

"Read All About It"

Welcome to our 26th Edition of
"Read All About It", published Spring 2007.

Many thanks to all the teachers and children who have contributed reviews for this edition of "Read All About It". If you would like to see these reviews on our website, the address is www.wakefield.gov.uk/sls/

If your school is not represented on the Book Review Panel please contact SLS (01924 302238) and we will put you on our mailing list.

Mij Kelly is our latest speaker on Thursday 8th March at Library Headquarters, Balne Lane Wakefield, between 4.15 p.m. and 6.00 p.m.

Our summer meeting will be at Woolley Hall on Thursday 5th July 2007 for our joint event with the Advisory Service, speaker to be confirmed.

For further details of "Book Review Panel" meetings and their guest speakers, please contact:
Lesley Marshall or Wendy Mitchell, S.L.S.,
Telephone: 01924 302238 Fax:019240302245

PRIMARY KEY STAGE 1

THE UTTERLY OTTERLEYS

By Mairi Hedderwick

Hodder Children's Books Pbk £5.99

ISBN 0-340-87369-8

Age range 6-8

Story:

The tale of the Utterly Otterleys is very predictable from the outset. The family live in a cosy burrow near the river, where everything is nearly perfect until Pa Utterly Otterley decides it's time to find a new home. They plod through the homes of the deer, the fox and the beastly squirrels before reaching their nest.

Comments:

Although predictable, this storybook has very detailed pictures that the children will love. Sometimes, however, these can detract from the story. A good pictures book to provoke discussion.

Ruth Fryer Larks Hill J&I

By Jake Larks Hill J&I

This story was about a family of otters. They decided to move house and also they couldn't find any food. The first home they found was a cave, but they only stayed one night. The second home they found was also a cave, but with a waterfall. The third house they found was a tree. Everyone was still not happy. Finally Ma said there was nothing wrong with their old home. They all set off for the very last time, they skidded in the snow and smelt the sea air and their favourite fish once again. It was their old house. Ma, Pa, Otto and Ottina smiled and do you know what? **THEY NEVER MOVED AGAIN!**

By Olivia Larks Hill J&I

The Utterly Otterleys book is a fantastic story for children under 6. The Utterly Otterleys book is about a family who live in a lovely home, but Pa Otterley decides to move because he says it's draughty and the moonlight shines through the curtains. But each home they find has something wrong with it,

like too windy, too wet, squirrels throwing nuts on them. So Pa decides to find a new home and the one they find is their own home!

By Joseph Larks Hill J&I

I like the Utterly otters. I like the bit where Otto and Ottina play ghosts. I do not like the bit where Pa woke up in a bad mood. I would recommend this book. I liked the map to show where the Utterly Otterleys lived. There are some funny bits in the book. I also liked the pictures.

By Jorge Larks Hill J&I

It was a great book. I love the part when the squirrels hit them. I hated when they leave home.

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

By Lauren Child

Penguin Books Pbk £6.99

ISBN 0-141-50014-X

Age range 6-8

Story:

Real princesses do not grow on trees - in 'The Princess and the Pea' the prince finds this out for himself. Under an obligation to marry, he searches high and low for the princess who is fascinatingly interesting but most of all proves that she has 'manners'. For him, finding his royal bride is unexpectedly difficult so the queen takes this task on herself.

Comments:

This is the perfect bedtime story with collaged illustrations to fire your imagination. Lauren Child, the author, has a certain style of writing that is informal, yet humorous. A smashing read.

Ruth Fryer Larks Hill J&I

By Emily Larks Hill J&I

The story was brilliant. I loved the fact that all the pictures are like a big collage and some bits are textured. There were quite a few words that were difficult and I had to find out what they meant. It was a little bit funny. I never used to like princesses, but now I do.

By Beth Larks Hill J&I

I really liked the book because it had good pictures and they look interesting. I really enjoyed the end because it was happy. It was a good length of writing, not too long, and not too short. I thought it was good when she went into the forest and it started raining hard and she was soaking wet. The prince needed to get married.

By Sydnie Larks Hill J&I

I really liked this book. In the beginning, there was a prince who woke up one morning. His mother and father discussed he would have to have to marry. There was a girl knocking on the door who was a princess. I liked it when she tripped over a pile of unopened letters and wandered out into the garden path. I did not like the opener at all, I did not find the opener interesting. Apart from that, it has a high sense of humour and is fantastic. I would like to say thank you to the library. I love this book!

LITTLE OTTER'S BIG JOURNEY

By David Bedford

Scholastic Pbk £4.99

ISBN 0-439-95084-8

Age range 3+

Story:

Little Otter's mummy has to leave him to find food. He can't go with her because he is afraid to swim under the sea. Mummy tells Little Otter to stay where he is, but he floats out to sea. Along the way, some other sea animals try to help him. Finally, Little Otter decides to shout his mummy. She comes back and Little Otter faces his fear by swimming under the sea.

Comments:

The children enjoyed this story. They thought about how Little Otter was feeling when he did not want to swim under the sea and when his mummy left him for a while. They liked the illustrations, in particular the enormous whale. The children recognised the lovely ending.

Leanne Dowding St. Giles J&I

By Rebecca St. Giles J&I

I liked the whale because it was big.

By Bradley St. Giles J&I

I like the otter because he is cute.

By Jessica St. Giles J&I

I liked the whale because it was a nice picture.

By Kian St. Giles J&I

I liked it when the mummy otter came back.

By Callum Lee Brigg Infant

I liked it when Little Otter found his mum. I was scared when Little Otter floated out to sea.

By Joshua Lee Brigg Infant

I liked it when he went in the water with his mum and met whale for the second time. I don't know why he wandered off, just because he wanted to get warm and he went out of the

seaweed and found three animals and they went to get his mum.
My favourite bit was at the end.

By Georgina Lee Brigg Infant

I liked it when Little Otter's mother wrapped him in seaweed and I felt sad when he was by himself. I liked the sea lions and when they barked at Little Otter because he was scared. I like how they describe the voice of the whale, the sing-song voice.

By Charlie Lee Brigg Infant

I liked when Little Otter's mummy wrapped him in seaweed to keep him warm and safe. Also, when the whale's voice made water spray into the air.

By Anoushka Lee Brigg Infant

The story is about a little otter and his big journey. Otter's mother wanted to get some food from under the sea. Otter was afraid to dive. His mother leaves him wrapped in seaweed. Otter floats away and gets lost. When he was floating away, he met pelican, sea lion and whale. Otter was scared and called mummy otter. Mummy finds him and takes him home.

By Holly Lee Brigg Infant

My favourite part of the book was when Little Otter was laid on his mother's belly in the warm sun.

By Lilli Lee Brigg Infant

The story is about a little otter and a very big journey through the big, big sea.

By Lewis Lee Brigg Infant

I liked it when Little Otter's mummy found him because he was sad. It was scary when he floated out to sea.

MR POD AND MR PICCALILLI

By Penny Dolan

Walker Books Pbk £5.99

ISBN 0-7445-4066-6

Age range 3+

Story:

Mr Pod and Mr Piccalilli both keep themselves to themselves, they both have cats who go missing. Mr Pod and Mr Piccalilli try to cheer each other up and they find their cats with six little kittens. They become the best of friends and have a big party to celebrate.

Comments:

This story appears to be quite complex for young children, however, the children loved it. They really liked the characters' names and the party at the end.

Kelly Crane St. Giles J&I

By Will St. Giles J&I

I liked it when all the kittens came out of the cupboard.

By Nathaniel St. Giles J&I

I liked it when they baked the cakes.

By Alicia St. Giles J&I

I liked when all the kittens came out of the cupboard.

By Grace St. Giles J&I

I liked the bit when they all had the party with all the cakes.

By Millie St. Giles J&I

I liked the baby kittens.

By Katie St. Giles J&I

I liked it when the kittens came out of the cupboard.

LOST AND FOUND

By Oliver Jeffers

Harpercollins Children's Pbk £5.99

ISBN 0-00-715036-9

Age range 3+

Story:

A penguin turns up on a little boy's doorstep. Thinking the penguin is lost, the boy goes on a mission to get the penguin back to the South Pole. When the boy leaves the penguin there, he looks even sadder so the boy decides to go back for him but he's not there. Eventually, the boy finds the penguin and they become best friends.

Comments:

A lovely story, which the children enjoyed. It introduces the children to different feelings and emotions in a lovely way.

Kelly Crane St. Giles J&I

By Brad St. Giles J&I

I liked it when the boy and the penguin were friends.

By Alisha St. Giles J&I

I liked the penguin.

By Madison St. Giles J&I

I liked it when the boy thought the penguin was lost.

By Caitlin St. Giles J&I

I liked the penguin and when the boy was sad and went back for him.

By Charlotte St. Giles J&I

I liked it when the boy thought the penguin was lost.

PRIMARY KEY STAGE 2

A WAYNE IN A MANGER

By Gervase Phinn

Penguin Books Pbk £6.99

ISBN 0-141-02688-X

Age range 10 - Adult

Story:

'A Wayne in a Manger' is a recollection of Gervase Phinn's favourite Christmas and nativity stories from his time as a schools inspector of English in the Yorkshire Dales.

Enchantingly anecdotal, he tells of the time when the Archangel Gabriel told Mary that he had tidings of great joy, but couldn't remember what they were, and when the star fell on Joseph's head to cries of 'bloody 'ell'.

Comments:

Guaranteed to bring a smile to the face of anyone who has visited a school in the throes of a Christmas production!

Lynda Rushforth Larks Hill J&I

By Ewan Larks Hill J&I

It was a very good book to read. I would like to read it again when you have finished it. I liked the bit when the boy

shouted at the vicar and when they fell over when they had their picture taken, (at the end of the book).

By Rachel Larks Hill J&I

A lot of information in just a few sentences, and very, very funny. I loved it, apart from the use of swear words. I love all of it, I don't have a favourite, it's all just too good. I wish it was my book so I could read it forever.

FREDDY ON THE LOOSE

By D. Reiche

Scholastic Children's Pbk £4.99

ISBN 0-439-95123-2

Age range 8-10

Story:

A well written and intriguing story about Freddy, the golden hamster who wants to be free. In his quest for freedom, he discovers that he's a bit of an intellectual with a talent for reading. The next step involves communicating with his human, but not without the help of a wise old tom-cat, two crazy guinea-pigs and a computer.

Comments:

I would recommend this book to more able 8-10 year olds.

Lynda Rushforth Larks Hill J&I

By Esther Larks Hill J&I

I like the bit when Freddy is trying to be sold. The beginning bit is interesting, the rest was ok but it could have been better. I thought some bits were boring but some bits were good like when he got free by himself. My favourite character is Freddy because he is quite funny.

By Jodie Larks Hill J&I

A golden hamster, called Freddy, wanted to get bought and eventually he did, by Sophie and when the hamster got to her house, he started to learn to read and write, but never got to write. Mum was allergic to Freddy so they took him back to a different room in the pet shop. Freddy wanted to write on the typewriter. Soon Sophie came back and Freddy went back to her house but Freddy didn't want to go because the person that owned the upstairs room, which was Mr John, bought a computer. When he got to Sophie's house Freddy escaped from his cage and snuck into Mr John's briefcase. Mr John went back carrying Freddy in his briefcase. When he got back Freddy started writing letters on the computer to Mr John. I thought the book was a bit funny and quite exciting. It was really enjoyable.

BUTTER-FINGER

By Bob Cattell

Francis Lincoln Pbk £4.99

ISBN 1-84507-376-2

Age range 9+

Story:

Lots of funny rhyming (calypso) poetry written by Ricardo, who drops the losing ball in the game. Finally he helps his team, the Calypsos, win in the cup final against the Windward Wanderers by singing his own songs as the band singer.

Comments:

A book for cricket fans 9 and over.

L. Coates Normanton Junior

By Hannah Normanton Junior

I really liked this book because it made me feel like I was there. It was also wonderful because of all the different songs, but when Ricardo sings his favourite, Rikki Tikki, it was

great! I could read this book again. I would give it 5 *****
excellent!

By Caroline Stockingate Mill Junior

Butter-Finger is a good book. It's about somebody called Ricardo. He's not very good at cricket. His Uncle Alvin gave him his first willow cricket bat. A boy called Leo bullies Ricardo. The Calypso Cricket Club lose because of Ricardo. Ricardo meets an old man, Count Crawfish and they become friends. The man calls Ricardo, Rikki Tikki Tavi. They go to the match together and Ricardo saw Big Lugs and the match. The girl Wesley lost her voice for the band so Ricardo sang for her and became king of Calypso Cricket band.

By Lauren Stockingate Mill Junior

Ricardo Small, a young boy, whose dream was to play for his country in a cricket match, was soon crushed when he didn't catch a vital ball at the end of a cricket match for his team Calypso C.C. and everyone starts to call him butter-finger. He thought that the bat his Uncle Alvin had given him for his birthday would bring him luck because it was his first real willow cricket bat. One day, when Rikki Tikki Tavi (that was Ricardo's nickname) was visiting the cricket pitch with his dog Jessie, he meets the grounds man called Count Crawfish. The Count had once played for Calypso C.C! Rikki has a little red book that he writes songs, poems and raps in. Leo, a big bully in the story is always picking on Rikki, who proves that Leo is scared of something but you will have to read the book to find out what it is!!

By Kieran Stockingate Mill Junior

Ricardo played for Calypso Cricket Club. He was not very good, he always played twelfth man i.e. THE SUB. His Uncle Alvin gave him a bat. It was Ricardo's first game, one of the opposition cracked a great ball and it was coming Ricardo's way,

it fell into his hands and fell out. He ran away and hid. Big Lugs (Leo) looked for every opportunity to bully him. One day Ricardo came to the pitch with his dog Jessie. Ricardo had a little red book with raps and poems in it. Count Crawfish gave Rikki Tikki Tavi lots of advice, which built up his confidence and he offered to sit with him at the cup final match and to give him an ending for his song. Martha, Rikki's sister, told him to go and talk to Basher to build his friendship with him. Ricardo brought his dog to the ground and Leo was scared of it. Even though Leo has been nasty to him in the past, when Rikki gets the chance to help Leo out he does so, by giving him batting advice through his Calypso songs. If you want to find out whether Calypso C.C. manage to win the cup final then you'll have to read this great story for yourself.

By Corey Stockingate Mill Junior

The main character is called Ricardo. His Uncle Alvin gave him his first willow cricket bat. He felt proud. His Uncle Alvin thought it would improve his playing and make him a star because he wasn't good at cricket. He played for Calypso Cricket Club. He was the sub, the twelfth man! He got his chance to play against Saints but at the end, he didn't catch a vital ball to go top of the table. He felt embarrassed and the best fast bowler on the team, Big Lugs (Leo) called him butter-fingers. He went over to watch Calypso play in the final and they won.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN FOR THEIR BOOK REVIEWS WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, WE WERE UNABLE TO INCLUDE IN THE 26th EDITION OF 'READ ALL ABOUT IT'.

Cory, Michael, Megan, Brett, Imogen, Mathew, Danielle, Jordan, Shannon, Jake, Ashleigh, Luke, Jessica, Conor, Chelsea,

Amelia, Daniel, Joe, Tyler, Stephanie, and Shannon from
Stockingate Mill Junior School.