- No more than 50 words per page.
- Illustrations on every second page.
- Realistic situations with positive problem-solving.
- Warm family/friend relationships.

Ages: 4-7 **Price:** \$4.99



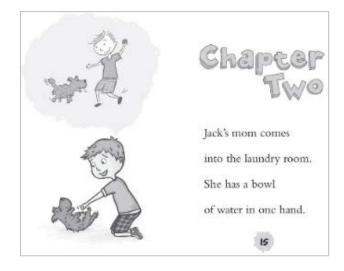
Author Sally Ripin wanted to offer boys something different to action heroes or spies. This early reader series featuring Billie B. Brown's best friend Jack, is full of down-to-earth, real-life stories that boys can enjoy and relate to.

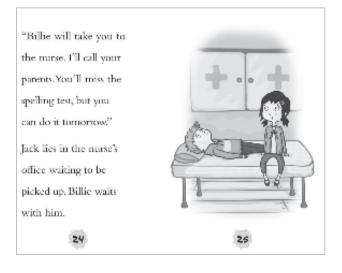
Word art and illustrations provide reading breaks without huge blocks of text or intimidating words. And Jack's gigantic imagination injects the series with fun & humor.

Thuy-On, Bookseller+Publisher Magazine, Summer 2012

The books are simple to read... with little life lessons and morals integrated into the stories. The black-and-white illustrations break up the large-font text.

"Tomorrow morning "We'll see," says Jack's dad, we'll go see Alf smiling."We'll see." at the corner shop," Jack lies awake thinking he says. "He might about the puppy. know who the He thinks about his puppy belongs to." sweet little face and his Waggy tail. "All right," says Jack glumly. "But if we can't Just then, Jack hears find the owner, can we the puppy whimpering keep him? Please?" in the laundry room. 23





- No more than 50 words per page.
- Illustrations on every second page.
- Feisty, irresistible heroine
- True-to-life situations
- Positive problem-solving
- Warm family/friend relationships.

Ages: 4-7 **Price:** \$4.99

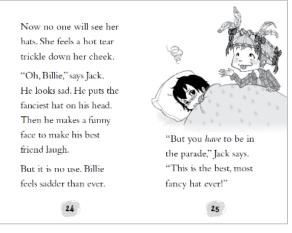


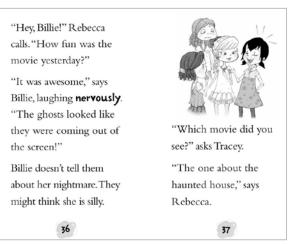
Meet Billie B. Brown, brave brilliant and bold, and bound to become your best friend! Children will readily relate to this early-reader series of standalone, everyday adventures. Billie B. Brown prepares girls for new social situations and they will recognize their lives reflected in Billie's "real world" adventures, from their first sleepover, to ballet lessons, playing with boys and managing friendships.

Australian Bookseller & Publisher, Aug 2010

Rippen's aim is to offer an alternative to fairy and princess readers, and she carefully challenges gender stereotypes through the characters of Billie and her best friend Jack. ... Illustrator Aki Fukuoka does a great job of capturing Billie's quirky and defiantly messy character... Short and sweet, [an] engaging reader for children ages five years and up...







Dr. Seuss meets Sesame Street in this mischievous series about the weird and wonderful students at a very strange school!

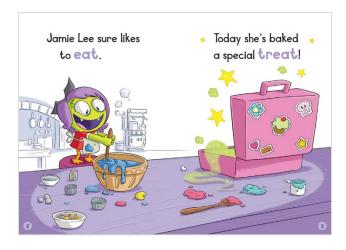
Ages: 5+ Price: \$6.99
SAVE by purchasing the Complete Collection!



Welcome to the School of Monsters: the funniest, silliest and most accessible series for first readers! Start by reading only the last word on every line and work your way up to reading the whole story. With tumbling rhymes and an infectious sense of humor, School of Monsters is guaranteed to spark a love of reading!

Bestselling author Sally Rippin (Billie B. Brown, Hey Jack!) has perfectly crafted this new series for first-time readers with simple vocabulary and large, accessible text design.

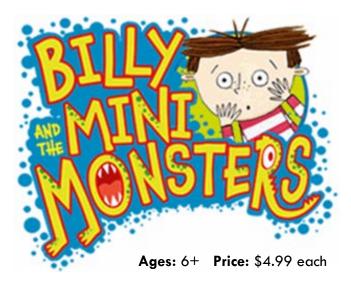








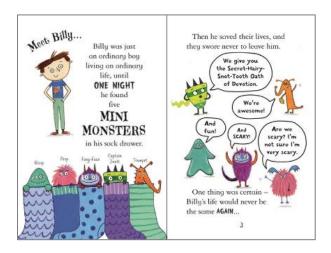




SAVE by purchasing the Complete Collection!

Series: Billy and the Mini Monsters
Billy is an ordinary boy until one night he finds
five mini monsters living in his sock drawer. From
the moment he discovers Gloop, Peep, FangFace, Captain Snott, and Trumpet, Billy's life will
never be the same again...

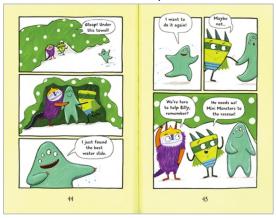
Billy and the Mini Monsters by Zanna Davidson – and illustrated by Melanie Williamson – is the perfect series for reluctant and newly independent readers growing in confidence.



Join Billy and the hairy, smelly, but not-so-scary Mini Monsters in these hilarious adventures as they encounter **crucial first experiences** (vacations, school trips and moving house) and **everyday fears** (fear of the dark and bullying at school).



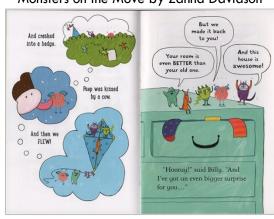
Monsters to the Rescue by Zanna Davidson



Monsters Go Camping by Zanna Davidson

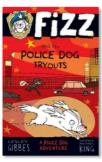


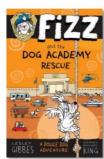
Monsters on the Move by Zanna Davidson



- Hilarious and action-packed chapter books for beginners.
- Black-and-white illustrations throughout.
- Funny and endearing characters.
- Not just for dog lovers!

Ages: 7-10 Price: \$5.99







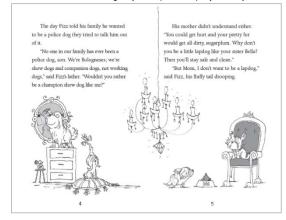


Follow Fizz through his police dog academy tryouts and training to become a dog detective, and on to his first cases.

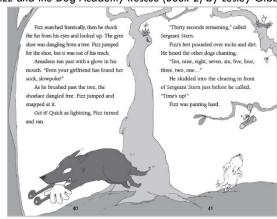


Told in simple but very lively language, with lots of playful repetition, short chapters and Stephen Michael King's quirky cartoon-style illustrations throughout, this hilarious and action-packed series is perfect for newly confident readers.

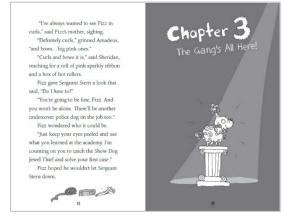
Fizz and the Police Dog Tryouts (Book 1) by Lesley Gibbes



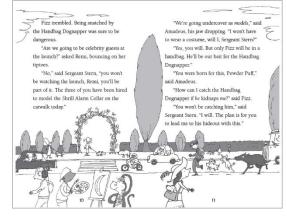
Fizz and the Dog Academy Rescue (Book 2) by Lesley Gibbes



Fizz and the Show Dog Jewel Thief (Book 3) by Lesley Gibbes

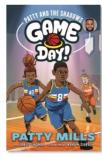


Fizz and the Handbag Dognapper (Book 4) by Lesley Gibbes



- Espouses good sports values: self-belief, commitment, teamwork, perseverance, dealing w/disappointments, life balance, as well as fun!
- Showcases pride in Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander heritage
- Several nationalities featured







Ages: 7-10 Price: \$5.99

A fantastic and fun basketball three-book series by Australian Olympian and NBA star Patty Mills to entertain young readers, inspire kids to achieve their goals through sports, and take pride in their heritage. Based on Patty's indigenous heritage and experience playing sports as a kid growing up in Canberra. (Glossaries included!)

Sports series review by 5.5 year old! (web review) It was fun to read because there was basketball games to follow along. It was an intermediate chapter book with a nice amount of words. I love series books so it was fun to continue with the other books. It was interactive because it taught me how to do a layup and I love sports.

My 9 year old LOVES this series! (web review) Even though he's not really a "sports kid" himself, my son loves these books! He's really hoping for more. And I love the themes of hard work and determination that are valued and taught in this series! These are perfect!

Game Day: Patty Hits the Court! by Patty Mills with Jared Thomas - Nahum Ziersch



into the gym. He stood in place, bouncing his basketball from hand to hand, and said, "Don't tell me you're going to play basketball, Patty!

I shrugged. Coach Clarke walked over lyson, keep practicing your layups," he boomed Then he looked at me with a smile. "Glad you've

taken up my offer, Patty. Good to see you too,

Coach Clarke looked like a giant standing on the court in his tracksuit.



at Uncle Frankie's that says, "The Best Shakes in the Straits." but Mum's shakes or

"Patty, did you hear me? Would you like a milkshake?" she asked again.

"No thanks, Mum." I'd just come from Torres



made me feel energized and positive, but I was Mum sat down next to me. "Okay, tell me

at's wrong."

I shook my head and kept staring at

"Why have you been moping around all afternoon?" Mum said, placing her hand on my shoulder.

"It's nothing, really." "I know when something's wrong, Patty." I sighed. "I tried out for basketball today,

but I could hardly do anything." Mum laughed, but it wasn't funny t

me. "So, you want to be a basketballer like your Uncle Danny?"

Game Day: Patty Takes Charge by Patty Mills with Jared Thomas - Nahum Ziersch

"Lucky, with a sprained ankle?" I asked. "Yeah, you get to do all of the things that I wish I was doing while I'm at school."

"No way. I can't do anything. Even using the rutches to get to my room hurts. It's driving me crazy not being able to run or practice."

"But you can watch all the basketball you rant," Josie said, turning her attention back to

"Yeah, but it's not the same as playing," I told



THE NEXT DAY when Dad and Mum went to work I lay on the couch and watched some more

basketball. The only problem was that it made me so desperate to play.

I hobbled to my room to get my ball and

then out to the driveway. basketball hoop, lay the wall and stood

into the air, forcing it from my shoulder because Localda's push up through my legs. The ball

three-pointer.



Game Day: Patty and the Shadows by Patty Mills with Jared Thomas - Nahum Ziersch

which we call a buru buru, I started to pump my



Uncle Noel stopped, "Listen, Patty," he said. "Listen to the beat. You're going too fast. Dancing

isn't about how fast you do the steps, it's not a race. It's about moving with the rhythm."

Uncle Noel started beating the burn burn

again, and I listened to the beat, letting the sound vibrate through me before I started dancing.

As I began sliding across the floor in time with my group, I imagined the trade winds blowing ross the islands, and the waves lapping again the shore. I felt warm inside and that everything was just as it was supposed to be: perfect.

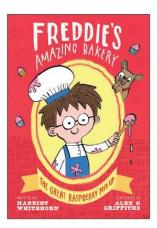


LOOSENING HIS TIE, Uncle Noel called the Shadows together at training, "There are two elements involved in winning basketball: offense

- Equally appealing to both boys and girls.
- Emphasis on community spirit, kindness, good sportsmanship.
- Recipes included encourage shared child/adult activity.
- Glossaries of baking terms.
- B&W illustrations throughout.
- Success from trying your best –
 no superpowers required.

Ages: 6+ **Price:** \$5.99

SAVE \$ on Complete Collection - only \$19.99





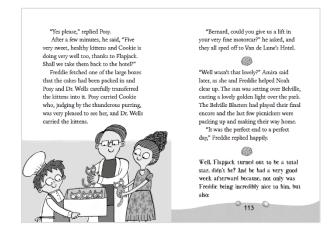


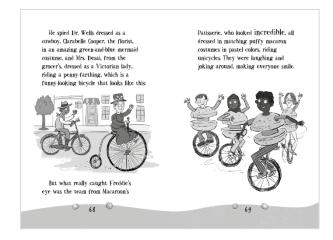


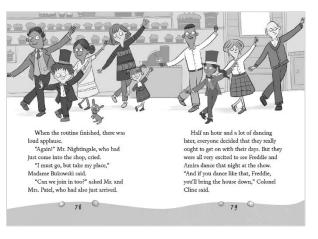
GIFT IDEA: Pair with apron, simple baking equipment, or cookbook.

Benefits to children from shared child/adult baking activities:

- Increase language development and reading skills
- Enhance fine motor skills
- Increase problem-solving and math skills
- Introduce children to scientific concepts
- Increase focus and attention
- Teach life skills like independence and responsibility
- Boost self-confidence
- Encourage child/adult/family bonding







- Strongly supports a good work ethic, the value of cooperation, and a concern for others.
- Realistically shows the ins and outs of hotel management.
- Great read-aloud for a broad-age range audience.

Ages: 6-9 **Price:** \$5.99

SAVE \$ on Complete Collection - only \$19.99









When Anna inherits a dilapidated once-grand hotel, she's determined to restore it to its former glory. But this is no ordinary hotel - all of her staff and guests are animals! And running an animal hotel is no easy task.

School Library Journal

Sure to delight young readers transitioning to chapter books...

Log Cabin Library

This would be a fun series for summer reading and especially for someone who enjoys animal stories.

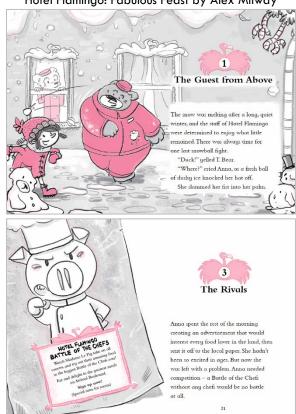
Two color illustrations add vibrancy.







Hotel Flamingo: Fabulous Feast by Alex Milway



- Hilarious doodles, drawings, poems, pros-and-cons list
- Spirited main character

 Made especially for fans of friendship and fun!







Ages: 6-9 **Price:** \$5.99

I have so many super-amazing and IMPORTANT things to write about!
I'll tell you all about them.
I'm Olivia and this is MY diary...

From the creators of the bestselling Ella Diaries:

Ella's little sister has started writing down her own hilarious thoughts and adventures! It's time to find out all about Olivia. She's funny, fearless, and full of fun.

Perfect for Starting Chapter Books!

My daughter loves this book and the series. She was getting overwhelmed by wordy chapter books so she loves how this series is written in diary form. Doodle illustrations break up the pages too. She can focus and really be engaged in the book. She said she thinks Olivia is someone she would be friends with.

Love the imagination Olivia has!

My first grader was super engaged in this book.
There are sibling elements that are humorous and very realistic. Olivia has a great imagination and is always using her imagination and problem solving skills - an awesome example for my daughter!

(web review)

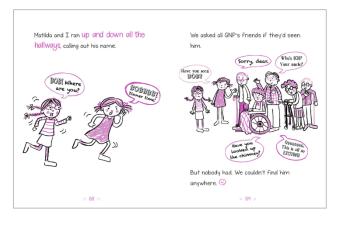
Olivia's Secret Scribbles: My New Best Friend by Meredith Costain – Danielle McDonald





Olivia's Secret Scribbles: My (almost) Perfect Puppy by Meredith Costain – Danielle McDonald





- Humorously explores common elementary school issues
- Hilarious doodles, drawings, poems, pros-and-cons list
- Spirited main character



Ages: 8-12 **Price:** \$5.99

WARNING:

You are about to read my UTTERLY BIGGEST SECRETS. Can I trust you? OK then. I'm Ella, and this is my diary...

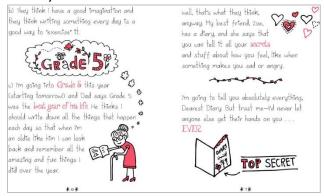
School Library Journal

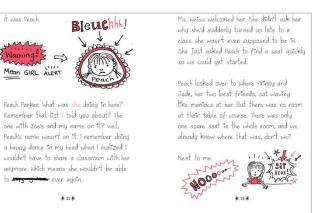
"The illustrations and the use of lists and poetry make this a great pick for reluctant readers."

Kirkus Reviews

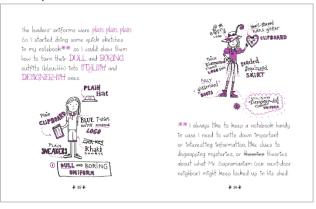
"Following the story, backmatter activities tie into the tale, including a make-your-own haiku, draw-your-own fashion, and a prompt for a top-10 list. Among a slew of other bubblegum-hued diary hybrids, this mean-girl tale is a gentle take, just right for a younger audience hankering for a fast, frothy read. ... Cute and effervescent."

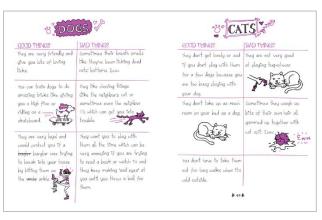
Ella Diaries: Double Dare You by Meredith Costain – Danielle McDonald





Ella Diaries: Double Dare You by Meredith Costain – Danielle McDonald





Sticker Dollies Stories

Chapter books featuring characters from the best-selling Sticker Dolly dressing series.

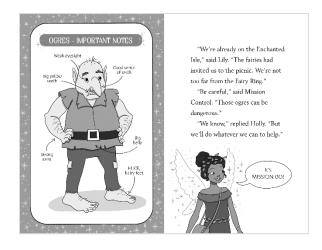
Ages: 6+ **Price:** \$5.99 SAVE \$ on Complete Collection

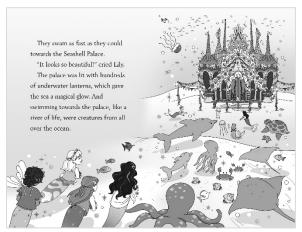


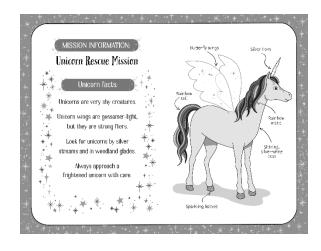
In their mystical land, the Dollies are on a mission in each book to solve a mystery or coming to the rescue. Sticker outfits are included to "dress" the dollies on one character page.

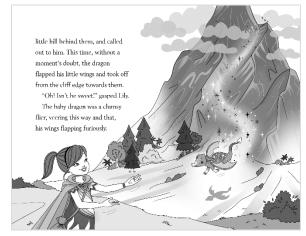












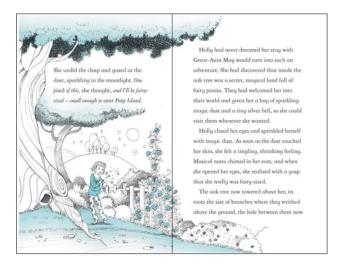
Fairy Ponies Series



Ages: 7+ Price: \$5.99 each
SAVE \$ on Complete Collection

Fairy Ponies is an original, illustrated fiction with easy reading texts. Designed for newly fluent readers who are ready for longer stories.

Developed in consultation with reading experts.

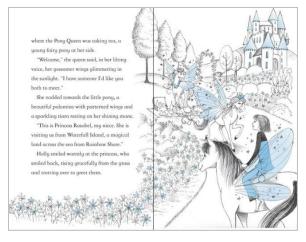


Holly is staying with her great-aunt when she discovers a tiny pony with shimmering wings. At first she thinks she must be dreaming, until two fairy ponies visit her with an urgent mission. Puck, a young fairy pony, is in danger!









Fairy Unicorns Series



Ages: 7+ **Price:** \$5.99

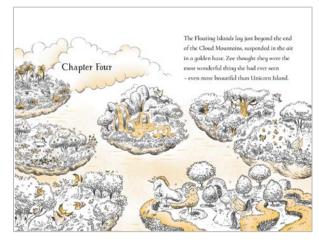
SAVE \$ on Complete Collection

Fairy Unicorns is an original, illustrated fiction with easy reading texts. Designed for newly fluent readers who are ready for longer stories.

Zoe is staying with her Great Aunt May for summer vacation when she discovers a secret world, hidden inside the oak tree at the bottom of the garden - a land full of Fairy Unicorns! But Zoe soon finds out that Unicorn Island is in terrible danger. The trees are dying! Zoe and her new friend, Astra, a beautiful unicorn with silver stars on her coat, must find a way to save the trees, before it's too late... This new series is a stand-alone, but it also follows on from Fairy Ponies.



now, she couldn't wait to go back. tiptoed towards the door. *Do you promise you'll take my message to From the gentle snores coming down the corridor, Zoe guessed that Great Aunt May the Unicorn King?" whispered Shado vas fast asleep at last. Opening the cupboard "I promise," Zoc replied, holding up the beside her bed, she took out a cage, woven little note he had given her. from vines. Inside, was Shadow, her fairu pony. She placed the eage on the windowsill, so Shadow could see the moonlight and bathe in the fresh spring air. But she didn't unlock the cage... It was bound by magic, and even if and tiptoed down the stairs it hadn't been, she wouldn't have dared. Shadow might be tiny, small enough to fit through the back door, and into into the palm of her hand, and he might look the silvery moonlight. powerless, even sweet - but Zoe knew better. At the end of the garden path In the past, he had caused chaos, plotting to stood the Great Oak, its branch take over Unicorn Island. Zoe took one last look at Shadow, and reached into her bag and pulled





Extraordinary Lives



Ages: 7-11 **Price:** \$5.99

Focuses on the lives of inspirational historical and modern figures.

- Fully illustrated and full-color throughout.
- Diverse real-life stories to educate, inspire and empower.
- Topics include science, space, history and civil rights.
- Real-life narratives, timelines and facts; childhood to adulthood.

Booklist

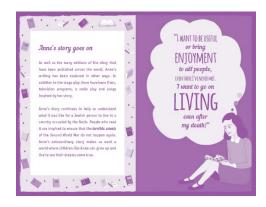
The book is invitingly designed, with liberal illustrations breaking up the text to create an airy feel to the page.

PSLA Literature Review

This series would be an excellent addition to an elementary library. ...may just lure in those reluctant readers as well.

Association of Jewish Libraries News and Reviews

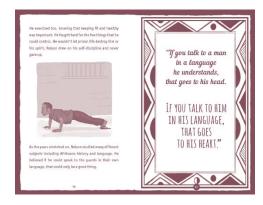
This one fills a need not often addresses: a very mild introduction to the person and the time...

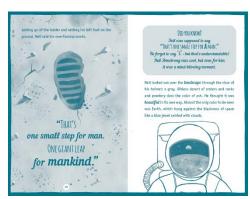


School & Library Journal

...celebrates the iconic athlete's grit, determination, generosity, and intelligence in an entertaining, inspiring, and informative manner.







- Each book features a different, diverse main character.
- Exotic settings: nature and ecology.
- Edge-of-your-seat adventure.
- Perseverance, ingenuity, selfreliance.
- Survival tips and tricks from Bear Grylls himself.

Ages: 7-10 **Price:** \$4.99

SAVE on Complete Collection



You're given a magical compass and suddenly you're no longer at outdoor camp but in an amazing place in the world – with Bear Grylls as your guide!

Each book in the Bear Grylls Adventures series follows a different child at an outdoor activity camp. Once they are given the magical compass, they meet Bear in an amazing place and learn new skills and facts they can take back with them to their real life. There is lots of info and fun in these inspiring adventures.

Bear Grylls Adventures: The Earthquake Challenge

"What's sewage?" he asked. "It's what goes down the toilet," she

told him.

"Yuck!"

Fatima smiled - not just at Ryan's reaction but because now they would be heading out into the daylight again. It was so dark and her heart was beating



so fast in here. She couldn't wait to get outside.

So when Bear walked farther into the supermarket, her heart sank. He pointed

his flashlight over the signs on the ceiling.
"One more thing ..."

Bear had found the pharmacy section. He took a couple of boxes of bandages off the shelves, and rummaged through

the other bottles and packages.
"Got it!" Bear sounded plea something he had found. He held up a small bottle. "Potassium permangana Very useful for disinfecting cuts, purifying water ..." Bear was on a roll now, grabbing things off the shelf as fast as he could. "And also let's get some tape Okay, let's go."

Bear Grylls Adventures: The River Challenge

was only one way out of the gorge. And if they were sticking to dry land, he'd be

Bear grinned.

"Let's do this, then."

They started to walk together along the rocky shore. The smooth round rocks turned and twisted under Jack's feet. The boots covered his ankles and supported his legs, and he was very grateful for their firm grip. Without that support, he

After a couple of minutes the shore turned into a jumble of huge rocks. Some were the size of cars, and others were the size of houses. lack and Bear climbed easily up onto the first one, ther Bear walked a few paces across its flat

top to the far edge

"Bit of a gap here ..." Bear remarked. Without a pause, he stuck out one long leg and half jumped across the gap. .. but not that wide. I can give you a

Jack stopped. The rock stuck out into



Bear Grylls Adventures: The Blizzard Challenge

Bear grabbed the rope between them and pulled hard on the slack until it went taut. He then rapidly dropped onto the ice and wrapped the rope around his body.

'Use the rope to pull against, Olly," Bear shouted. "Wriggle like a seal and get yourself out, back onto the ice. Work quickly, Olly, come on!

But Olly couldn't do it. He was floundering around in shock and numbed by the cold. He could hardly even keep himself from slipping beneath the water

Bear saw that Olly was struggling and reacted fast. He flung himself flat, rope in one hand, holding Olly in tight against the edge of the hole and the other arr outstretched toward him.

"Grab my hand!"



Bear Grylls Adventures: The Safari Challenge

mind away. This was the meal she had, and she was so grateful for it.

And when she finally bit into a warm

juicy piece of zebra steak, it tasted great no need for fries, ketchup or anything else at all.

Every meal was a feast, Bear said. This truly had been a feast to end the day.





HUNGRY HIPPOS

saving, "Rise and shine!"

The world was still bathed in silvery moonlight, but the fire had burned down to nothing. Bear kicked dry earth over it to put out the last few sparks, and then said it was breakfast time.

Evie was hungry. She ate her piece of baobab fruit without hesitating. The biltong that she washed down with a

103



- Dance, drama, and dreams.
- Charming, relatable, welldrawn characters.
- Social issues; friendship.
- Four diverse, distinct characters and situations.









Ages: 8-10 **Price:** \$5.99

Join Chloe, Sara, Lilly and Bethany at The Shine School for the Performing Arts, where dreams of stardom really can and do – come true.

Getting into The Shine School for the Performing Arts is a dream come true for Chloe! When a prank goes wrong though, rumors that she is about to be expelled begin to fly. Can Chloe turn things around before it's too late?

When there's an audition for a professional production of Mary Poppins, Sara is hoping it'll be her big chance. But can she avoid rivalries at school and her parents' concerns at home to secure the role of her dreams?

Lily's sure she only got in to Shine because of her actress mom. Then she finds out about an exciting new TV adaptation of her favorite book, and everything clicks this is her chance to prove herself! Will she be able to convince everyone else though?

Bethany has been keeping a secret from her best friends: she's a scholarship student; but with homework and a long commute, she's struggling. Will Bethany be able to find her voice and shine in the concert?

Shine: Chloe Center Stage by Holly Webb

Obviously everyone's a bit rusty after the Obviously everyones a bit rusty after the holidays, but nice, very nice. Well done, Carmen and Ella. I know you feel like you've got two left feet, but you'll catch up in no time with a bit of extra help." She looked around all the girls, smiling.

"Oh, just one thing." She beckoned to Chloe. "Could you come here a minute Chloe looked uncertainly behind her and

Ms. Driver laughed.
"No, I do mean you. Just come here a

minute."

Chloe knew she'd danced really well and she couldn't help smiling. Was Ms. Driver going to ask her to demonstrate the routine to the others? Her old tap teacher had quite often gotten her to do that, if she vas demonstrating something tricky. Chloe threaded her way to the front, trying not to

Shine: Sara's Dream Role by Holly Webb

kind of training," Bethany agreed. "Do I want a cereal bar or a muffin?" The Shine cafeteria was very healthy and an oatmeal raisin muffin vas about as close to a treat as you could ge *It's history next, isn't it? Definitely the muffin

They sat down at one of the tables and the conversation went back to the audition. It was all anyone could think about.

"Do you think the casting team will see our vear separately or will it be us and the Year



Eights together?" Sara wondered.
"Talking of Year Eights, look what just
crawled in." Chloe's voice dripped with disoust, "Lizabeth."

diagust. "Lizabeth."

True enough, the tall blond girl was walking over to the next table. Lizabeth would have been very pretty indeed if she didn't always look as though she'd just smelled something horrible. She was with a small group of Year Eight girls, who all carefully cultivated the same sneering expression and agreed with every word Lizabeth said.

sank gracefully into a seat, "I'm bound to get a callback." The rest of her group nodded wisely.

Shine: Lily's Secret Audition by Holly Webb

"I'm not sure how far the series is taking the story," Mr. Lessing admitted. "I've a feeling that the sequel is set a few years later, so even if they do go that far, they might have anothe actress playing Beth, and I'm sure they will for Amy. Let's read through anyway. We'll split into pairs. Chloe, you read Amy as you like her so much, and Lily, you can do Beth – you'll have to fill in Jo and Meg too. I'll work with Emily and Lauren for a bit, and then I'll come

to you."

Chloe and Lily practiced reading the se through a couple of times, and Lily really felt that Chloe's natural sparkly character came through as Agon val. through as Amy, who loved wearing beautiful

clothes and having nice things.

You're doing her so well," she exclaimed as they finished the scene for the second time, with Amy grumbling about how unfair everything was

Chloe grinned.
"I think Mr.
Lessing's right –
Beth's much harder. She's just so nice,

"You don't feel "You don't feel
you're qualified for
acting nice, Chloe?"
Mr. Lessing said,
laughing at her as he
walked over to them.
Chloe shook her head.

"Not really," she admitted, giggling "Well, let's see how Lily manage

again nor me.

They read it through again, Lily trying very hard to sound more than just "nice" — she didn't want her character to be boring. Beth had to come back from looking after a sick

Shine: Bethany Sings Out by Holly Webb

been giving her extra singing lessons ted Shine to her mum. She didn't want to get Bethany's hopes up, but they did award scholarships for students who really excelled,

It took a week for Mrs. Adams to decide whether she should even mention it. After all, what if Bethany got really excited about it and then didn't get in? She would be gutted. Or worse, what if she got a place but not a scholarship? Then she'd know that she was scholarship? Then she'd know that she was good enough to go and it was all down to money that she couldn't. But Mrs. Adams decided in the end that she just couldn't let Berhamy miss out on this chance.

One Saturday afternoon, when Serena wa out shopping with her friends, Mrs. Adams

went into their room, where Bethany was lying on her bed, reading one of Serena's magazine and listening to music on the phone that had

been her birthday and Christmas presents combined. She sat down on the bed next to her and pulled out one of Bethany's earphones her and pulled out one of Bethany's carphones. She normally liked the same kind of music as the girls, and she listened along for a bit, nodding to herself.

"Bethany, can we talk for a minute?" she asked eventually, when she felt she couldn't put

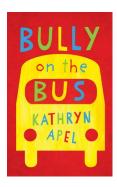
it off any longer.
"Mm-hm." Bethany turned off the music

and looked questioningly at her mother.



- A verse novel
- Brave & thoughtful characters
- Heartwarming ending
- On Pacer's Nat'l Bullying Prevention Center's Book List

Ages: 8+ **Price:** \$6.99



She's big.
She's smart.
She's mean.
She's the bully on the bus.
She picks on me and
I don't like it.
But I don't know how
to make her stop.

A beautifully crafted verse novel that will surprise and empower.

The bully on the bus taunts seven-year-old Leroy, then silences him with threats of worse to come if he tells. To help him, his teacher introduces him to a book of fairy tales. Hidden within are the clues that Leroy needs to overcome the bully's taunts once and for all.

Kirkus Reviews

"Simple, hopeful, and positive."

School Library Journal

The honesty and rawness of Leroy's emotions expressed throughout each verse will stir compassion in young readers. For readers experiencing or witnessing bullying themselves, it will hopefully inspire and empower.

VERDICT A short yet poignant title on a timely topic; a valuable addition to elementary school and public library collections.

The Pirate Tree

This empowering story offers young readers not only strong characters overcoming an all too common school problem, but also gives them useful suggestions on how they could tame a bully themselves, without getting in trouble.

SWON Libraries CLEAR Reviews

The flowing verse tells the story beautifully. I would recommend this book to any child who has been bullied or knows someone who has been bullied. It would also use it as a read aloud with elementary students to discuss bullying and being kind.

Mom Read It

Told in verse from Leroy's point of view, BULLY ON THE BUS is sensitive, often heartbreaking, and ultimately, hopeful. Leroy's employs self-confidence, bolstered by his family's and teacher's support, and a 'secret weapon' that holds messages – strategies – to distract him from DJ's bullying. There's strong advice for kids enduring their own bullies: "Show the bully you don't care. Tell an adult." The story ends on an optimistic note, and while Leroy's "secret weapon" and support system may not apply to every reader's situation, it is a story that lets kids know they are seen; their stories heard. It's a story that encourages kids to seek help and assures them that someone out there wants to listen and wants to help.

Literacy Daily, "Celebrating Poetry"

Reading this short chapter book in verse is a good opener for discussion of the issue of bullying.

Kirkus Reviews

Even though grade schooler Leroy loves his teacher and his fellow Superkids in Mrs. Wilson's classroom, he dreads the trip to and from school for one particular reason—DJ. A high schooler who changes the color of her hair almost as frequently as her mood, DJ finds respite from her own frustrating life by tormenting Leroy. Insults, mockery, and poking are only the start, and there's little that older sister Ruby, who's only in grade five, can do to help. When the cupcake Leroy has made for his teacher disappears into DJ's mouth, he is crushed. His parents and teacher notice a change in his demeanor, but Leroy feels nervous confiding in them. When he does, they hatch a plan. Leroy has a list of things he can do to combat DJ, including ignoring her, sitting in a seat close to the bus driver, and speaking confidently. But it's his secret weapon, a storybook that distracts him and interests DJ, that finally encourages peace on the bus. Leroy learns the important lesson of show and tell: "Show the bully you don't care. / Tell an adult." Simply written in verse, this is a story many children will find familiar. An optimistic ending might be just the encouragement most kids need, but it may be a little improbable for some readers. Set in Australia, the book assumes a white default.

- High-voltage adventure; laughs on every page
- Diverse and inclusive
- Relatable family and friendship dynamics









Ages: 8+ Price: \$6.99

It's high time we had a new girl superhero to root for in this middle grade space - and Lightning Girl has all the classic tensions of superhero versus supervillain stories, together with realistic family and friendship dynamics, and laughs on every page.

Always in the Middle

This should appeal to both girls and boys who enjoy a bit of magic and a fun premise.

Charlotte's Library

These are fun, fast reads, with a bi-racial, bighaired heroine who is still very much a kid. Sure she has powers, but she doesn't have a lot of confidence in herself. Although not everyone has problems controlling their lightning powers, many of us can relate to her worries... In short, these should go down very easily indeed for younger middle school readers.

Always in the Middle

The fast pace along with the first person narration by the endearing Aurora Beam made for a winning combination. ... Fun, black and white illustrations are scattered throughout the chapters. The story shines in more ways than one and it would also make for a great read aloud.

Lightening Girl by Alesha Dixon with Katy Birchall

bark madly with her ears up, unsure as to

what was going on.

As Mrs. Crow shrieked wildly, I considered blaming this on a freak lightning strike or perhaps going along with her alien theory.

That was obviously before I knew Mum and Dad had witnessed the entire thing.

through to the sitting room, plonking myself to leave my side, sensing that something was up. She placed

my feet, still

"Mum, Dad, you may have noticed that I almost accidentally blew up the garden but—"
"Oh, honey," Mum beamed, leaning

forward. "I'm so proud of you."

I blinked back at her. Huh?

"Aurora," Dad said carefully, "has anything else happened recently? Anything a bit I nodded.

"When I saw Clara being picked the other day." I "I stopped them



"Cool." Clara nodded in awe

"Aurora!" Dad's voice came floating up the stairs. "You need to let Kimmy out; she's bursting to go."

Alexis slid his headphones back on and returned his attention to his comic book, while Clara happily skipped along the corridor to her room and I made my way downstairs, swinging myself around the end of the banister and into the kitchen, where I was almost knocked to the floor by my very enthusiastic German shepherd.

"Hey, Kimmy!" I laughed, kneeling to greet her properly and gasping for air in between her slobbery licks. "Did you miss

"She rolled in my dahlias," Dad informed me, pulling out a stack of plates from the cupboard and setting them down on the side. "They were flowering beautifully."

"Kimmy," I said to her in my firmest voice as she sat down obediently in front of me, her tongue lolling out, "is that true? Did you roll in Dad's dahlias?'

She tilted her head.

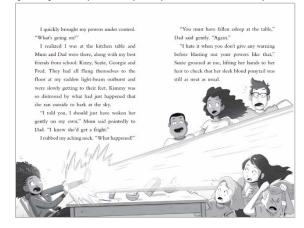
She tilted her head the other way

"You'll try your best never to do it again?" She plonked her right paw on my leg.

"And you're very sorry?"
She leaned forward and gave me a big

lick. I looked up at Dad as a smile broke across his face and he reached down to pat Kimmy's head. She azzled his leg in

Lightening Girl: Superhero Squad by Alesha Dixon with Katy Birchall



tell us about?"

"I can't switch those on and off," Cherry said and shrugged. "I have no control over when I'm going to get them."

JJ nodded before he turned to look at me.

"Your turn!" "All right," I said nervously. "But you

should know I haven't practiced in a while and the last time I tried, things went a bit

Il laughed. "I saw that online; you took out some famous presenters or something. TV comedy gold."

"Take your time, Aurora," Cherry

I nodded and tried to focus, doing my best to ignore my nerves and push away the memories of my powers being completely out of control at the TV studio. I desperately tried to feel that hot, tingling feeling of the

powers rushing through my veins, dazzling light beams bursting from my palms.

But all I felt was my hands getting clammier as the others waited for something to happen My heart sank.

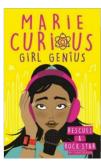
"Come on," I whispered to myself, ignoring Cherry and JJ sharing a look. "Come on." My hands got a bit warmer and some white sparks burst from my fingertips along with a gentle glow, but it

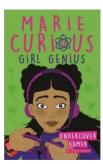


the Natural History

- Lively, contemporary heroine
- Action-filled adventure
- Warm family/friend relationships
- Positive problem-solving
- Great add-on STEM resource





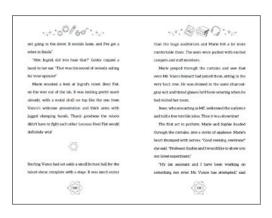


Ages: 8+ **Price:** \$5.99

Meet Marie Curious, the girl genius who uses her science smarts - and her girl squad - to save the world from evil, one invention at a time.

Girl Genius

In book one, young inventor Marie can't believe her luck when she earns a place at a high-tech summer camp in California. She and the other super-clever campers get to build robots, do supercool science experiments and test out awesome gadgets. But not everyone is a happy camper . . . Someone is sabotaging their robots, so Marie and her new friends team up to catch the culprit. Can Marie outsmart an evil engineer intent on causing a global disaster?



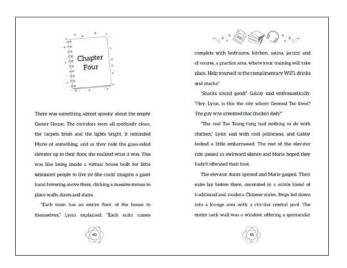
Kirkus Reviews

STEM-centric sleuthing, with cooperation and girl power getting brisk thematic boosts.

Rescues a Rock Star

12-year-old Marie can't believe her luck. She spent the summer in the most exclusive science summer camp in America where she built a robot, made three of the best friends ever and saved the world from complete destruction! Now she's traveling the world with her mentor, tech genius Sterling Vance, starting with a huge tech fair in London. But disaster strikes when the tech fair's rock star headliner is kidnapped, and Marie is made suspect number one.

Can Marie use all her science knowledge and detective skills to find the kidnapper, rescue the rock star in time for her big performance, and finally get to finish the rest of her mentorship with Vance?



Undercover Gamer

When Marie's tech-genius mentor Sterling Vance invests in an eSports tournament, 12-year-old Marie and her three best friends get the chance to compete and travel to China for the tournament. But when they arrive, they soon discover that one of the teams is cheating, and everyone is in a bad mood ... and it's not long before they find themselves acting strangely too. Can Marie discover who's plotting to bring out the worst in everyone, and stop it before it brings disastrous consequences, for the teams ... and the world?

- Anxiety
- OCD
- Friendship
- **Empathy**



Ages: 8-12 Price: \$5.99

Notable Features

Hopeful insight on overcoming OCD and anxiety issues.

Great classroom read - very funny.

Eleven-year-old Felix Twain's life revolves around the number two. He skips every second step when he takes the stairs, taps door handles twice and positions objects in pairs. The problem has become so bad that Felix is on the verge of being expelled from school because the principal has had enough of trying to run the school around his very specific rules.

Then Charlie Pye arrives and turns Felix's world upside down. She's grown up with very few rules. She eats cereal for lunch, calls a boat home, and has a very loose interpretation of school uniform. The question is, can Felix ever learn to be wrong when he is so obsessed with being right?

School Library Journal This would be a good introduction for upper elementary students to mental health issues and will appeal to students who like Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" and Rachel Renée Russell's "Dork Diaries."

Always in the Middle ... an adventure of discovery and understanding, especially for the main character. He has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). ... Narrated by Felix, the tale supplies readers with empathy for his condition. This would make a fantastic read-aloud in the classroom or at home. A beautiful story to enjoy and share.

locked. With Mrs. Lovejoy on the outside. I don't think that she is very happy about this arrangement. I can tell because she is shouting. Mom told me that when people shout, they are usually upset about

ho should be upset. I'm the one who is locked in ir office. I'm the one who is now having a very, ry "B' for bad kind of day." "Felix" Mrs. Lovejoy calls loudly through the sor. She is using her just-pretendingsto-be-cerful voice. Ii is high-pitched and singsong, an you open up, please?"

hat she is saying perfectly well. It is a very thin



School Library Journal

Readers gain an understanding of anxiety and OCD disorders. The illustrations could be tempting to some reluctant readers. ... a good introduction for upper elementary students to mental health issues...



oie. You know two? Like the number Hugo swallows and nods. "I think so. Two comes

Hugo swallows and nods. "I think so, Two comes after one and before three, tgib!"

I smile. Yes, that's right. Well did you know that it is the only even prime number!

Hugo counts on his fingers. "One, two, three, four ... Oh, wait, four isn't prime because it is 2 x.2. Then six is 3 x 2 and eight is 4 x 2. Every other even number is a multiple of two. You're right, Felix." I know," I tell him. "And two is the third number in the Fibonacci sequence."

"What's the Fibonacci sequence."

"It is a series of numbers where the previous two numbers add up to give you the third number. So it goes, 1, 1, 2, 5, 8, 18, 23, 1 and 50 on. And two is the third number because it is 1+1. That is another one of the facts that I know."

"That's pretty interesting," says Hugo. "Thanks for telling me those facts, Felix."

"That's OK. I figured that after the other day it was my turn to abuse some facts with you." Musto

was my turn to share some facts with you." Maybe Mom was right. Maybe Hugo does deserve a second

"Did you know that the Ancient Greeks didn't think that zero was a number?" Hugo tells me. "And they weren't even sure that one was a number

scoops of ice tream.

He begins typing on his computer again. He keeps going for a full minute. He is a very fast typist. I just sit on the couch. Swing, swing, one, two. Swing, swing, o –

ve go and eventually flicking the core into a

as we go and eventually litcking the core into a nearby trash can.

When we get to the library, I hold open the door and usher Charlie inside. There are no other students allowed in here during break time, so we have the place to ourselves.

have the place to cunselves.

As I walk around behind the circulation desk
and pull out one of the carts filled with books to
be returned to the shelves, Miss Claudette pops her
head out from her office.

"Great to see you, Felix," she says, her armfuls of
bright-ornage and green bracelets jangling furiously
on her plump arms. "And I see you've brought a
friend with vair."

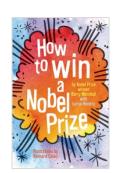
to Year 6"
Miss Claudete's eyes slide over the poodle
accessories Chartie has added to her school uniform,
but doesn't say anything.
"Nice to meet you, Chartie, Are you going to
help Felds! He's our best library monitor. He'll be
able to show you what to do.
I push the cur over to the nonfiction section,
then begin picking up books and sliding them into

st standing there watching me.
"You can put some away too, if you like," I tell

You can put some away too, if you like," I tell her. She shakes her head. 'If's really easy," I say. 'You just look at the numbers on the spine and then put the book in numerical order on the sheft. Like this one," I say, picking up the next book in the pile. 'See, this has the spine label 61.68%, soy unfloth the 600 section, then you look for the 616 books and once you've found them, then you look at the decimal part and put the book in."



- Science
- Nobel Prizes
- Women in Science



Ages: 8+ **Price:** \$6.99

Notable Features

- Learn the secrets behind some of the most important scientific discoveries.
- Simple explanations and demonstrations bring science to life.
- Author Dr. Barry Marshall won the 2005 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

When Mary stumbles on a secret meeting of Nobel Prize winners, Dr. Barry Marshall agrees to travel with her through time to learn the secrets behind some of the most fascinating and important scientific discoveries. They talk time and space with Albert Einstein, radiation with Marie Curie, DNA with Crick, Watson, and Wilkins – and more! Fun science experiments included!

[This book] is such a unique way of introducing famous scientist and their work! The experiments at the end of each chapter are fun, cool, approachable and relevant to each chapter.

It was so much fun "meeting" [scientists] in a fictitious storyline that presents facts in a fun, relatable manner which lends to very easy retention! Each scientist ends their meeting with the main character, Mary (who has time traveled to meet them), by giving her a piece of advice on how to win a Nobel prize - each piece of advice doubles as a valuable and applicable life lesson. I really can't recommend this book enough!

Web Review by a customer with a B.S. in Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology

Booklist "An entertaining introduction to groundbreaking scientists that will inspire students to learn more."

Books+Publishing

This book is a fun and fast-paced look at science and scientists... highly recommended for budding scientists of upper-primary age.

Einstein's moustache drooped and he suddenly looked sad. "Don't remind me."

"But at least you won the Nobel Prize," said

Mary, trying to cheer him up.
"Not for this work, at least not officially. I'll be nominated in 1912, and pretty much every year after that, but it's too controversial and very hard to prove. I'm not sure they really understand it, to be honest. They'll eventually give it to me in 1921 for my work on light." He paused and flipped through the huge pile of papers on his desk. "Actually, I did that work this year too. It's here somewhere. Can you keep a secret? When they finally give me the Nobel Prize, I'm going to talk about relativity in my acceptance speech anyway." He chuckled. "That's going to really annoy a few people. Now - what do you know about time, young Mary?"

Mary looked at Barry. "I'm not sure anymore. I used to think it was just about seconds and minutes and bours and days and years, all clicking past and disappearing forever. But now I'm not sure. Time is

disappearing soreer, not now 1m not sure. Time is more complicated than I thought." Einstein beamed. "Correct! Did you know that the faster you move, the slower time travels? How

18



TRY IT YOURSELF

HOW SMALL IS A MOLECULE?

then in half again, and again, and again. When you can't cut the grain of sand any smaller, you have an atom. An atom is the smallest possible piece of something. A group of atoms joined together is called a molecule.

Atoms and molecules are too small to see without
a special microscope, but this experiment lets you asure the thickness of a single layer of mo

WHAT YOU NEED

Large bowl or dish
 (at least 20 cm diameter)
 Fine sieve
 Ruler with millimeters
 Calculator

WHAT TO DO

- 1. Fill the bowl with wate
- Put a teaspoon of powder into the sieve, and very carefully, dust the water with a very thin layer of powder. Blow gently to remove any spare powder.

 3. Put one drop of oil on top of the powder.
- Watch as the oil spreads out over the surface of the water. This might take a few minutes. If your or reaches the side of your bowl, you will need to try again with a bigger bowl.
- 5. Measure the width of the circle of oil. This is called the diameter. Half of the diameter is called the



"What do you notice about the bacteria?

Mary looked more closely. "There aren't any ots near the fur."

"Correct. I think the mold has killed it all.
r at least stopped it from growing. Do you know what this means?" Fleming was starting to sound excited. "It means I've just stumbled on a way to kill

"Is that good?" asked Mary.
"Good? It's fantastic! I have been trying to
find a way to defeat bacteria since I was a doctor -, ... were uncteria since I was a doctor during the war, working in the battlefield hospitals in France."

"Oh, did you meet Madame Curie and her daughter there? They were doing X-rays."

"No, I don't think so. It was a busy place. Many of the soldiers I treated didn't die from their many or the soluters I treated alont die from their wounds – at least not immediately. They lingered and the wounds got infected and they died slow, painful deaths from the infection. We tried treating them with antiseptics, but that seemed to make m worse, not better. I'll never forget the sight of all that pus. And the stinky smell of the gangrene."



"I think I might be a bit sick, actually. But

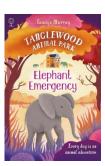
"Nature made it. I just found it. And there's Antermend et. I. just found it. And there's lots of work still to do. It's going to be very hard to isolate the active ingredient in the mold. It's penicillin – one of the most commonly used antibiotics. But you need lots and lots of the mold to make enough of it to help someone get better."

Barry chimed in, "And that won't happen for a while yet. Not until scientists called Howard

- Animal Knowledge habitats, feeding, endangered species.
- Positive family relationships.
- Moving, New Beginnings, Bullying
- Appeals to both boys and girls.

Ages: 8+ | Pages: 160-176 | Price: \$5.99





Series: Tanglewood Animal Park

Every day, Zoe helps take care of the animals at Tanglewood Animal Park. She splashes with penguins, feeds the lemurs, and so much more!

Paradise Wildlife Park

Perfect for animal lovers.

Minerva Reads

What's wonderful is the amount of animal knowledge (such as feeding, habitats, endangered species etc) deposited throughout the book, either as part of the story or as dialogue between the characters, so that for the young reader they can absorb the animal information at the same time as reading...

Pam Norfolk, Lancashire Post

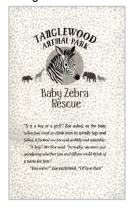
Young animal lovers are trumpeting with excitement... Chuck Groenink and Jean Claude's enchanting illustrations add the extra "aaah" factor to this gorgeous adventure series which combines exciting adventures with real-life facts about wild creatures and is a guaranteed winner with animal lovers of every age.

Mia-Age 9

I thought this book was amazing! I enjoyed going on adventures with Zoe & Oliver. It does give you some fun animal facts and I think this series is great for boys and girls. It was so descriptive I felt sometimes like I was in the book!

Her parent: My daughter loved this book... As for Oliver being a bit of a bully, my daughter understands people go through some tough times in life and just need a friend. Zoe becomes that friend for Oliver.

Tanglewood Park: Baby Zebra Rescue (bk 1)





Tanglewood Park: Elephant Emergency (bk 3)





- Courageous young hero.
- Maximum thrills; nonstop action.
- Exotic settings: nature and ecology.
- Edge-of-your-seat adventure.
- Perseverance, ingenuity, selfreliance.

Ages: 8-12 Price: \$5.99

SAVE on Complete Collection – only \$35.99



Action has a new hero - Sam Fox!

With a talent for attracting danger, Sam Fox is an expert at getting himself into (and out of) the most extreme situations. This series has a strong appeal with a courageous young hero and exotic settings and has non-stop action and short chapters which will engage reluctant readers.

This high-action series keeps kids reading!

The pace of all the Extreme Adventures novels keeps readers gripped from the first page to the last. Sam is bounced so quickly from one adventure to another, readers will hardly have time to breathe.

The Lorgnette - Heart of Texas Reviews Readers will love to see what happens to Sam next.

Reading Review

The is action to the maximum!

Book Trends

[Extreme Adventures: Man-Eater] ...a fantastic book that anyone would enjoy reading.

San Francisco Book Review

...sure to capture audiences and not disappoint.

Extreme Adventures: Grizzly Trap

one way, gravity pulled the other. The pen from my shirt pocket shot up and hit me on the chin. A map book went sliding up the window next to Joel. Two sleeping bags and a bottle of raspberry fruit punch bounced across the ceilion.

Then – CRUNCH! – a silver spray of raindrops exploded through the bus.

That's when my brain finally kicked into action.

Those gren't raindrops, said a little voice in my be

Those aren't raindrops, said a little voice in my head, they're bits of glass from a broken window.

We'd had an accident. A moose had run in front of the bus, and Mr. Johnson had swerved to avoid it. But he'd gone off the road. Trees flashed past the windows, then sky, then more trees, then sky again. The bus was tumbling, like a rolling log, down the steep side of the canyon.

I remembered how far it was down to the river. And how the final one hundred fifty feet was a vertical rocky cliff.



Z D-D-DEAD

Everything was upside down. I was upside down. Joel beside me was upside down. The bus was upside down. Dust swirted in through the broken windows. Outside, I could see rocks and grass and prine needles. There was a strong smell of raspberries.

"Everyone stay where you are," came Mum's voice from behind me. She sounded amazingly calm. "Try not to move, and don't undo your seat belts. Is anyone hurt?"

Several voices muttered that they were okay. Someone had the hiccups. Someone else was crying softly, trying not to be heard.

"Will, is that you?" asked Mum.

Б

"Don't worry," I said in my confident Baloo voice. "I'll get you out."

I scrambled around the front of the bus, searching for a way in. And stopped dead.

Hooley dooley! Half of the bus's front section hung in midair, dangling over a one-hundred-fifty-foot drop. My toes were only inches from the edge.

I can handle a lot of things – fighting off wild animals, for example – but I can't handle heights. Every muscle in my body went into complete shutdown. I couldn't move.

But I was moving. The ground sloped down sharply towards the cliff's edge and gravity was pulling at the dirt beneath my sneakers, making me slide forward.

Snap out of it, said the little voice in my head, or you'll wind up splattered like strawberry jam at the bottom of the cliff!

It spurred me into action. I grabbed hold of the bus's bumper to stop my slide. But the bus was balanced on a knife edge. There was a loud grinding noise, metal against rock, and the bus started tipping. And when the bus tipped, so did I. There was nothing I could do. My weight was pushing the bus over the edge, but if I let

The bus kept slowly tipping until I was leaning right out over the dizzying vertical drop. The toes of my sneakers sent a trail of pebbles and small rocks spiraling down towards the wiggly blue line of the river far below. It was

like looking down from an airplane.

An airplane that was about to crash.

Sam Fox, your number is up! screamed the little voice in my head.

Suddenly the bus stopped tipping.

Thumpthumpthumpthumpthump went my racing heart.

Then, like a giant seesaw, the bus started tipping the other way, pulling me back to an upright position.

"We've got you, Baloo," someone said behind me. Four hands grabbed the back of my shirt and pulled. I fell backward onto the ground between Guy and

"Thanks, guys," I gasped.

Sally hiccupped. "It wasn't just us," she said. Spaced along the uphill side of the bus, each gripping

15

14

- Coded chapter headings to decipher, maps, case file notes.
- Emphasis on all kinds of skills: codebreaking, problem solving, engineering, athletic, and more.
- Detailed international settings complete with maps, sports, science.
- Appealing to both boys and girls.









Ages: 8-12 | Pages: 336-368 | Price: \$5.99

What would you do if you woke up in a strange place? If your whole life changed in the blink of an eye and you had no idea what was going on? Twins Kensy and Max Grey's lives are turned upside down when they are whisked off to London, and discover their parents are missing. As the situation unfolds, so many things don't add up: their strange new school, the bizarre grannies on their street, the coded messages they keep finding and the feeling that, all around them, adults are keeping secrets ...

An action-packed spy adventure series!

A witty and fast moving, classic spy adventure w/a contemporary twist. Enjoy a richly created world, fantastic dialogue and well-developed, multigenerational characters — reflecting strong family relationships.

Always in the Middle

A fun, engaging start and the endearing Kensy and Max will keep you in good company.

Meridian Magazine Newton's Book News: Fiction Books to Enjoy as the Weather Gets Colder This delightful mystery will keep you reading to the very end.

Books YA Love

[A]n exciting series that take Kensy and Max around the world as they search for their parents and keep one step ahead of the bad guys!

Kensy and Max: Breaking News by Jacqueline Harvey

CHAPTER 9

ZBKQOXI ILKALK COBB PZELLI

Kendy leaned against the window and wrinkled her nose. "Is this it?" she asked, as Fitz pulled into the curb. To say she was undershelmed was purified it lightly.

underwhelmed was putting it lightly.

"Sure is," Fitz replied, hopping out of the Range Rover. He had arranged for Song to take the car and meet them at the town house after their appointment. "Come on, we don't want to keep Move partiers"

their appointment. "Come on, we don't want to keep Magoo waiting."

"Magoo?" Kensy suppressed the urge to say the name again and much, much louder.

"Don't worry — I'm sure there's not a joke

78

in the world your new headmaster hasn't heard before," Fitz said with a grin. He buzzed the gate and spoke into a small intercom. With a noisy click, they were through to the other side.

click, they were through to the other side.

"I think this place might actually be a prison,"
Kensy whispered to her brother. The presence of
security cameras, and grilles on all the windows,
didn't help to dispel her theory. "Maybe Fizr has
gone rogue and he's planning to leave us here."

"I don't think so," Max said, pointing to a small

"I don't think so," Max said, pointing to a small sign. It said CENTRAL LONDON FREE SCHOOL. Glad it's free, though, because you definitely wouldn't want parents paying for their kids to come here." The squat double-story building had all the character of a brown house brick.

Fitz hit another buzzer and was admitted through a steel-framed door into a reception area. A woman wearing thick black-immed glasses and a gray cardigan that looked as if it had been made from a Persian cat sat at a desk in the middle of a small glassed-di nroom. She had short chestnut hair and long manicured fingernalis painted a soft mauve. She stood up and walked to the counter.

79

Kensy and Max: Breaking News by Jacqueline Harvey

decision is made as to whether tray vili remain as agent-in-training. Given their obvious skills and Knowledge of Pharce, I believe it will be near impossible to convince them to give up their new life. I cannot imagine Maxim's knife-throwing process would be sought after in many vocations outside of the circus, and Kensington is proving herself to have excellent intuition, despite her impetuousness. The children have both expressed a great desire to continue with the family firm.

CHAPTER 1

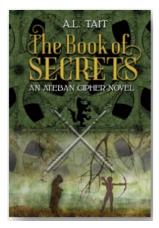
IVZORGB YRGVH

measured the powder into the beaker, then added an extra spoonful for good luck. "What's next?" she asked, drumming her fingers on the lab bench. It hadn't excaped her notice that numerous pairs of students had already ignited their mixtures. Autumn looked up from the sheet of paper,

Autumn looked up from the sheet of paper, where she had been reading through each step of the experiment. "It says here that the powder has to go in there," she said, pointing to the small bowl filled with sand that had been soaked in lighter fluid.

1

- Fantasy
- Adventure
- Mystery
- Friendship with both boys/girls





Ages: 9-14 | Pages: 256 | Price: \$5.99

An orphan in exile. A band of rebel girls. A prince whose throne has been stolen. Come on a journey full of danger, intrigue, adventure and incredible secrets in The Ateban Cipher duology.

Forced to flee his home to uncover the secrets hidden in a coded book, sheltered orphan Gabe discovers a world of danger, intrigue, adventure and unexpected friendship. When a dying man hands him a coded manuscript, Gabe is hurled into a quest that takes him beyond his monastery home and into a world of danger, political intrigue and adventure. Gabe learns that survival must be earned and that some of life's biggest lessons are not found in books ... and that the biggest secret of all may be his own.

Booklist - "...a fast-paced adventure brimming with mystery and complex navigations of loyalty and morality."

American Library Association, Booklist Online

... a fast-paced adventure brimming with mystery and complex navigations of loyalty and morality.

Barb Hopkins

This book is so much fun! ... It's packed with action, adventure, danger, and an intriguing mystery ... the story flows effortlessly with a comfortable balance of action, exposition, and dialogue. I'd recommend **The Book of Secrets** for mid-grade readers through teens, but adults will enjoy this adventure as well.

Susan Stephenson, The Book Chook

Both novels are action-packed, with problems to solve, humour to enjoy and heroes to admire. I loved that the protagonists are such an interesting and diverse bunch.

Sarah Wallace, Kids' Book Review

This is a riveting read that hooks you in from the first page and has you connecting immediately with the protagonist and his predicament. It is the first book in AL Tait's new Ateban Cipher series and certainly leaves you hanging, wanting desperately to know if Gabe and his new friends will manage the journey to the book's ultimate destination and learn its secrets. My 10 year old loved this and can't wait to read number two!

Trish Buckley, Children's Books Daily

This exciting fantasy novel aimed at the 9 to 12 age group will satisfy readers, and leave them wanting more. Its fast-paced plot balances a sensitive thoughtful narrator with his newly-found-rescuers-turned-friends so that by the time they all figure out the codes and clues, readers have been entertained and engaged... Without giving anything away, I do want to applaud some of the terrific representatives of characters presented here. It invites young people to consider the consequences of class structure, the damage of gender stereotypes, and the value of kindness and loyalty. Tait is deft and assured, and her ability to include these issues without ruining the story is marvelous.

Liz Ledden, Buzz Words magazine

Tait builds a believable and evocative middle ages world, rich in historical detail – think dungeons, danger, archery and royal double-crossings. The introduction of Eddie to the cast of characters around the halfway mark elevates the stakes even more. High on energy, The Book of Secrets is a compelling read with twists and turns to keep you guessing, and sets up a whole new exciting adventure for the next installment.

- Fantasy
- Showcases cartography, maps and exploration
- Loyalty Class
- Mystery, Murder, Mayhem







Ages: 9-14 | Pages: 240 | Price: \$5.99

Adventure and danger lie just off the edge of the map in this swashbuckling trilogy!

The Mapmaker Chronicles are one-part fantasy, one-part quest, one-part high-seas action. Filled with strong, feisty characters who learn resilience, perseverance and the importance of friendship, each book transports readers to faraway lands.

Quinn's older brothers may long for adventure, but he is content with his quiet life on the farm. Destiny, however, has other plans.

The king is determined to create the first map of the world and has scoured the kingdom for boys who could become mapmakers. When Quinn is chosen for the king's training school, he's amazed but that is nothing compared to his shock when he is selected as one of the three mapmakers and finds himself on board a ship, competing for the big prize.

So begins Quinn's reluctant journey deep into the unknown, with only his photographic memory and skills learned on the farm to help him. He's on a ship captained by a slave, with a stowaway girl on board — and a mysterious sea monster that seems to be following them. Hot on their trail are the other competitors for the king's prize, who will stop at nothing to win.

Children's Books Daily

Stories as vivid and utterly engaging as The Mapmaker Chronicles are rare.

Mom-Spot

Your young reader will love the mystery, monsters murder and mayhem that appeals equally to girls and boys.

This Kid Reviews Books

I really liked this entire series. Five out of five bookworms all-around! Yay!

RACE TO THE END OF THE WORLD

- Shortlisted: Readings Children's Book Prize 2015, 2016 YABBA Awards, 2016 KOALA Awards, 2016 KROC Awards, 2017 WAYRBA Awards
- Notable Book: CBCA Book Of The Year 2015
- Named: Readings Top 10 Middle Fiction Books 2014

Barb Hopkins Blog

...a wonderful tale of adventure ... heroes to cheer, bad guys to dislike, and just the right balance of fantasy and reality. ... This book totally goes into my pile of books-I-will-read again.

PRISONER OF THE BLACK HAWK

- Shortlisted: 2015 Aurealis Awards
- Named: Readings Top 10 Middle Fiction Books 2015

Barb Hopkins Blog

...a delightful combination of action, whimsy, and moments that made me thoughtful.

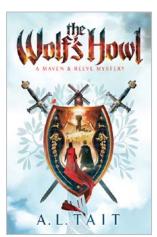
Barb Hopkins Blog

Breath of the Dragon

Like any good adventure story, author A.L. Tait gives readers exciting action sequences, exotic lands, priceless treasure, and heart-stopping heroics by the characters we've grown to love since first introduced in book one: Race to the End of the World. ... Overall, I heartily recommended Breath of the Dragon and the entire Mapmaker Chronicles by A.L. Tait.

- Twisty, action-filled plot
- Dual narrative from a pair of stereotype-defying heroes
- Complex, colorful characters
- Themes relate to contemporary social issues





Ages: 9-14 | Pages: 304-320 | Price: \$6.99

Two unlikely allies must learn to work together in a medieval fantasy world of intrigue, mystery, and danger ... their futures - their lives – depend on it!

CHAPTER SIX



bleary eyes. Reeve stumbled into the en, nearly falling over a tiny scullery maid I a cooking pot half her size. e said, in a surprisingly big voice. "Watch it,

ng a cauldron of something that smelled like beef broth. "We could use one." and Reeve. "I'm to report to Lorimer straight

ter preasass. The munical the studies on his near befully and smoothed his tunie, trying to look as though the was ready for dury. He suspected it was a big stretch, then the page had appeared at sunup with Lorimer's essage. Reeve had been in bed not more than an hour.

"Where's Nede then?" Cook asked, sounding grumpy.
"He'll do in a pinch."
'I don't know," Reeve said. "I haven't seen him."
His long night in the Great Hall had become even longer when, after eventually escorting Sir Carrisk from the table as the last candles guttered and then half carrying the knight to his chambers. Reeve had discovered that Neale was absent. Instead, the room looked as though no one had been there for hours. the fire having hurned down to coals and the thick quit still drawn tightly up to the end of the hed.
Halfu's Reeve seen Neale leave the Great Hall during dessert? Surely he'd had ample time to prepare Sir Garrick's chamber? Either way, no matter how late the hour. Neale should have been waiting to assist Sir Garrick's his nightly routine.

Surprised and froming. Reeve had wrangled Sir

r Carrick in his nightly routine.
Surprised and frowning, Reeve had wrangled Sir
arrick to the foot of the hed, wrestled his hoots off
althen dragged the by then gently snoring knight under
are covers, drawing the vebet canopy around the
pinst the morning smilght, which was just a few short

Reviewed by Sue Mauger

IF YOU LOVE A GOOD MYSTERY SET IN A CASTLE WITH KNIGHTS AND HORSES, YOU WILL LOVE THIS...

[In] the Fire Star... Reeve has just begun realizing his dream of one day becoming a knight when he takes up the position of squire to Sir Garrick. Maven is the servant girl of Lady Cassandra who has been promised in marriage to Sir Garrick.

We meet both Reeve and Maven when they come across each other on the road. Maven is trying to gather a group of goats and Reeve is having to help her herd them back into the crate. They instantly clash but little do they know their lives will become entwined in murder, theft, and secrets.

Lady Cassandra has a jewel, The Red Star, which she has inherited from her mother. The Airl Buckthorn wants to own this jewel so, by organizing a marriage between his knight protector Sir Garrick, and Cassandra, he hopes to have the jewel for himself.

Reeve and Maven, an unlikely pair, are thrown together when the jewel is stolen. Both characters must tread lightly, using skills gained during their formative years when their prospects were different. And so begins the uncovering of secrets until now tightly held. Who can be trusted and who is telling the truth?

The Fire Star is set in the times of knights, castles and political intrigue. It is a time when women have no rights and are given to men in marriage to gain political leverage and secure position and power. Women must be seen and not heard. They are pawns in the chess games of men.

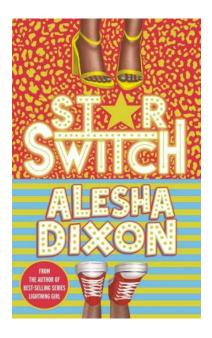
The Fire Star is written in the first person from Maven's point of view, but we follow both characters throughout the book.

For those young people who love a good mystery, this one will not disappoint. We are taken from intrigue to murder. It gives the reader an interesting insight into the lives of those living in a different time. Tait is able to paint a picture of castle life, from the lowly stables and the kitchens below the castle to the upper halls of those in power. She describes the beautiful gowns of the ladies and the tunics of the lowly servants. The characters also use the language we would have heard in that time.

This book doesn't talk down to the reader, but leads them through a time in history and a language that may not be a familiar, but will nonetheless draw them in. All threads are pulled together at the end to give a satisfying conclusion. A great read.

 Appealing, well-developed characters

- Hilarious and fun!
- Diverse and inclusive
- Relatable family and friendship dynamics

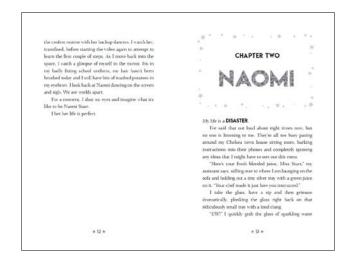


Ages: 10+ | Pages: 304 | Price: \$6.99

Thirteen-year-old Naomi is the biggest pop star on the planet and Ruby is her biggest fan! What happens when they swap bodies?

A fresh, funny spin on Freaky Friday!

Created by UK TV personality and author of Lightning Girl series (Kane Miller 2020),
Alesha Dixon.



Naomi is the biggest pop star on the planet at the age of thirteen ... but she's also tired of the constant touring, bored with having the shopping center closed for her to wander alone at midnight, miserable at not having any friends.



Ruby is Naomi's biggest fan. She knows the words to every song, she can replicate every dance move, she dreams of being as confident as Naomi, and to stop being "invisible" to her family, to her classmates ... to everyone, really.

When the girls have an unexpected encounter and swap bodies, Ruby is launched into the limelight. Will she adore her new A-list life, or will she end up as lonely as Naomi?

And will Naomi discover she can be a huge celebrity AND a normal girl after all?

- Filled with danger, mystery, and enchantment.
- Brave female heroines; dark villains.
- Plot twists and surprises.
- May be read as standalones.



Ages: 11+ | Pages: 368-384 | Price: \$7.99

Magic and adventure await in these thrilling epic unicorn fairy tales.

A Midnight Unicorn

An epic unicorn fairy tale filled with adventure, magic and a fight like no other...

In a faraway kingdom, two girls live separate lives.
Growing up in the wilderness of the west, Alette is the daughter of a sorcerer. In the warmth of the east, Audrey is the daughter of a baker. The girls could not be more different... and yet something draws them together.

Are they connected by the unanswered questions of their pasts? Or by the identical pendants they both wear around their necks? Danger, mystery and enchanted unicorns await them. Their story began once upon a time but how will it end?

The Darkest Unicorn

In the usually peaceful kingdom of Essendor, people are going missing. The palace makes an urgent decree: all subjects must abide by a strict curfew for their own safety. But for Thandie and her friends, a curfew means more adventure. They dare each other to sneak about the city at night — although Thandie is the only one brave enough to actually do it.

One night, as an eerie fog sets in, Thandie is startled by a strange boy – a boy she's never seen before.

He looks about her age, but there's something unsettling about him, leaving Thandie to wonder if he's someone she should trust. Little does she know that this meeting will force her life wildly off-track, pushing her towards an unexpected danger and a fearsome unicorn who is at the very heart of the terrible disappearances she's heard so much about.

The Cursed Unicorn

In the faraway kingdom of Elithia, a powerful king holds the throne, with ten Royal Knights under his trusted command. Fearsome warriors and talented fighters, the knights are led by his daughter, Celene, the most exceptional of them all.

When Celene's brother, Hero, falls ill, the king sends for the wisest healers in the kingdoms—but none are able to discover the reason for Hero's failing health. In desperation, Celene seeks out a sorcerer called Sidra who practices dark magic. Sidra promises Celene the chance to save her brother's life.

The cost? Her soul. When Celene refuses, Sidra curses her in rage. Weaving her magic, she forces Celene to take the form of a unicorn. In doing so, she makes Celene an outcast—and a legend.

Will Celene remain a unicorn forever, or will she break the magic that traps her? Her story started once upon a time, but who knows how it will end...

The Blazing Unicorn

An evil king, a fearsome warrior, a fight for freedom. If you had three wishes, what would you wish for?

For Marie, that dream becomes a reality when she stumbles across a magical unicorn deep in the forest. But when Marie, who is kind and trusting in nature, surrenders her wishes to her cruel father, he enslaves the unicorn with a demand for never-ending wishes.

Years later, the Kingdom of Quessia has slowly fallen into poverty and ruin under the rein of King Jacob. A spiteful and careless king, Jacob is disliked by all his subjects, but little does he know that a revolution threatening his throne and life is around the corner...

- Adult appeal
- Edwardian England setting
- Dramatic, page-turning action and adventure
- Strong female characters









Ages: 11+ | Pages: 320-352 | Price: \$6.99

It's Nancy Drew with a PBS twist, and readers of all ages will adore the cast of exceptionally likeable characters.

Combining mystery, adventure and friendship with a sumptuous Edwardian setting, The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow is an absolute joy of a book, transporting the reader to a world of heady glamour offset by a murky criminal underground.

You are cordially invited to attend the Grand Opening of Sinclair's department store! Enter a world of bonbons, hats, perfumes and mysteries around every corner.

Tremble as the most dastardly criminals in London enact their wicked plans! Gasp as our bold heroines, Miss Sophie Taylor and Miss Lilian Rose, break codes, devour iced buns and vow to bring the villains to justice . . .

A splendid adventure awaits you.

School Library Journal

"A truly exciting novel that will appeal to lovers of historical fiction as well as adventure and detective stories.

Kirkus Reviews

This old-fashioned whodunit is thoroughly satisfying to solve along with our heroes... Jolly good fun.

The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow by Katherine Woodfine



all that's going to be coming through here this very morning, jewels that have belonged to queens and the like."

"Look at the picture," said Billy, and they bent over the paper to squint at the blurry photograph.

"Don't look much like any aparrow I've ever seen," said George, contemplating it. "A different rune every time, ch! Now however do you reckon they get it to do that?" At that moment, a carl loaded with boxes of metchandic rumbled into the stable yard. "Shake a leg, Georgel" oilled a voice from behind them. "The gaffer warns this lot unloaded sharnish."

George sinised at Billy and them bested himself to his feet. "Come on p.g.", he said. "Let" get on with this and then we'll finish reading later on."

Sorige that was all very well, but Billy found it was difficult to concentrate on beas and deliveries. He kept picturing immense diamonds glinting in the dark tunnels of an Indian minite. Then there was Mark antonieries' titus. How had the Captain come to own it! He imagined a gard. Brits auction hourse, or a further transaction with a closely stranger in a foreign towers. Busy with these speculations, it seemed no time at all before the boats were unloaded, and then two shirp black motor vans were pulling into the yard, each driven by a man in white glosses. George nodded to Jully, who second starting, fascinated by the thought of the Dilly, who second starting, fascinated by the thought of the Dilly, who second starting, fascinated by the thought of the Dilly, who second starting, fascinated by the thought of the

to Billy, who scool starting, fascianted by the chought of the priceless treasures that must be within. But then Uncle Sid strode up. "No hanging about, if you please. This inst' a job for the likes of you. Hop it. Find yourself something useful to do."

The Mystery of the Jeweled Moth by Katherine Woodfine





The Mystery of the Painted Dragon by Katherine Woodfine



discuss whatever mystery they were solving. Billy had even taken to referring to it as "Detective HQ."

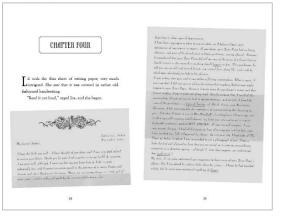
In the past weeks though, these gatherings had become rather leas regular. The others always accomed to be so busy,

rather less regular. The others always seemed to be an busy, Sophie thought now. Lil was occupied with her new play, Mass Atwood long Dilly busy in the office, and even po was immersed in life at the stable pard. More than once, Sophie had found herself spending her tra breaks here alone, such only the day's osespace for company.

But today was different – they were all together again,

But today was different - they were all tegether again, countring upples and powing recorned is by of toffeen that Stephis had bought with some of her hard cornel simprose from Mrs. Lange, Stophis the delighted to see the orders. It was quite held times were proposed to the stephis of the stephis of the stephis explained Lid now. A over of steat to help advertise the articles of the steady of the steady of the steady of substitute. Claudius to higher to receasts a restor of faromar painting in the stear windows, and we - the manneagine.

The Mystery of the Midnight Peacock by Katherine Woodfine



2-in-1 Book

Ages: 11+ | Pages: 331 | Price: \$8.99



Girls with a Voice Year 1764

(previously published as "Historical House: Mary Ann and Miss Mozart")

Mary Ann's greatest wish is to become an opera singer, and she's thrilled when the famous

child prodigy Mozart comes to perform in Chelsea. But through a sudden twist of fate, Mary Ann is told that she must leave her Boarding School for Young Ladies, and her singing dreams are shattered. Distraught, she comes up with a plan to stay at school, oblivious to the danger it will put her in.



Girls with Courage

Year 1857

(previously published as "Historical House: Lizzie's Wish")

Lizzie loves plants, and her biggest wish is to be a gardener, a bold choice for a

Victorian girl. When her strict stepfather sends her to stay with relatives in London, Lizzie misses her country garden and struggles with her new life of stiff manners and formal pastimes. Lizzie lives for the daily letters from her mother, until suddenly, the letters stop. Can Lizzie find the courage to stand up to her stepfather, & follow her dreams?

Each book includes a house plan for that current era to add interest & allowing readers to see how a house changes over times.

The premise of Usborne's Historical House series is a delightful one: a single house in Chelsea forms the backdrop for a set of stories spanning 200 years.

These are engaging novels, immaculately researched and quietly informative. They can be read in any order; those who read them all will be thrilled by the occasional links that draw characters together across generations.

Kate Agnew, Education Guardian







2-in-1 Book

Ages: 11+ | Pages: 381 | Price: \$8.99



Girls behind the Camera Year 1890s

(previously published as "Historical House: Mary Ann and Miss Mozart")

Mary Ann's greatest wish is to become an opera singer, and

she's thrilled when the famous child prodigy Mozart comes to perform in Chelsea. But through a sudden twist of fate, Mary Ann is told that she must leave her Boarding School for Young Ladies, and her singing dreams are shattered. Distraught, she comes up with a plan to stay at school, oblivious to the danger it will put her in.



Girls for the Vote

Year 1914

(previously published as "Historical House: Polly's March")

Polly longs to become an explorer. But in 1914, women's rights and choices are limited – something twelve-year-old Polly

learns when she befriends her new neighbors: two suffragettes, fighting for women's rights to vote.
Polly's parents are appalled, but Polly is intrigued.
And the more she thinks about their cause, the more determined she becomes to join the suffragettes' protest march. But will Polly dare to defy her parents and do what she thinks is right?

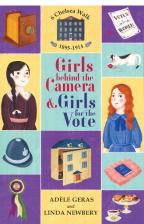
Each book includes a house plan for that current era to add interest & allowing readers to see how a house changes over times. A link is included to print it off.

A gripping story of courage, friendship and speaking up during a time of change, from Carnegie-shortlisted author, Linda Newberry.

"short and accessible, while at the same time fast-paced and fact-packed."

Sinead O'Hart, author of The Eye of the North







2-in-1 Book

Ages: 11+ | Pages: 381 | Price: \$8.99



Girls at War

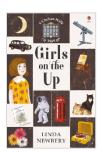
Year 1941

(previously published as "Historical House: Josie Under Fire")

When Josie goes to stay with her cousin Edith, she's glad to be starting a new life away from the

shame that has haunted her family since her brother chose not to fight in the war. But Edith's friends keep teasing a shy classmate, and when the bullying goes too far Josie faces a dilemma: if she takes a stand, will Edith tell everyone her secret?

A deeply moving account of one girl's quiet courage amidst the terror of the Blitz during the 2nd WW.



Girls on the Up

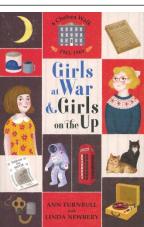
(previously published as "Historical House: Andie's Moon")

Andie dreams of becoming an artist. Her best paintings are inspired by the moon, and she's

excited to watch the first moon landing. She loves staying in Chelsea, with its fashion, music and art galleries. There's even a real artist living in the flat downstairs. But does Andie dare to show him her work – or might it shatter her dreams?

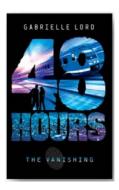
...three highly acclaimed writers explore the life of a London house and its inhabitants from 1764 to 1969. There are three main focal points in the texts: the house's physical changes through the years, meticulous and informative details about domestic life, ethos and culture and, finally, the developing roles and expectations of women at critical periods in history. Crucially, the writers have maintained authorial independence, giving them a clarity of voice and diversity of style, but the books are linked by the motif of the walnut tree and by the challenges which their female protagonists have to face.







- Science CSI Tools
- Mystery Suspense
- Friendship





Ages: 12+ | Pages: 240 | Price: \$6.99

One kidnapping. One cold case.
Two amateur investigators.
Only 48 hours to solve the crime...

Jazz's best friend, Anika, has been kidnapped! She can't call the cops, so Jazz forges a shaky truce with her brilliant nemesis, Phoenix, to help her investigate.

Together, they uncover clues and crime-scene evidence. Sneaking into a forensic lab, they test DNA, fingerprints and more, to piece the clues together. Do the results lead to a twenty-year-old murder case?

In a race against time, Jazz and Phoenix only have 48 HOURS to collect the evidence, profile the kidnapper and find their schoolmate's location, or Anika will die. The clock is ticking...

Vicious thieves smash a cursed Medusa statue and steal the supercomputer Sapphire in a terrifying museum

raid. Jazz and Phoenix are first on the scene and they soon find themselves in the midst of a dangerous mystery.

Their friend, museum owner Dr. Zhang, is the prime suspect, but he is nowhere to be found. Determined to prove him innocent and find Sapphire, Jazz and Phoenix have just 48 HOURS to follow the trail of evidence before it goes cold. Will the amateur investigators discover that a centuries-old curse has struck again, or is something even more sinister going

on? The clock is ticking...

Aussie Reviews

48 Hours' is the first in a new series from Gabrielle Lord... Jazz and Phoenix are the crime-solving duo with complementary skills, though at first they struggle to work cohesively. As well as chasing clues, they must evade parents who are 1. worried about them, 2. cross with them for hacking 3. distressed because their daughter is missing. This is a fast-paced action thriller for crime aficionados in mid- to upper-primary years.

48 HOURS: The Vanishing by Gabrielle Lord



48 HOURS: The Medusa Curse by Gabrielle Lord

