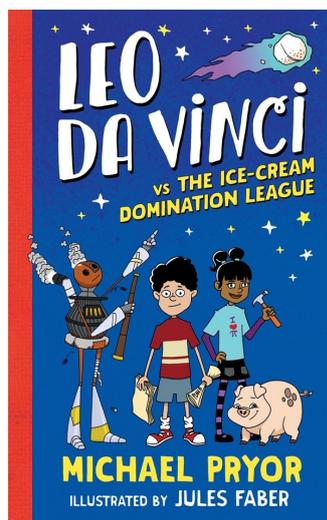
Publisher: Random House

ISBN 9780857988379

\$14.99

Blurb:

Help! The Ice-cream Domination League is blowing up the world's ice-cream factories! Enter Leo da Vinci. Inventor, artist, genius and founder of Fixit International Inc., all at the age of ten. His team? Meet steam-powered Isaac, maths whiz and wise-cracking pig Ragnar, and Mina from school, who's super-handy with a hammer. The plan? Ready the Strikebird. Pack the Heat-seeking Cauliflower Missiles. Find out why Comet Big-Kahuna is heading for Earth. Stop the IDL before Mum calls you home for dinner. Start the cheesy launch music and hold on for your life . . .



Lamont Review

Leo da Vinci is a ten year old genius who invents the most amazing things to help save the world from super villains.

He set up Fixit International Inc. with his side kicks Isaac the robot, Ragnar the talking pig, and Mina, a girl from school who is great with tape and a hammer.

Together they must save the world from the Ice-cream Domination League who want to control all the ice-cream in the world for themselves.

Everyone from Year 3 up will absolutely love this wonderful story. Full of lovable characters and the most amazing, ridiculous, plots and inventions you will laugh out loud and wish you could go on Leo's next adventure with him. Lots and lots of fun.

Reviewed by Michelle

Lola's Toybox: The Patchwork Picnic

By Danny Parker & Illustrated by Guy Shield

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

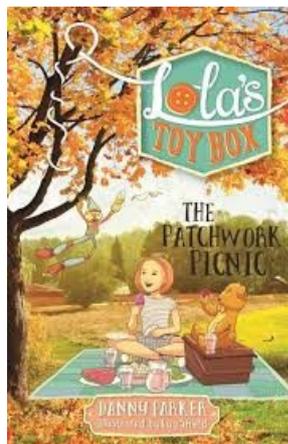
ISBN 9781760124366

\$12.95

Blurb:

When Lola is given an old toy box, she discovers it's a magical passageway ...

To a world where toys come to life! Do teddy bears really have picnics? Are plastic toys really nastier than soft ones? Follow Lola and her trusty but rather wonky learn-to-dress clown, Buddy, on their adventures in the Kingdom, where toys live when they aren't being played with in the real world.



Lamont Review:

This is a new series by Danny Parker, that will have your imagination running wild.

When Lola and her family are having a clean up at home, Lola finds an old toybox. When Lola's bossy brother Nick demands it from Lola, she is determined that he is not getting it. She jumps into the toybox with her favourite toy, Buddy, a learn-to dress clown.

Together they embark on an adventure that takes them to the Kingdom where toys go when they are not being played with. This is something that Lola has never thought about before and I am sure it will get you thinking about your forgotten toys too!

It is not all fun in the Kingdom though, as Buddy and Lola get caught up in the middle of an on-going feud with the Plastic Prince.

This is a wonderful adventure that middle level girls will love. The first in a new series, they will thoroughly enjoy getting to know Lola!

Reviewed by Sam

The Off-Limits Fence: Little Lunch

By Danny Katz & Illustrated by Mitch Vane

Publisher: Walker Books

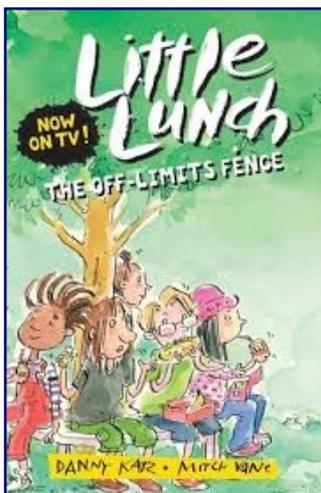
ISBN 9781742032375

\$9.95

Blurb:

3 highly illustrated, hilarious stories about a group of kids and their adventures during the fifteen minutes of Little Lunch.

This is what happened during Little Lunch: we played Chinese whispers in a circle around the big old tree, Melanie saved a fly and opened up an Insect Hospital, and Rory kicked his football over the off-limits fence. What else can happen in fifteen minutes?



Lamont Review

These are three amusing stories in the *Little Lunch* series by Danny Katz, with wonderful illustrations by Mitch Vane.

Many students will relate to these funny stories of things that happen in the school playground during little lunch.

There are insect hospitals being set up, there are ball games being played and balls being lost over the 'off-limits fence', where zombie-aliens are sure to be, and stories being misconstrued when the children all sit on the bench that goes around the big oak tree (this one was my favourite out of the 3, as it is exactly the sort of thing that I remember happening in the playground!).

This is great book that is sure to encourage younger and middle level readers.

Reviewed by Sam