



A Walk in Paris

Written by Salvatore Rubbino
Walker £12.99 ISBN: 978-1406341522

A delightful read whether you have a trip planned to Paris or not. The timeless illustrations in muted colours are detailed and accurate and show all the attractions of this diverse city. A little girl is taken on a tour by her Grandfather from the Latin Quarter to the Eiffel Tower visiting many famous sights on the way. They try the delights of the cheese market, enjoy the view from the top of Notre Dame Cathedral and find a cosy bistro for lunch. Tucked unobtrusively in a corner of each page are snippets of information about the various landmarks, some useful French phrases to learn and interesting historical facts. The illustrations are quirky and humorous and convey a distinctively French feel to this special book which even has a giant pull out of the Eiffel Tower.

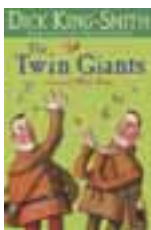
Louise Stothard

Nina and the Kung-Fu Adventure

Written by Madhvi Ramani Illustrated by Erica-Jane Waters
Tamarind (eB) £4.99 ISBN: 978-1848530911

After Nina learns that her classmate Lee's parents have been kidnapped, she wants to help her new friend crack the riddle left behind for him. Luckily, Nina's Aunt Nish is a government computer whizz with access to a travelling spice shed that can transport them anywhere in the world in an instant. Travelling to China, Nina and Lee start following the clues to his parent's whereabouts and help foil a plot to resurrect an ancient Chinese army. Nina, and the reader, learns about real life in China, from the Birds' Nest Olympic Stadium to some useful chopstick etiquette (Don't lick your chopsticks, it's considered rude!). This is an empowering story, which hopefully will encourage an interest in the wider world and other cultures.

Benjamin Scott



The Twin Giants

Written by Dick King-Smith Illustrated by Mini Grey
Walker (R) £4.99 ISBN: 978-1406354379

When twin giants are born, their parents say "Isn't he enormous?" as the first is born and "There's a lot of him." when the second appears. As Normus and Lottavim grow up, they get bigger and bigger and are identical in every way but one, for Lottavim eats meat but Normus is a vegetarian. But how and where can the two twin giants each find the right giantess to become their wife? This is a delightful story which children will enjoy immensely. The humour of the story is enhanced by Mini Grey's black and white illustrations. Children will love the word play and the confusion as each of the giants initially meets the wrong giantess. Although first published in 2007, the story is just as fresh and funny today as it was then, and a new generation of children will discover and love it.

Annie Everall

Knightmare: Life Stinks

Written by Peter Bentley Illustrated by Fred Blunt
Stripes (eB) £5.99 ISBN: 978-1847154330

Cedric Thatchbottom is a young lad working for Sir Percy Piers Peregrine de Bluster de Bombast and aspires to, one day, be a knight just like his master. He wants to wear armour, have a sword, rescue damsels in distress, when he can work out what damsels are, and save the kingdom from baddies. He idolizes Sir Percy and thinks he is brave and fearless,



but when Sir Roland the Rotten challenges Sir Percy to a duel it is Cedric who has to salvage his master's honour. What follows will appeal to all children interested in toilet humour, body functions and tomfoolery. There are plenty of amusing illustrations which complement the text. The story is funny, pacy and full of gross yukky stuff – it definitely has child appeal!

Ingrid Fox

The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly

Written by Sun-Mi Hwang Illustrations by Kazuko Nomoto
Translated by Chi-Young Kim Oneworld (eB) £7.99 ISBN: 978-1780745343

Already regarded as a modern classic, this compelling and beautifully told story has been compared with such established masterpieces as *Charlotte's Web* and *Jonathan Livingstone Seagull*. Sprout, the hen, is an outcast and a captive. She dreams of freedom and of having a chick of her own to care for. Escaping from the farmyard she finds an abandoned egg and always believing it to be that of a hen, patiently sits on it through the many days "since the moon was a crescent", safeguarding it until the time of hatching. Many dangers beset the hen and her fostered duckling, their most persistent predator being the ever-hungry farmyard weasel. In efforts to outwit him Sprout and Baby move home many times; their journeys are local to the farmyard, reservoir and reed fields but their struggles against adversity resonate in a universal way. This story from Korea is a fable for our time, outstanding in the quality of its layered, lyrical prose and memorable in the exemplary determination, loving kindness and courage of its heroine.

Catriona Nicholson



Eliza Boom's Diary: My Explosive Adventure



Written by Emily Gate Illustrated by Joëlle Dreidemey
Buster (eB) £4.99 ISBN: 978-1780551708

Twenty-four hour inventor, Eliza Boom, is as busy as ever inventing with the support of Einstein, the dog, and Edison, her diary. She is intent on dispelling the meanness of the class bully, Zoe Wakefield, and decides to secure an invitation to her birthday party by presenting her with an ingenious pre-birthday gift of 'A Star in a Jar'. Not only has everyone else had the same idea of a pre-birthday gift but, unbeknown to Eliza, the striped ribbon she found in the flowerbed and used to wrap the gift, is actually Dad's 'Mission Metallic Info-Ribbon' which contains Top Secret spy information. Now Zoe Wakefield's wearing the ribbon and Eliza must get it back. This is a highly original, fast-paced drama in which Eliza is cringingly embarrassing and crazily endearing. The text is well-spaced in an easily readable font interspersed with large, comical, black and white sketch-like illustrations on every page. Eliza is a great character in a great series.

Gill Roberts

Ghoulish Song

Written by William Alexander Much-In-Little (eB) £ 6.99 ISBN: 978-1472108760

Ghoulish Song is a companion to William Alexander's National Book Award winner *Goblin Secrets*. It's a curious and fascinating mixture of magic and created folklore in a kind of medieval setting, where music can create, build and destroy. Kaile, the baker's daughter, is busy learning her father's craft when a goblin's gift of a bone flute separates her from her shadow and she is outcast as a ghoul, one of the living dead, by all who know her. She must learn the flute's secrets to become a powerful



musician in order to regain her shadow. A cast of magical, unexpected and downright stubborn characters try to block her at every turn. A super book: lively, original, curious, written with a wry humour and some extraordinary description. Written for engaged readers, but its slimness and double spacing will also attract the less experienced reader who may well conquer the quirky language, enjoying the pulse of storytelling at its heart.

Tina Massey

Dunger

Written by Joy Cowley Gecko (eB) £6.99 ISBN: 978-1877579462

Joy Cowley has been a prolific writer for children for over forty years. Her latest novel is set in the Marlborough Sounds at the top of New Zealand's South Island. The term 'dunger' usually refers to an old car or, by extension, anything old and useless. Brother and sister, Will and Melissa, have been roped into helping their grandparents tidy up their old 'bach' (the NZ term for a holiday home often with fairly basic facilities). The outdoor longdrop toilet and the lack of both a TV and mobile reception do not go down well with Melissa but this is a story about city kids experiencing life hands on. As the children gain a sense of achievement in mastering new skills, such as playing the guitar, fishing and driving, they soon come to value the bach and grow closer to their grandparents. The story moves quickly as the short chapters alternate between the two children as narrators. The story is universal enough to mean that the few NZ terms do not get in the way of understanding.



Annalise Taylor



No Friend of Mine

Written by Ann Turnbull Walker (R) (eB) £5.99 ISBN: 978-1406324778

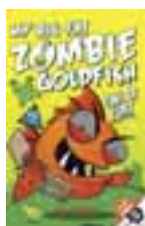
Life changes for Lennie after he meets Ralph. He has been bullied at school and now he has a real friend who enjoys sharing a hideout in the woods. Lennie soon realizes, however, that Ralph comes from a very different world. Ralph seems to have more money than Lennie has ever seen. Ralph's father is the boss at the mine where his own Dad works and, being the Union Secretary, is known as a 'troublemaker'. The two fathers are in a bitter struggle over working conditions and injustice at the mine. Can their friendship last? When Ralph seems to let him down, Lennie must think long and hard about what friendship really means.

Marianne Adey

My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish: Fins of Fury

Written by Mo O'Hara Illustrated by Marek Jagucki Macmillan (eB) £4.99 ISBN: 978-1447248729

Two stories about Frankie, the infamous goldfish, are contained in this one cheery volume. In 'Frankie Goes Wild', Tom takes his goldfish camping. When Sam Savage, the TV adventure hero turns up, the lads think they are about to learn about survival. But it turns out that Sam is in league with Tom's evil scientist brother, Mark, who is out to get Frankie. Several plot-turns later, involving a panther and some peanut butter, Frankie is the one who becomes the hero. In 'Revenge of the Paranormal Pets' Tom and his friend Pradeep again pit their wits against brother, Mark. Talented pets are disappearing and Frankie acts as a decoy to try and unravel the mystery. Both stories have wild, zany plot developments and lots of humour. Vocabulary control does not seem to be strong, but this may not worry young readers bound up in the adventures. Marek Jagucki's cartoons reflect the chaos of the stories and the result is a wacky and fun-filled volume.

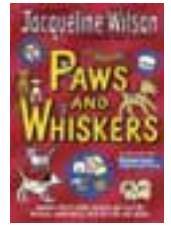


Liz Dubber

Paws and Whiskers

Chosen by Jacqueline Wilson Illustrated by Nick Sharratt Doubleday (eB) £12.99 ISBN: 978-0857533531

This special collection of animal stories has been compiled by Jacqueline Wilson, a patron of Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. The book is divided into Cat Stories and Dog Stories, with extracts from classic and more recent favourite books by authors such as Patrick Ness, Anne Fine, Dodie Smith and Enid Blyton. The book also features personal tales from many authors about their own pets, with passages from, amongst others, Francesca Simon, Dick King-Smith and Michael Morpurgo. Jacqueline Wilson has written a story especially for this anthology; *Leonie's Pet Cat*. This collection of pet tales is ideal for any young animal lover and will be enjoyed time and time again. Readers may also discover a new favourite author for them to read.



Jane Hall

The Lost Gods

Written by Francesca Simon Faber & Faber (eB) £10.99 ISBN: 978-1846685651



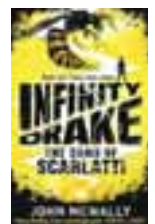
Set in modern Britain (but with a Norse twist) this highly enjoyable sequel to *The Sleeping Army* revisits the themes and characters of Francesca Simon's earlier novel. We meet once again the pragmatic, long-suffering Freya who finds herself ambushed in her own home, by the three most powerful Viking gods, Woden, Thor and Frey. Newly arrived from Asgard, their reappearance on earth (Midgard) is to warn the population of imminent danger from the Frost Giants who, unchallenged, will turn the world to ice. However, the formerly deified trio are now seen to be lost and powerless in a secular world where the achievement of celebrity status signifies fame. For their warnings to be heeded and the world saved from another ice-age, the gods, with the help of Freya, must gather worshippers and regain omnipotence. They do this in hilarious and flamboyant ways. Sharply ironic in her swipes at modern day faithlessness, media culture and worship of celebrity, Francesca Simon's skill as a social commentator and keen-eyed caricaturist is woven with a light touch throughout the book. This is fast-paced entertainment during which the reader is confronted with tough, illuminating questions about modern beliefs and values.

Catriona Nicholson

Infinity Drake: The Sons of Scarlatti

Written by John McNally HarperCollins (eB) £12.99 ISBN: 978-0007521586

With *Infinity Drake*, author John McNally has produced a big new adventure series, with a very small hero. Twelve-year-old Finn is going on a long awaited holiday with his madcap scientist uncle, when they are called to an urgent top secret meeting. They discover that an immoral villain has instigated a biological threat to the world, in the form of the Scarlatti: a wasp genetically engineered to kill. The only way it can be stopped is by a miniature Special Forces squad. Finn's Uncle Al prepares to shrink this crack team, but doesn't expect Finn to be there at the time. This fantastic debut novel provides everything you need for an exciting adventure story: a fast-paced plot with non-stop action, superb characters, constant danger, smart, often witty, dialogue and a clever original tale. The superb characters include the young, vulnerable, but very brave, hero, Finn, the fearless shrunken operatives, a most evil villain, double-crossing colleagues, a mad scientist Uncle, a loving, but crazy, Granny, and Yo-Yo, the dog. The constant danger threatening the mini-team will keep readers on the edge of their seat. This is the ideal book for those readers missing the wonderful Artemis Fowl.



Jane Hall