

Features

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

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.

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.

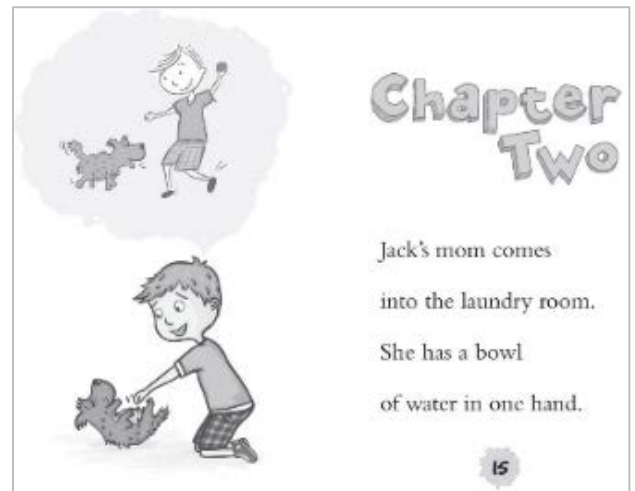
Word art and illustrations provide reading breaks without huge blocks of text or intimidating words. And Jack's gigantic imagination injects the series with fun & humor.

"Tomorrow morning we'll go see Alf at the corner shop," he says. "He might know who the puppy belongs to." "All right," says Jack glumly. "But if we can't find the owner, can we keep him? Please?"

22

"We'll see," says Jack's dad, smiling. "We'll see." Jack lies awake thinking about the puppy. He thinks about his sweet little face and his **waggy** tail. Just then, Jack hears the puppy whimpering in the laundry room.

23



15

"Billie will take you to the nurse. I'll call your parents. You'll miss the spelling test, but you can do it tomorrow." Jack lies in the nurse's office waiting to be picked up. Billie waits with him.

24



25

Features

- 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.

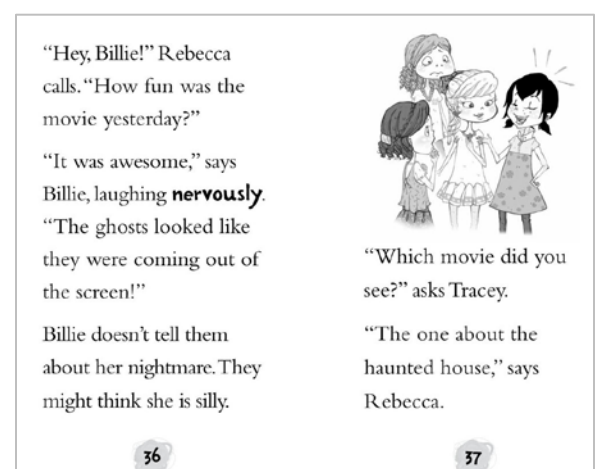
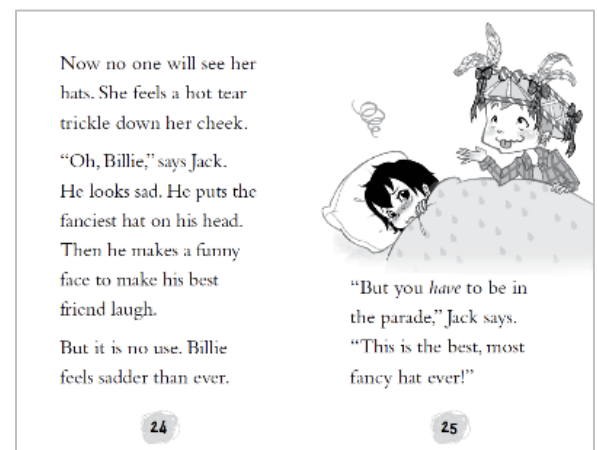
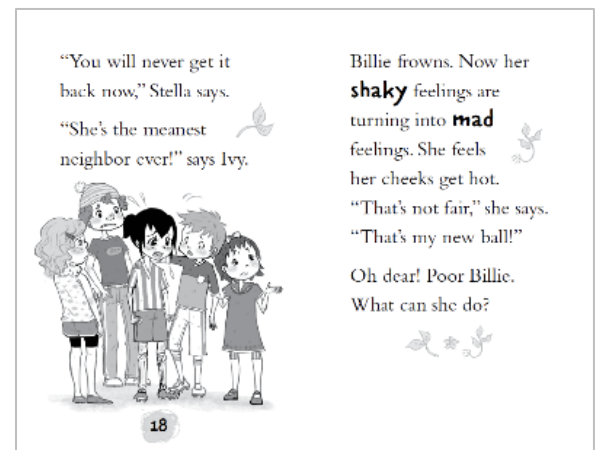
Australian Bookseller & Publisher, Aug 2010

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...

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 stand-alone, 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.



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

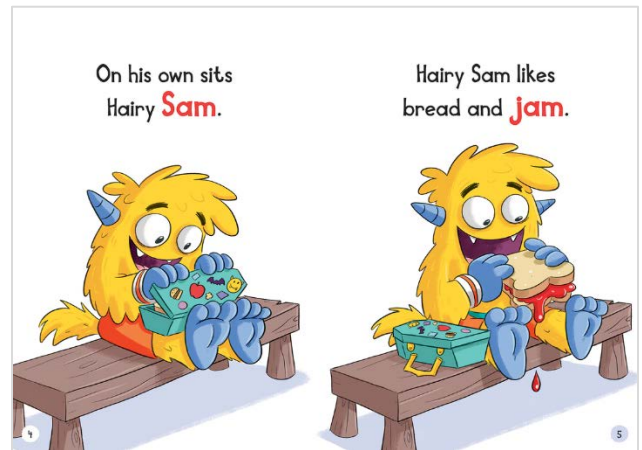
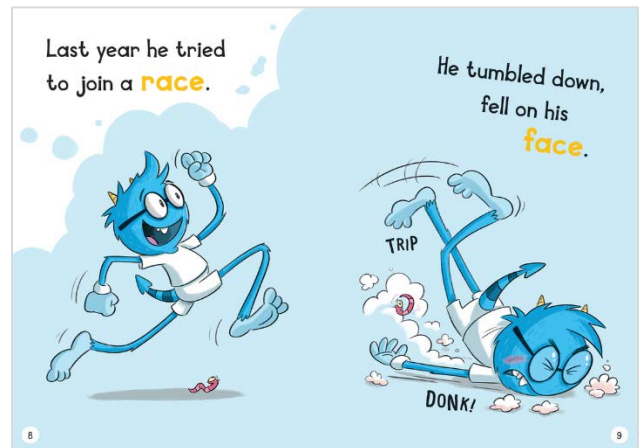
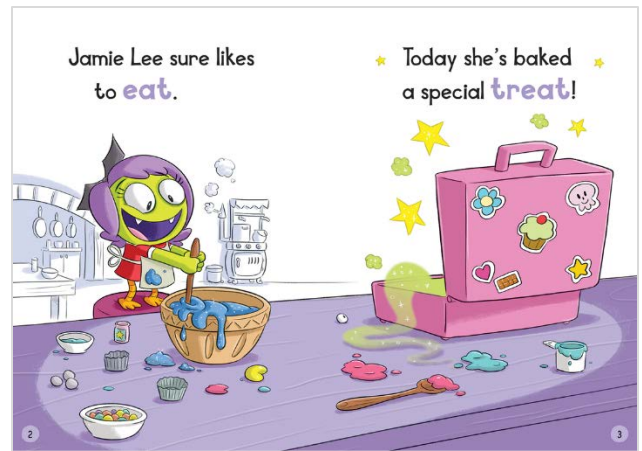
Ages: 5+ Price: \$6.99

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.





Ages: 6+ **Price:** \$4.99 each

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, Fang-Face, Captain Snott, and Trumpet, Billy's life will never be the same again...

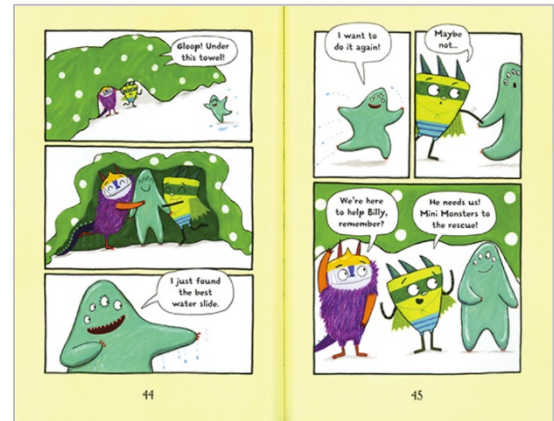
Billy and the Mini Monsters by Zanna Davidson – and illustrated by Melanie Williamson – is the **perfect series for reluctant and newly independent readers growing in confidence.**



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).



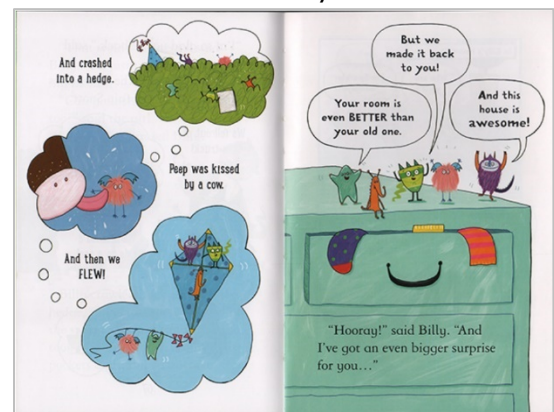
Monsters to the Rescue by Zanna Davidson



Monsters Go Camping by Zanna Davidson



Monsters on the Move by Zanna Davidson



Features

- 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

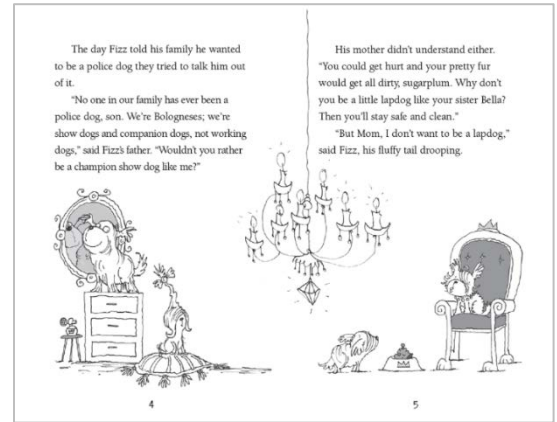


Follow Fizz through his police dog academy tryouts and training to become a dog detective, and on to his first cases.

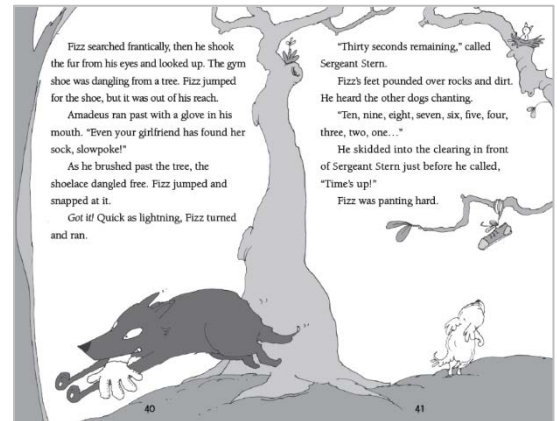


Told in simple but very lively language, with lots of playful repetition, short chapters and Stephen Michael King's quirky cartoon-style illustrations throughout, this hilarious and action-packed series is perfect for newly confident readers.

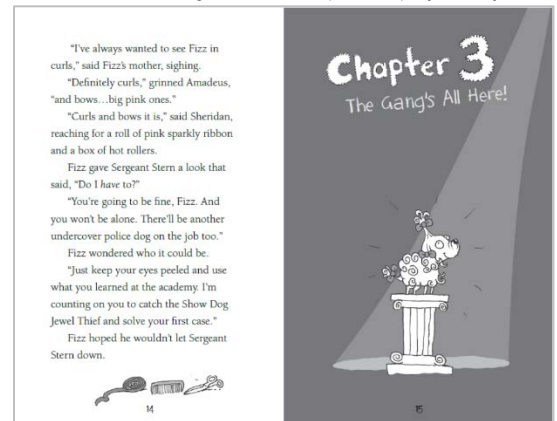
Fizz and the Police Dog Tryouts (Book 1) by Lesley Gibbes



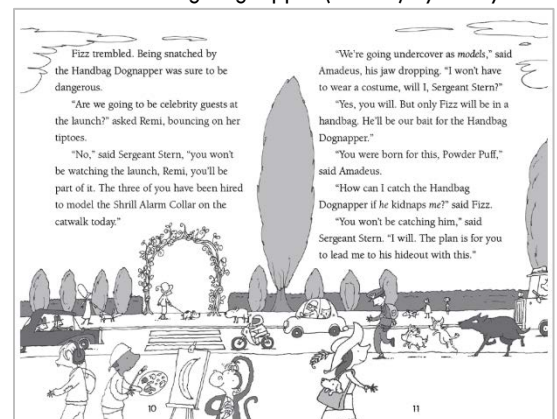
Fizz and the Dog Academy Rescue (Book 2) by Lesley Gibbes



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



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



Features

- 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!)

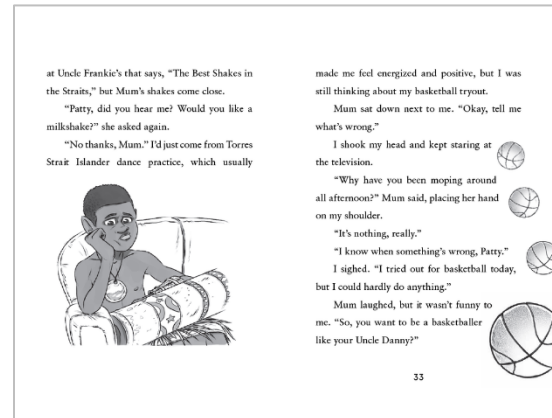
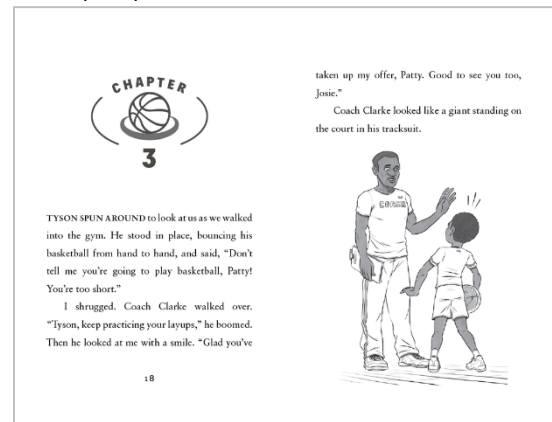
Sports series review by 5.5 year old! *(web review)*

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.

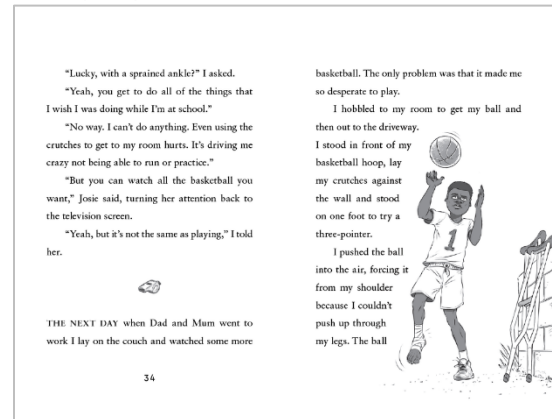
My 9 year old LOVES this series! *(web review)*

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!

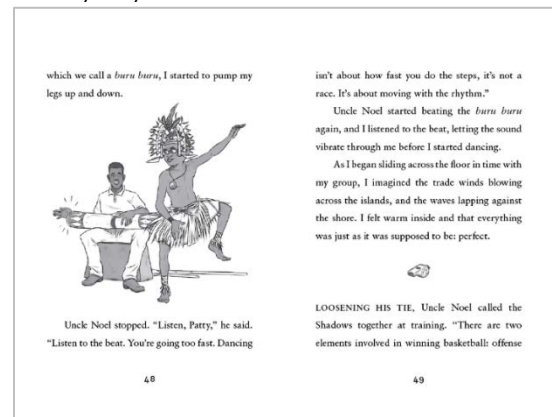
Game Day: Patty Hits the Court! by Patty Mills with Jared Thomas – Nahum Ziersch



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



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



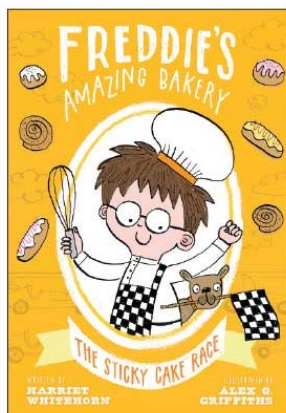
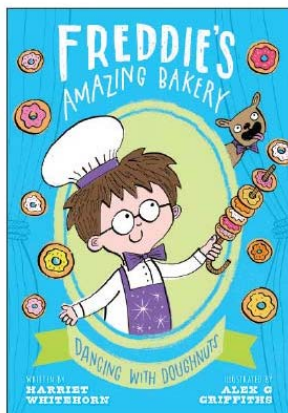
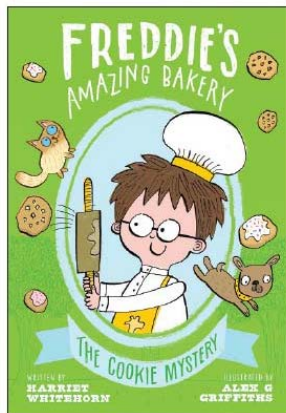
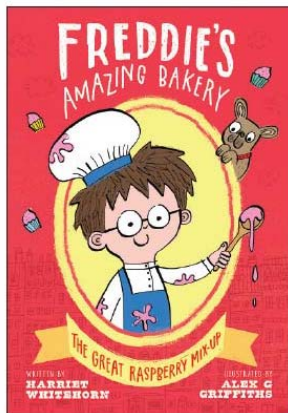
Features

- 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+

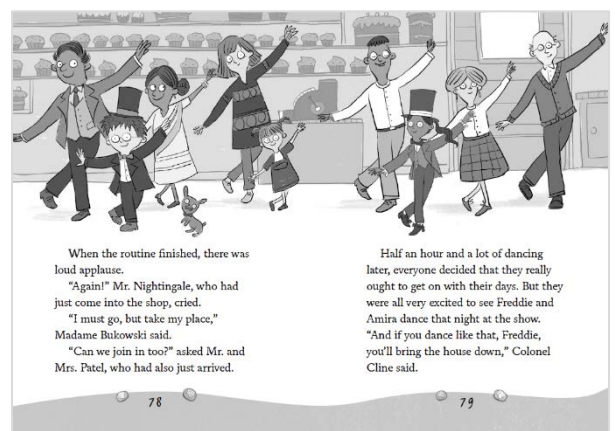
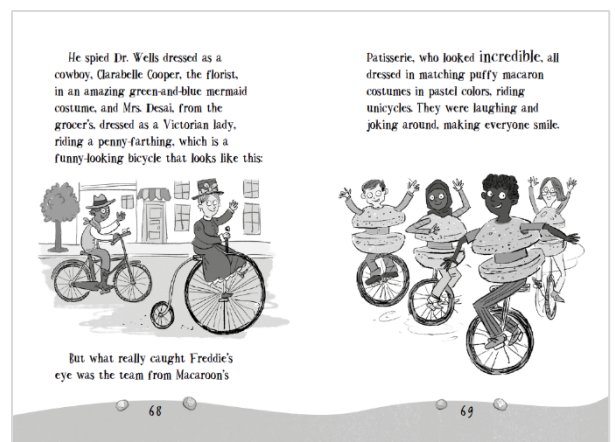
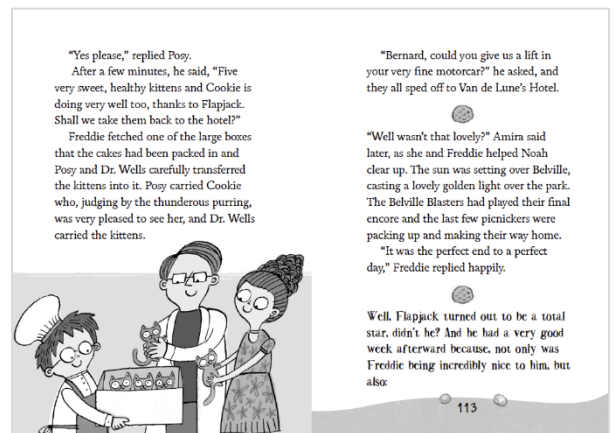
Price: \$5.99

SAVE \$ on Complete Collection – only \$19.99



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



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

Features

- 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

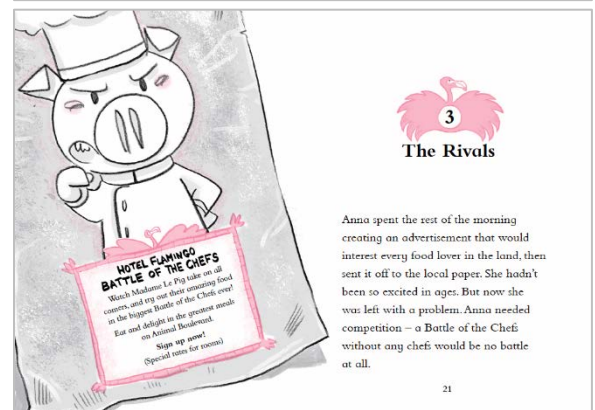
This would be a fun series for summer reading and especially for someone who enjoys animal stories.

Two color illustrations add vibrancy.

Hotel Flamingo: Holiday Heat Wave by Alex Milway



Hotel Flamingo: Fabulous Feast by Alex Milway



Features

- 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.
(web review)

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

Wombat Sunday?

Something very strange is going on in Benny and Ollie's backyard. It looks like a ginormous wombat, digging a hole.



I'm just going to get my special super-magnifying binoculars so I can see it better.

~ 70 ~

A bit later...



0000000000! It's not a wombat.
It's **MATILDA!**

She must be Benny and Ollie's big sister!

Now she's stopped digging the first hole and has started another one. I wonder what she's looking for?

~ 71 ~

I've started his detective cat training. He didn't like learning how to sit much.



So I taught him how to send me messages by swishing his tail instead.

1 One Swish = YES
2 Two Swishes = NO
3 Three Swishes = Maybe
4 Four Swishes = DANGER!
BEWARE!
RUN AWAY!

Now Donkey must be doing close-up spying on Matilda for me! I can't wait to see what he finds out!



©Olivia

~ 85 ~

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

So I told Matilda I'd come back to play with them tomorrow. Then I went straight up to my room to design the plans for the Dog-Knight course.

It is going to be perfect!

©Olivia

Super Saturday

Here is the Ninja Dog-Knight course we made in my backyard! It took us all day.

~ 38 ~



Matilda and I ran up and down all the hallways, calling out his name.



We asked all GNP's friends if they'd seen him.



But nobody had. We couldn't find him anywhere. ☹

~ 88 ~

~ 89 ~

Features

- 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...

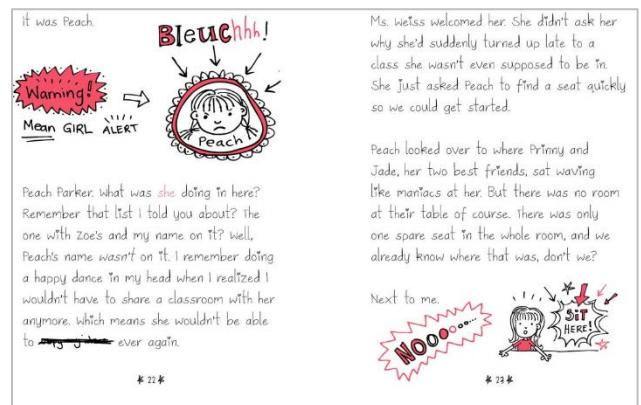
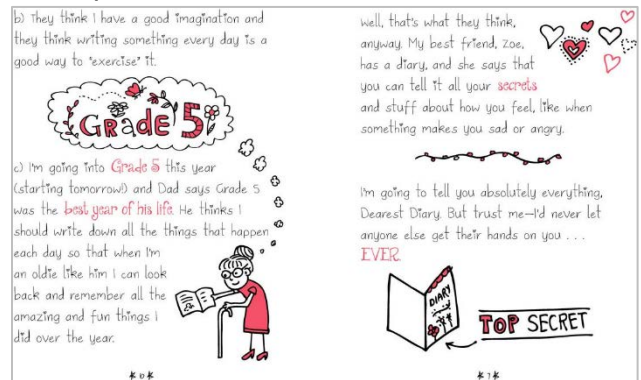
School Library Journal

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

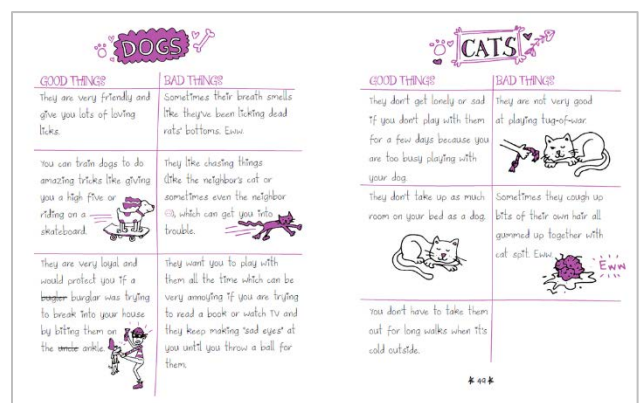
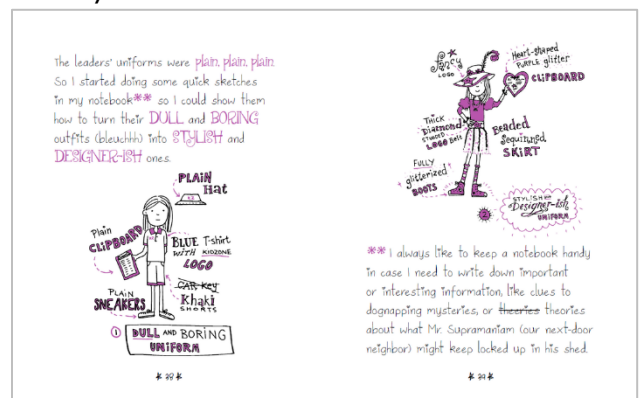
Kirkus Reviews

"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

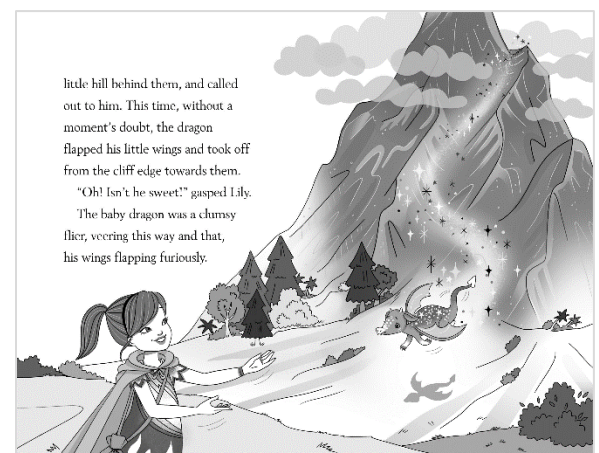
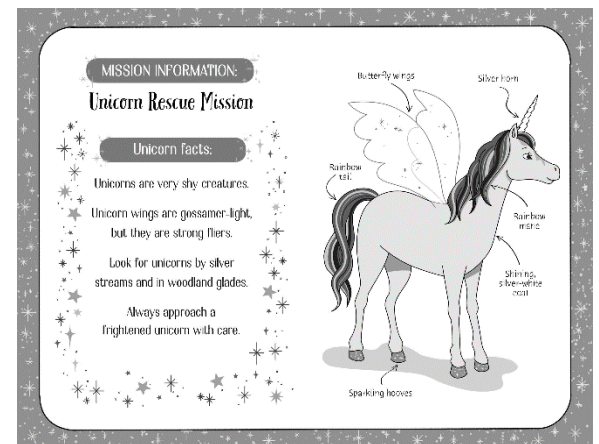
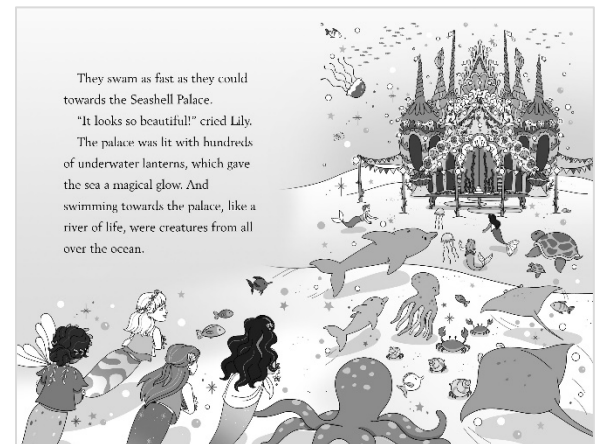
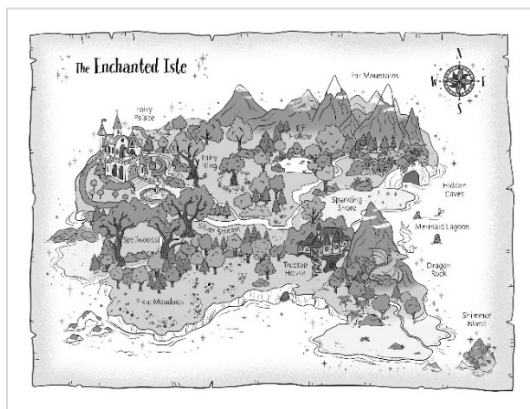


Chapter books featuring characters from the best-selling Sticker Dolly dressing series.

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

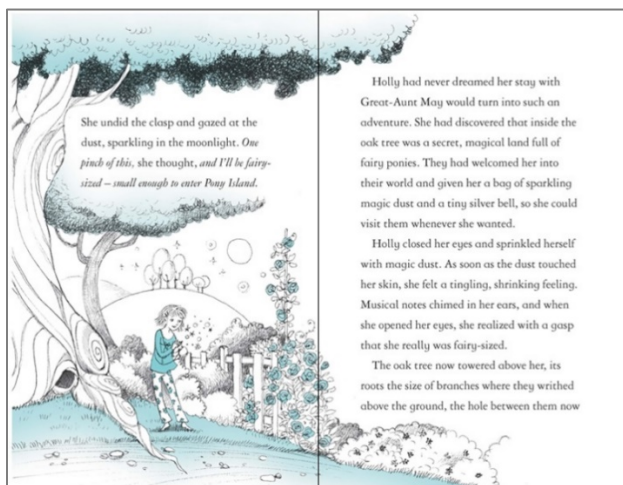


Ages: 7+ Price: \$5.99 each

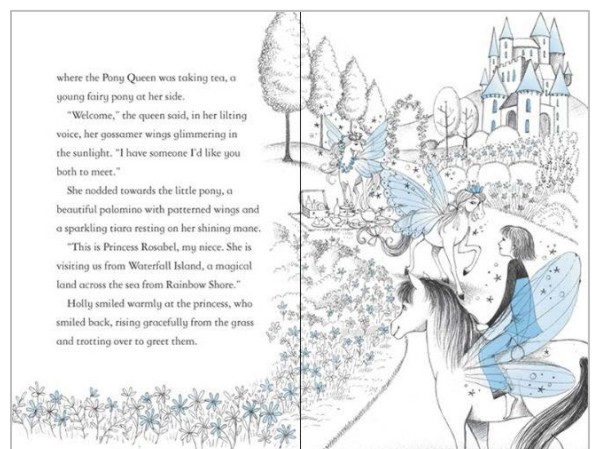
SAVE \$ on Complete Collection



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

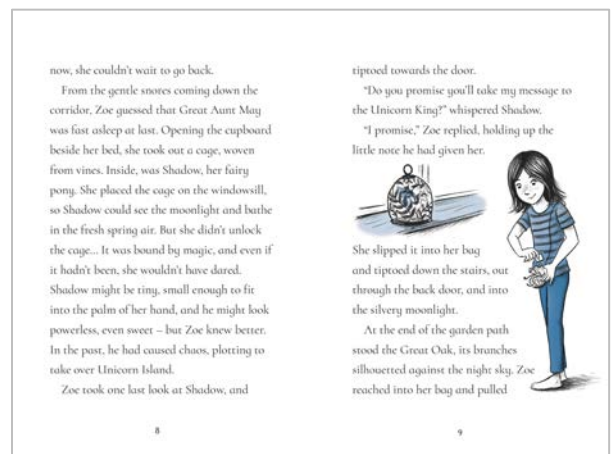
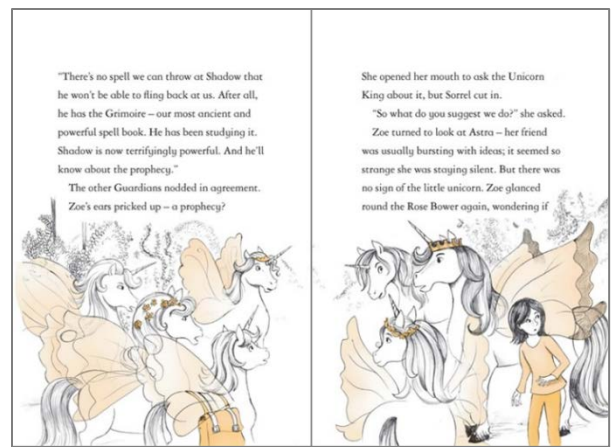


Ages: 7+ Price: \$5.99

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.



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.

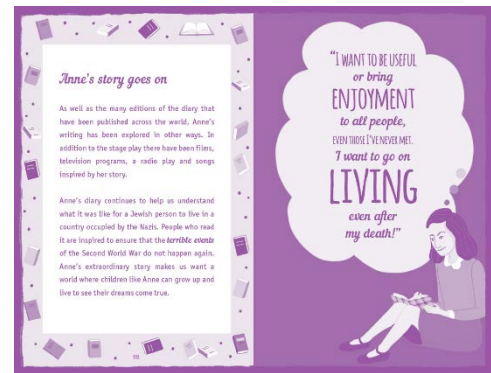
Booklist

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

PSLA Literature Review

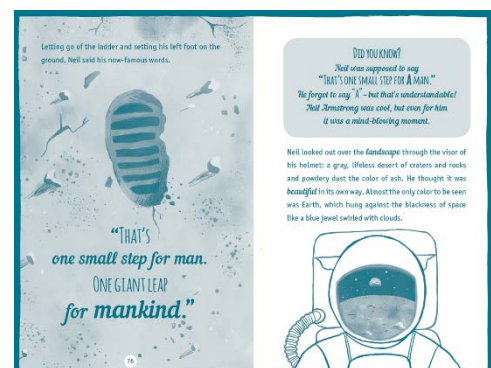
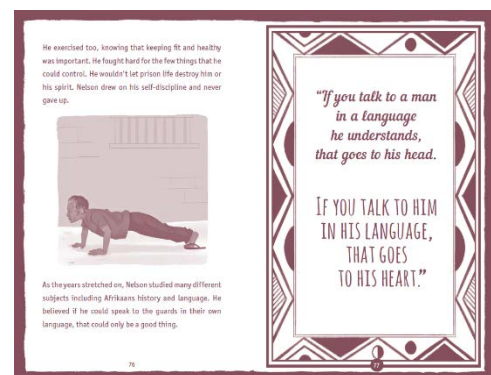
This series would be an excellent addition to an elementary library. ...may just lure in those reluctant readers as well.

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.



Themes

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



Ages: 7-10 Price: \$4.99

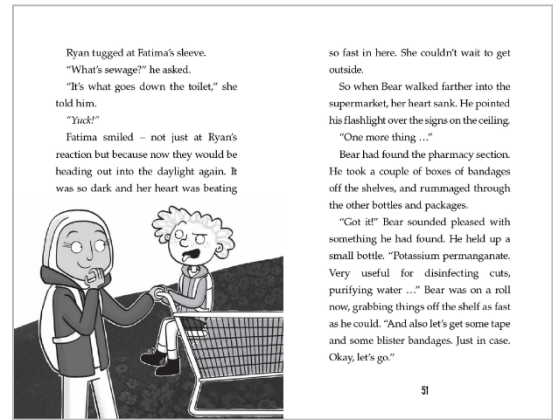
SAVE on Complete Collection



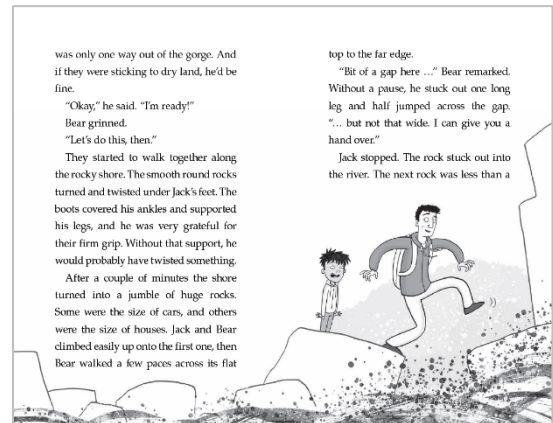
You're given a magical compass and suddenly you're no longer at outdoor camp but in an amazing place in the world – with Bear Grylls as your guide!

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.

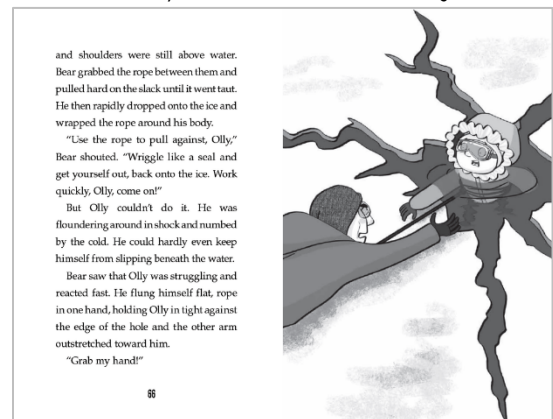
Bear Grylls Adventures: The Earthquake Challenge



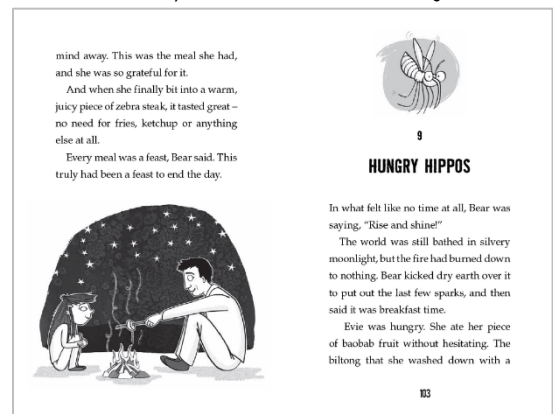
Bear Grylls Adventures: The River Challenge



Bear Grylls Adventures: The Blizzard Challenge



Bear Grylls Adventures: The Safari Challenge



Features

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



Ages: 8-10 Price: \$5.99

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

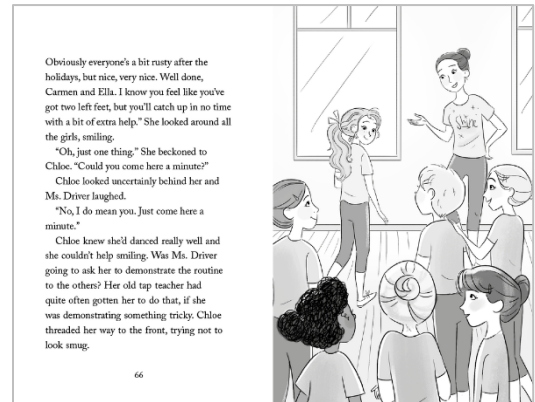
Getting into The Shine School for the Performing Arts is a dream come true for Chloe! When a prank goes wrong though, rumors that she is about to be expelled begin to fly. Can Chloe turn things around before it's too late?

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?

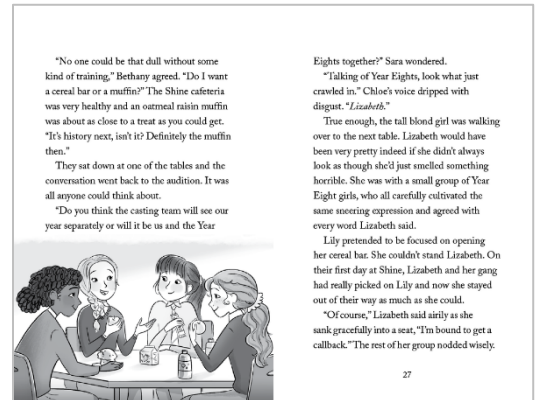
Lily's sure she only got in to Shine because of her actress mom. Then she finds out about an exciting new TV adaptation of her favorite book, and everything clicks – this is her chance to prove herself! Will she be able to convince everyone else though?

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?

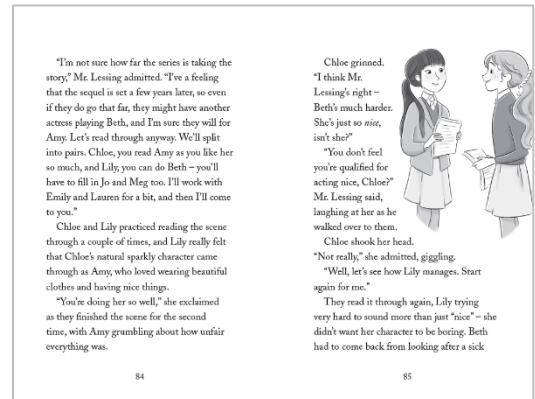
Shine: Chloe Center Stage by Holly Webb



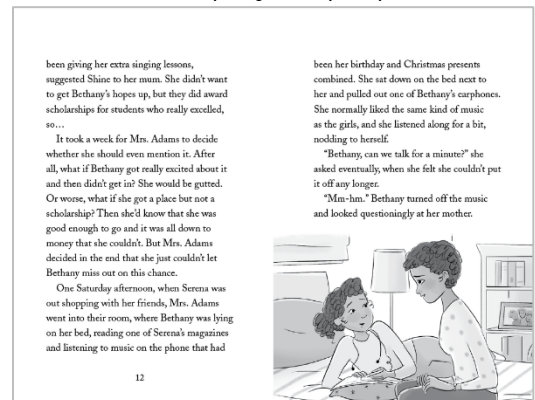
Shine: Sara's Dream Role by Holly Webb



Shine: Lily's Secret Audition by Holly Webb



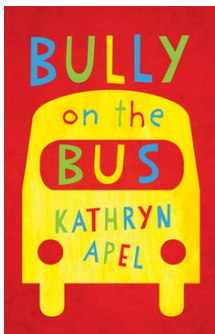
Shine: Bethany Sings Out by Holly Webb



Features

- 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.

Features

- 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.

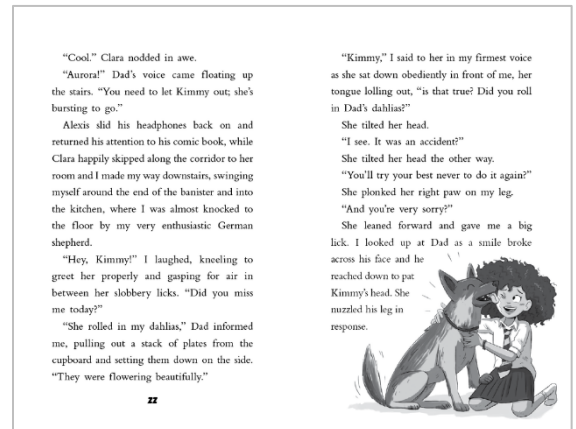
Charlotte's Library

These are fun, fast reads, with a bi-racial, big-haired 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.

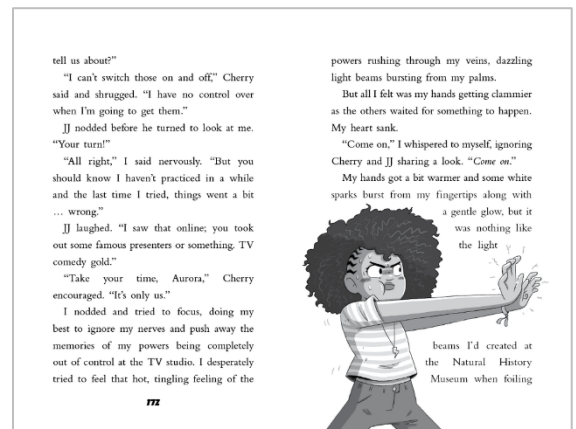
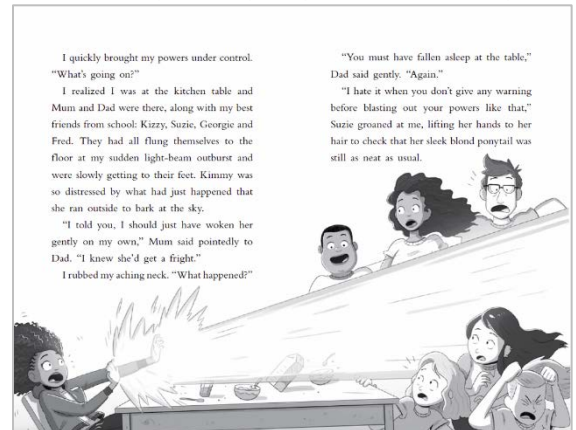
Always in the Middle

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

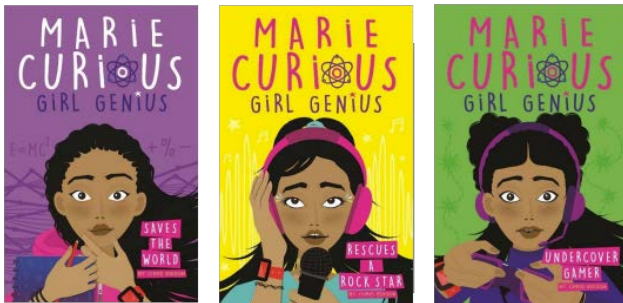


Lightening Girl: Superhero Squad by Alesha Dixon with Katy Birchall



Features

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

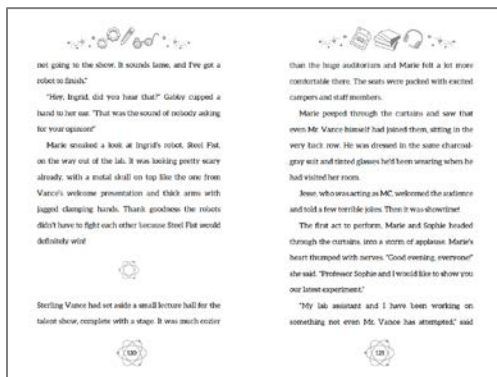


Ages: 8+ Price: \$5.99

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?



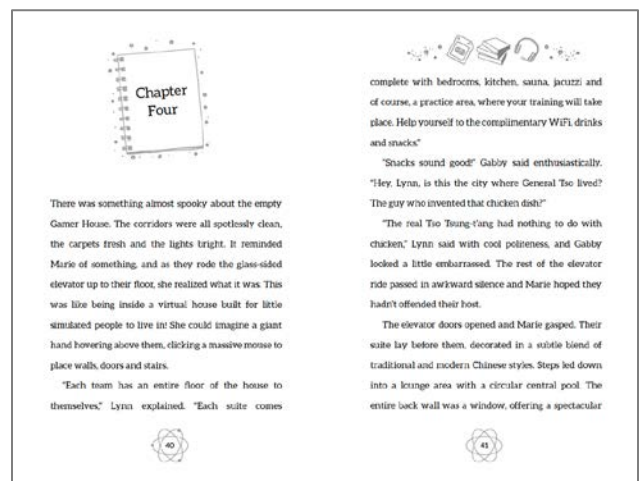
Kirkus Reviews

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?

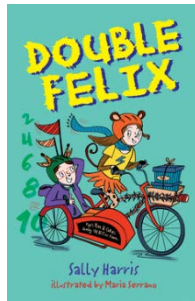


Undercover Gamer

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?

Themes

- Anxiety
- OCD
- Friendship
- Empathy



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

Notable Features

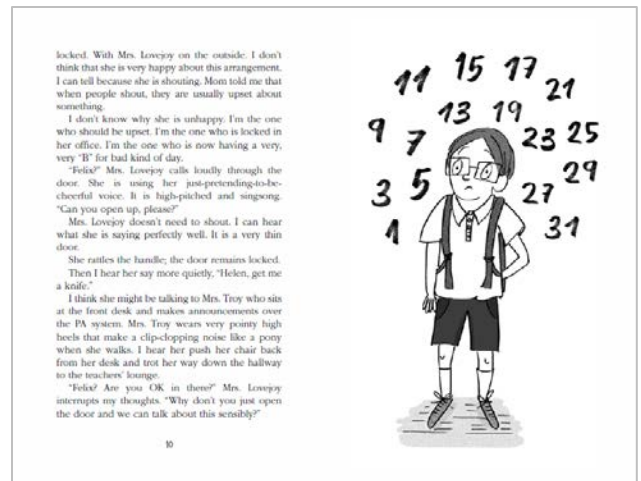
- Hopeful insight on overcoming OCD and anxiety issues.
- Great classroom read – very funny.

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?

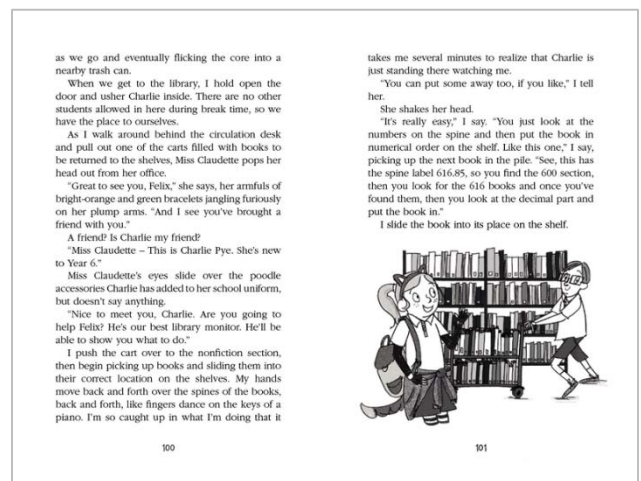
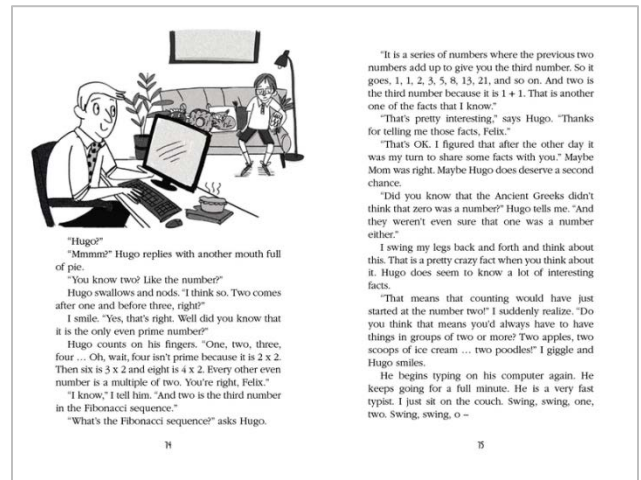
School Library Journal This would be a good introduction for upper elementary students to mental health issues and will appeal to students who like Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" and Rachel Renée Russell's "Dork Diaries."

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.



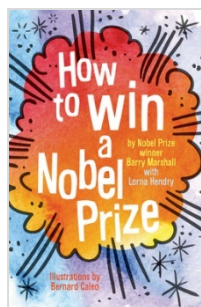
School Library Journal

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...



Themes

- 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.

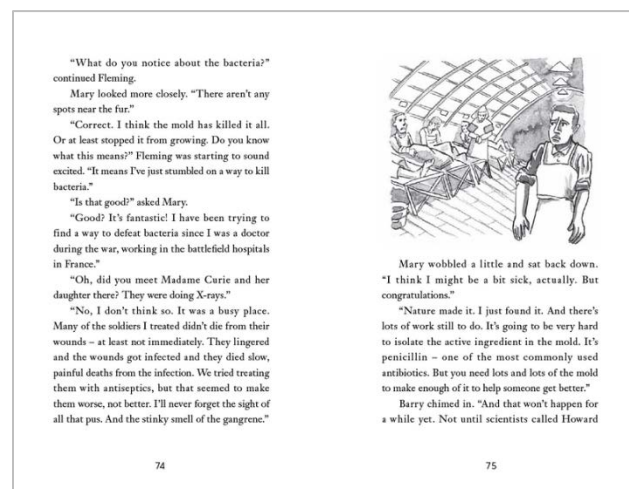
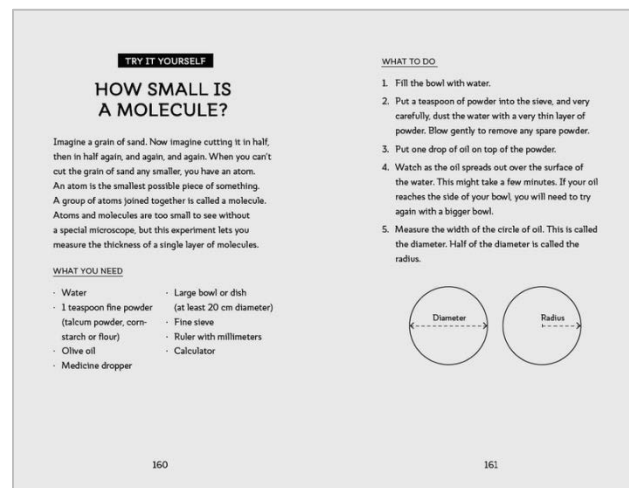
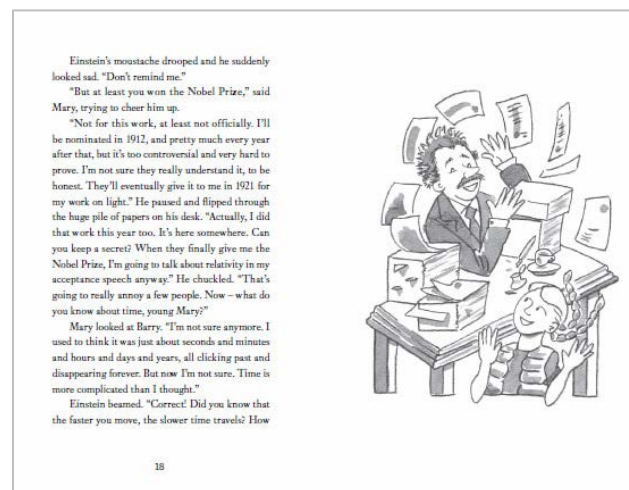
It was so much fun "meeting" [scientists] in a fictitious storyline that presents facts in a fun, relatable manner which lends to very easy retention! Each scientist ends their meeting with the main character, Mary (who has time traveled to meet them), by giving her a piece of advice on how to win a 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

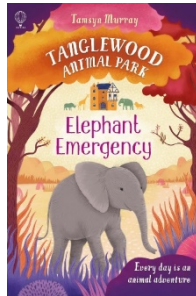
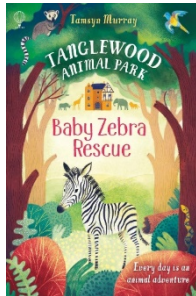
This book is a fun and fast-paced look at science and scientists... highly recommended for budding scientists of upper-primary age.



Themes

- 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

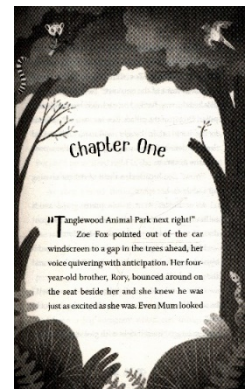
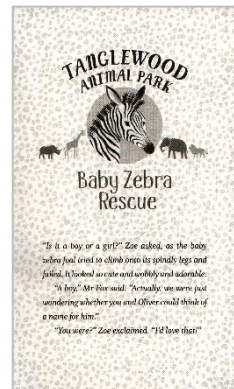
Young animal lovers are trumpeting with excitement... Chuck Groenink and Jean Claude's enchanting illustrations add the extra "aah" factor to this gorgeous adventure series which combines exciting adventures with real-life facts about wild creatures and is a guaranteed winner with animal lovers of every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

Mia- Age 9

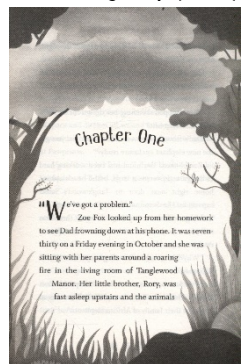
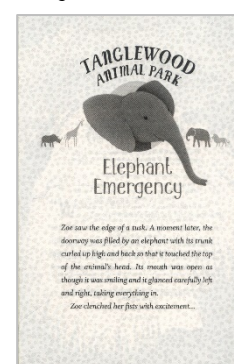
I thought this book was amazing! I enjoyed going on adventures with Zoe & Oliver. It does give you some fun animal facts and I think this series is great for boys and girls. It was so descriptive I felt sometimes like I was in the book!

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)



Themes

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

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

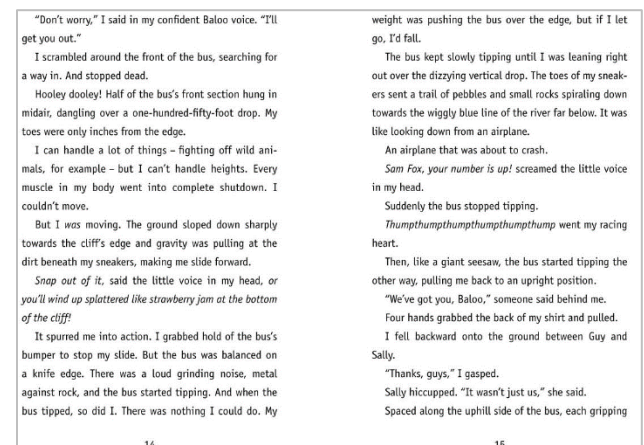
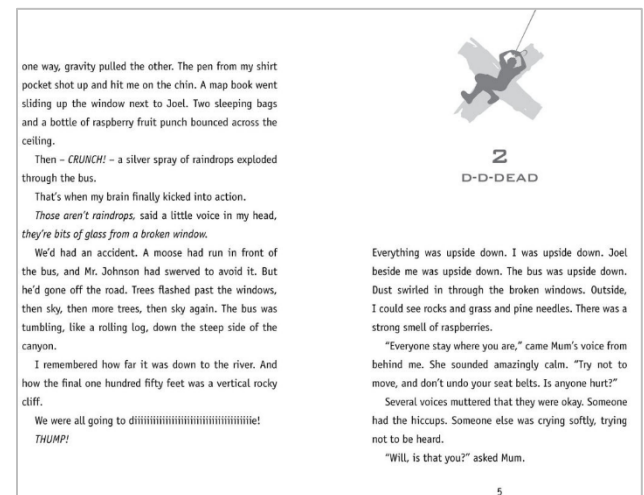
[Extreme Adventures: Man-Eater]

...a fantastic book that anyone
would enjoy reading.

San Francisco Book Review

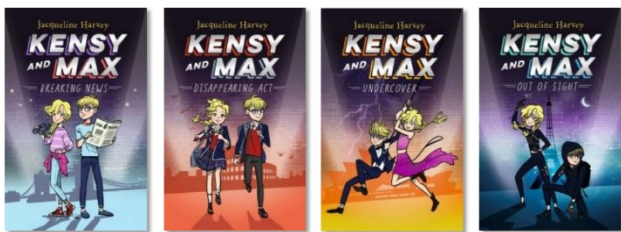
...sure to capture audiences and not disappoint.

Extreme Adventures: Grizzly Trap



Features

- 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.

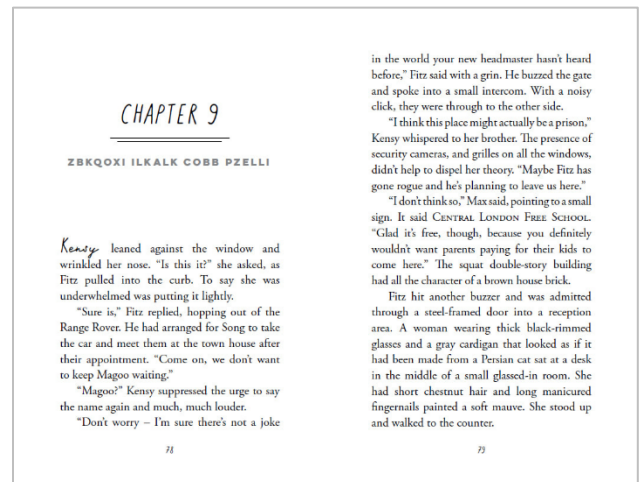
Meridian Magazine Newton's Book News: Fiction Books to Enjoy as the Weather Gets Colder

This delightful mystery will keep you reading to the very end.

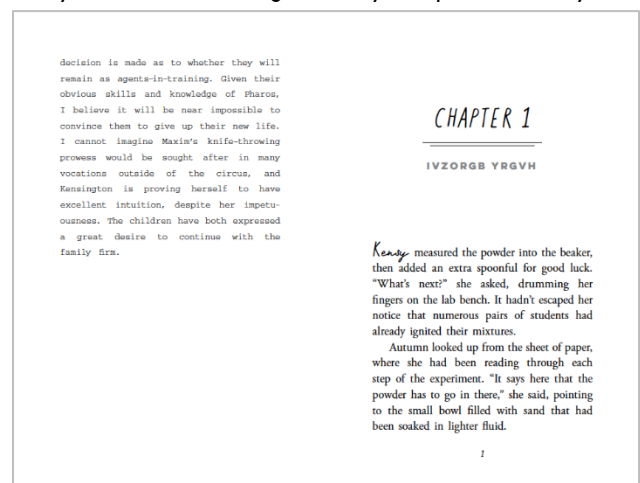
Books YA Love

[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

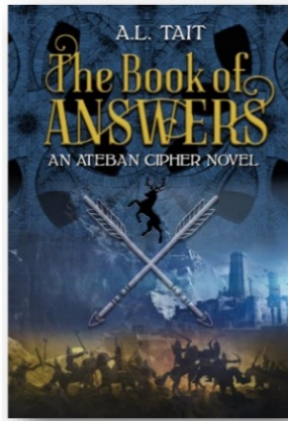
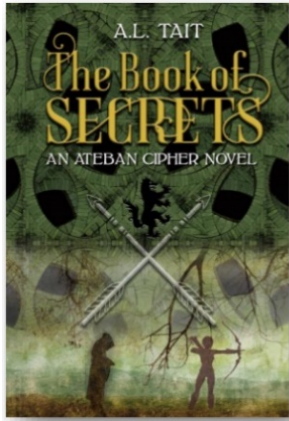


Kensy and Max: Breaking News by Jacqueline Harvey



Themes

- 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.

Themes

- 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.

Themes

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

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.

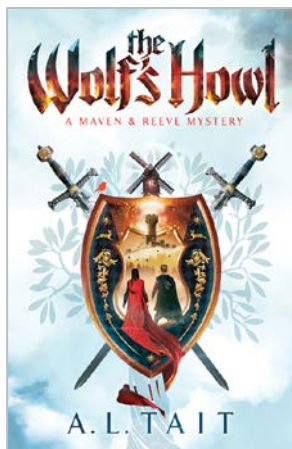
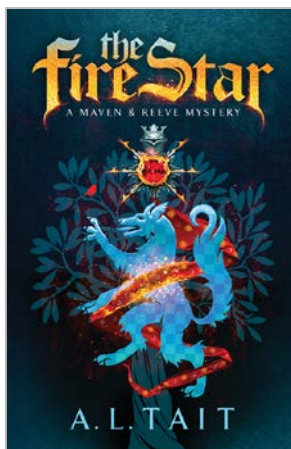
Reeve and Maven, an unlikely pair, are thrown together when the jewel is stolen. Both characters must tread lightly, using skills gained during their formative years when their prospects were different. And so begins the uncovering of secrets until now tightly held. Who can be trusted and who is telling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



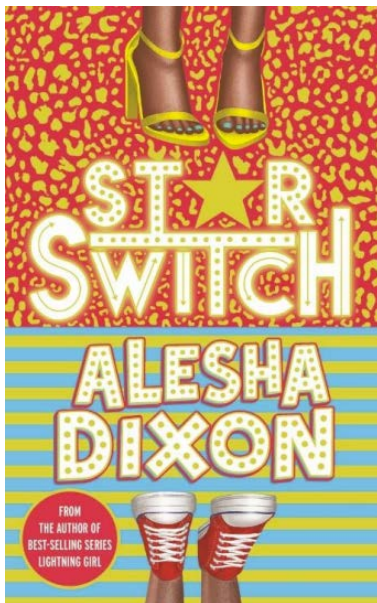
Ages: 9-14 | Pages: 304-320 | Price: \$6.99

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!



Themes

- Appealing, well-developed characters
- Hilarious and fun!
- Diverse and inclusive
- Relatable family and friendship dynamics

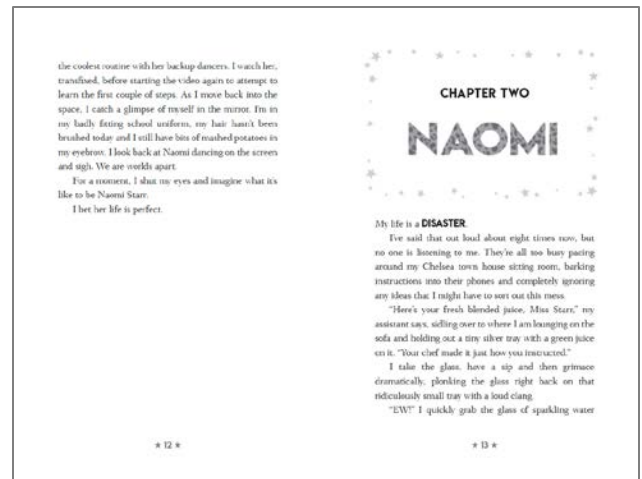


Ages: 10+ | Pages: 304 | Price: \$6.99

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?

Themes

- 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...

Themes

- 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.

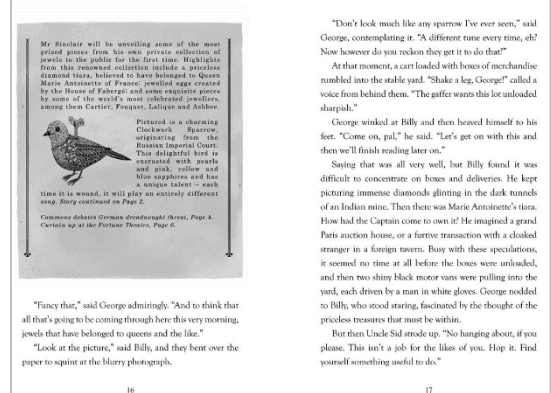
School Library Journal

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

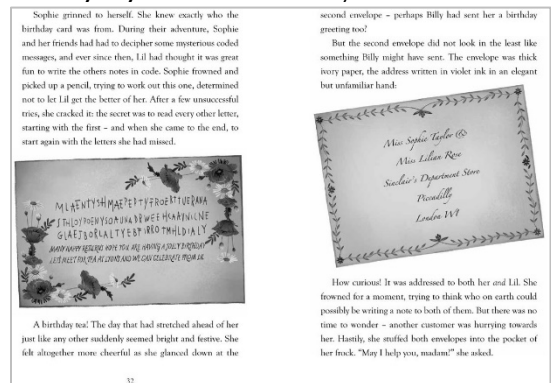
Kirkus Reviews

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

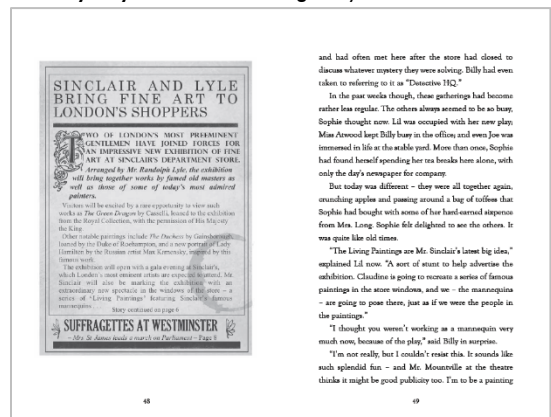
The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow by Katherine Woodfine



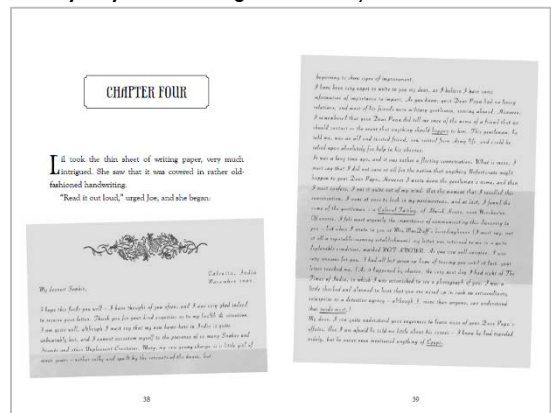
The Mystery of the Jeweled Moth by Katherine Woodfine



The Mystery of the Painted Dragon by Katherine Woodfine

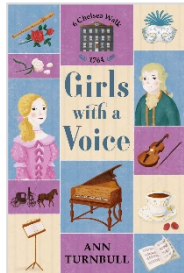


The Mystery of the Midnight Peacock by Katherine Woodfine



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")

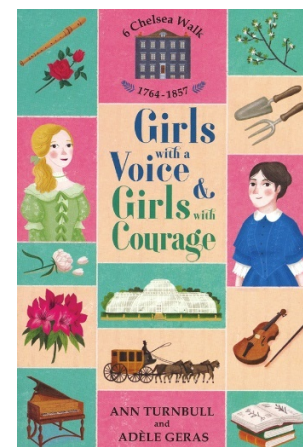
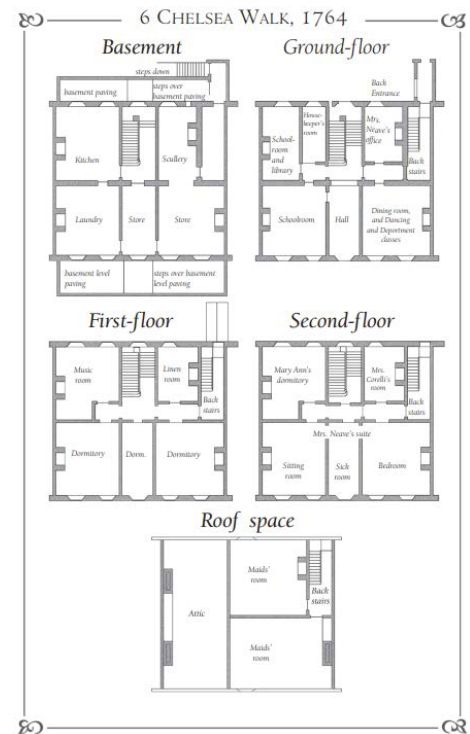
Lizzie loves plants, and her biggest wish is to be a gardener, a bold choice for a Victorian girl. When her strict stepfather sends her to stay with relatives in London, Lizzie misses her country garden and struggles with her new life of stiff manners and formal pastimes. Lizzie lives for the daily letters 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.

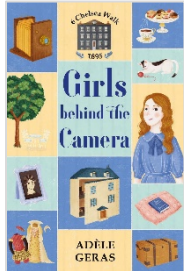
These are engaging novels, immaculately researched and quietly informative. They can be read in any order; those who read them all will be thrilled by the occasional links that draw characters together across generations.

Kate Agnew, *Education Guardian*



2-in-1 Book

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

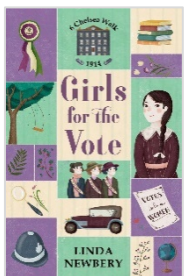


Girls behind the Camera

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")

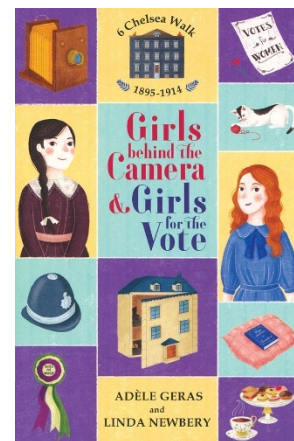
Polly longs to become an explorer. But in 1914, women's rights and choices are limited – something twelve-year-old Polly learns when she befriends her new neighbors: two suffragettes, fighting for women's rights to vote. Polly's parents are appalled, but Polly is intrigued. And the more she thinks about 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 Newbery.

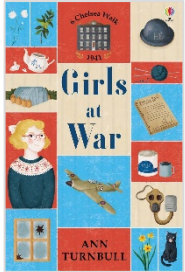
"short and accessible, while at the same time fast-paced and fact-packed."

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



2-in-1 Book

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



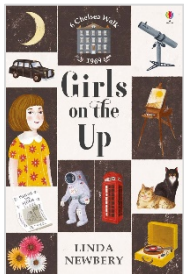
Girls at War

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

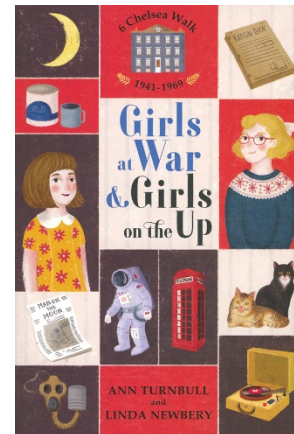
Year 1969

(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?

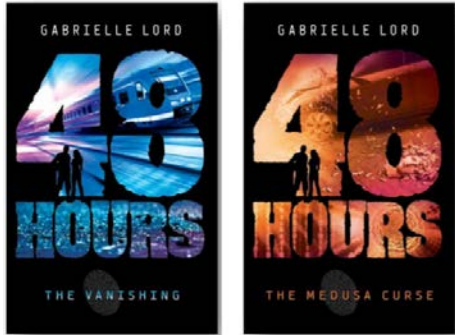
...three highly acclaimed writers explore the life of a London house and its inhabitants from 1764 to 1969. There are three main focal points in the texts: the house's physical changes through the years, meticulous and informative details about domestic life, ethos and culture and, finally, the developing 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.

Books for Keeps



Themes

- 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...

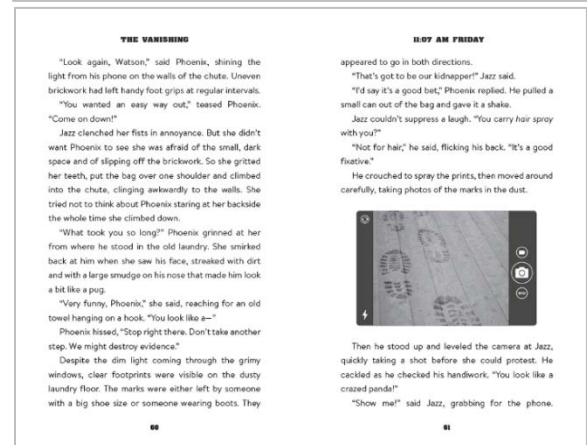
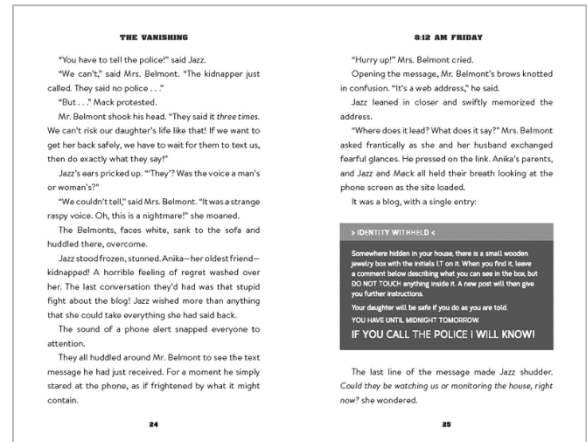
Vicious thieves smash a cursed Medusa statue and steal the supercomputer Sapphire in a terrifying museum raid. Jazz and Phoenix are first on the scene and they soon find themselves in the midst of a dangerous mystery.

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

