

"Read All About It"

28th Edition

Welcome to the last edition of Read All About it before we launch our new format for reviewing books. From March to April 2008 copies of recent children's fiction will be on display in SLS for teachers to borrow and review with their pupils. If you cannot visit SLS please telephone us and we will send you a selection of up to four books which you can return to us via your local library. Please send your reviews to us via email and they will be printed on our website. (see contact details)

Please watch out on ipoint for details of authors visiting SLS to speak about children's literature and please telephone us if you would like to attend.

LET'S TAKE OVER THE NURSERY

By Richard Hamilton
Bloomsbury
Pbk £5.99
ISBN 9780747573036

Story:

The story reminds the children how much school is fun, with or without the teacher.

Comments:

Brilliant rhyming words used in this story. The children loved the illustrations and humour side of the story.

Jebun Karolia Equality & Diversity Services

By Charlotte Heath View Community Primary

I liked the bit where all of the children messed up all of the classroom. I loved all the funny bits. The waves were all around the people. The teacher, called Miss Tuck, was stuck in the climbing frame. I didn't like the bit where they nipped each other.

By Melita Heath View Community Primary

I liked the whole story, but I mostly loved when they messed the nursery and when they pulled Miss Tuck. The bit I didn't like was when they locked up Miss Tuck. The funniest part was when naughty Gemma said " Miss, I'm desperate for a wee!"

By Courtney Heath View Community Primary

I like it where they paint all over the classroom and mess it all up, because it was funny when they messed up the classroom. I liked the rhyming words. I like Milly's and Tilly's names because they are so nice people.

By Callum Heath View Community Primary

I like the bit where they paint on the wall and when Gemma was desperate for a wee and I like the rhyming words.

By Louis Heath View Community Primary

I liked the bit where they paint all over the classroom. I liked the bit when Spike was speeding on the trike. I liked every single bit of the book.

TOM AND THE TINFUL OF TROUBLE

By Nick Sharratt

Scholastic

Pbk £5.99

ISBN 9780439944748

Age range 3-8 (up to 11 for those new to English)

Story:

Tom finds an absorbing way to pass the time whilst Mum is busy. However, Mum is not impressed with the results. Tom and Mum then work hard for a long time to put matters right, but will Tom have learned his lesson?

Comments:

This is a delightful book for adults and children to enjoy together. It is a useful resource for developing concepts in relation to time. The story presents an opportunity to open discussion with children about asking for help and permission from an adult before trying to do a "grown up's" job. It is also a cautionary tale for anyone supervising children. The joy of this book is in the shared activity of parent and child working together to overcome a problem. This is certainly a book for reading together and it offers plenty of opportunities for talking and thinking. The style of the book is very attractive for children learning English as an additional language because of the repeated phrases and the close association between text and illustrations.

Elizabeth Martin Equality & Diversity Services

THAT'S NOT FUNNY

By Adrian Johnson

Bloomsbury

Pbk £5.99

ISBN 9780747581017

Age range 6-11 (but suitable up to 13 for children with language learning needs)

Story:

Through twelve double pages, each with humorous details in the illustrations, Alfie's grandad finds a way to cure his grandson of his habit of laughing at other people's misfortune.

Comments:

Children who are learning English as an additional language will enjoy this book because the meaning of the text is well supported by the visual images. The style of the illustrations is attractive to older children who are needing simple texts. The variety of situations Alfie

encounters within this tale, open up many possibilities for comment and discussion, enriching language development.

Elizabeth Martin Equalities & Diversities Services

GOAT AND DONKEY IN STRAWBERRY SUNGLASSES

By Simon Puttock

Oxford University Press

Pbk £5.99

ISBN 9780192725998

Age range 5-6

Story:

It is a story about two friends - Goat and Donkey, when they discover they have no food in the cupboard, Goat offers to go shopping. Aware that his good friend is often forgetful and gets in a muddle, Donkey agrees. Goat sets off with the shopping list that Donkey has written and brings back various unsuitable items. Because of their great affection for each other, Donkey is quick to forgive his friend and accepts a gift happily.

Comments:

A delightful story about friendship, with bright colourful illustrations. The two characters are very appealing and will endear themselves to young readers. It is full of gentle humour.

Meryl Smith Horbury Bridge CE J&I

By Hannah Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because it has bright pictures and shining strawberry sunglasses. The best part of the story is when Goat got everything wrong when he went shopping. I think that the story was excellent with good pictures too.

By Georgina Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because Goat and Donkey are friends and I enjoyed looking at the pictures. The best part of the story is when Donkey and Goat go shopping together and buy the right things. I think that the sunglasses are very funny.

By Joanna Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because Goat was funny and couldn't read Donkey's writing. The best part of the story is when Goat buys things that aren't on the list. I think that Donkey should have gone shopping and Goat should have done some jobs.

By Daniel Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like the story because it had nice pictures. The best part of the story is when Goat forgets things and he got some strawberry sunglasses instead of strawberry ice-cream. I think that the book is cool and funny. It was funny because Goat kept forgetting things and putting the wrong things in.

By Thomas Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because Goat bought all the wrong things. It was funny. The best part of the story was when Donkey was dribbling his ice-cream. I think the story made me laugh.

By Luke Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because they had extremely colourful sunglasses. Donkey's ice-cream dribbled down him. The best part of the story is when the two friends went together out shopping, when Goat bought the strawberry sunglasses. I think that it would be fantastic if Donkey went shopping instead. Donkey would have been cross because Goat bought all the wrong things.

By Max Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I liked this story because Goat and Donkey are best friends and when Goat came back from the shops, Donkey wasn't mad with him. The best part of the story is when Goat and Donkey went to the shops together and they bought other things. I think that Donkey was very hungry when Goat bought things that Donkey didn't want.

By Harrison Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I liked this story because it had very exciting pictures in it. The best part of the story is when the donkey went shopping and he bought things that weren't on the list. I think that the pictures were colourful.

By Serina Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because some of the pictures are funny. The best part of the story is when Goat bought the strawberry sunglasses. It was funny. The story is fantastic because Donkey wrote a shopping list for his friend.

By Grace Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because it is fantastic. The goat skipped to the shop. The best part of the story is when the donkey bought some banana glasses. I think that Donkey is a best friend to Goat.

By Alex Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because the friends had some sunglasses with fruit on them. The best part of the story is when the friends went to the shop together. I think that Goat shouldn't get muddled next time.

By Ben Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because Donkey and Goat went shopping together and Donkey got banana sunglasses. The best part of the story is when Donkey wrote the shopping list and Goat got muddled up. I think that Donkey and Goat could have been more careful with their ice-creams.

By James Horbury Bridge CE J&I

The best part of the story is when Goat's ice-cream drips down his fur. I think that it was great because they had strawberry sunglasses and banana glasses.

By Olivia Horbury Bridge CE J&I

I like this story because I like the pictures. The best part of the story is when the goat bought the strawberry sunglasses.

GOAT AND DONKEY IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By Simon Puttock

Oxford University Press

Pbk £5.99

ISBN 019279194X

Age range 7-10

Story:

Goat wakes up one morning simply bursting to explore the great outdoors. He has his tent, his rucksack, his binoculars, & even his favourite teddy, but Goat just can't decide where to go. After some gentle advice from the ever-patient Donkey, Goat discovers that the best place for a holiday might not be very far away at all.

Comments:

The story is funny and captured pupils' interest, particularly the illustrations. Children were able to relate to the characters of the story, as the characters were like two friends. After reading, pupils got talking about their own experiences of camping. The children enjoyed the story. They found the illustrations very funny and thought that they captured their imagination and attention.

Jebun Karolie Equality & Diversity Services

By Chloe Heath View Community Primary

Well, I liked the bit where they always stick together and Donkey comes and stops in the tent with Goat. I also like that they try playing things that you can't play in a tent. I like both characters because they're both funny and they're both realistic and because they're both humorous and they both stick together. They can be very funny because when they decided how low or high they want it, he wanted it to be in the middle. I like the bit where they snuggle up and fall asleep together. He has made the pictures look realistic. He has made the animals look like humans because Donkey has got a few toys on the floor like we have so that 's how realistic he has made it look. I like the part where Donkey is in the swimming pool, with goggles and the mask and the rubber dinghy, and he had a little duck at the side of him and Goat had got a towel and arm bands and the little water hat with the beach ball.

By Jencine Heath View Community Primary

The best part of the book was where Goat and Donkey were trying to play catch in a tent. The book was quite funny. I liked the character, Donkey, because he was asking Goat loads of questions and I like Goat as well because he has got a sense of humour. They both are good friends and they both stick together and they do everything together. I also liked the illustrations. I didn't like the bit where Goat was all alone and it was too quiet for him, but then he shouted Donkey and Donkey came over and Goat was happy then. I like how the goat and donkey have been drawn cartoon style. It was really sweet when they both fell asleep. It was good to know that they are good friends and they like each other. I think they enjoyed camping and they hopefully know what it is like in the great, wide world. I wonder whether they go outside again. I like the picture of the donkey in the swimming pool, when he is wearing the swimming mask and he has a rubber ring round him and he has a little duck at the side of him that I think he is playing with. The goat was dressed funny as well. He was wearing armbands, a wig and he had a beach towel around him.

By Jacob Heath View Community Primary

This book is funny. For me, it is most funny when Goat says, "Goody, goody and gumdrops" or when they try to do something in the tent. To me, the best character is Donkey because he is the one who quizzes Goat. He is the one who brings the toys into the story near the end. I would recommend this book to children of any age under 10. My favourite part of the story is the quiz.

By Jade Heath View Community Primary

The best part of the book was when Goat and Donkey want to play catch because it was a bit silly. My favourite character was Goat because he didn't know where to go and what to do. Goat is funny because he says goody all the time and I like all of the book. Donkey does want to make you laugh but Goat is more fun.

By Kirsty Heath View Community Primary

I liked where Donkey was asking lots of questions. I didn't like the bit where they were making the tent. The bit I thought was funny was when Goat wanted to play in the tent. I liked the character Donkey because he was funny and I didn't like Goat because he was a bit too silly. I liked the whole book because I thought it was very funny and I liked where donkey was in the swimming pool and where Donkey was high up and Donkey was talking to Goat and Goat is low down. I thought the whole book was funny.

By Arron Heath View Community Primary

This story is about a goat and a donkey but Goat wants to go camping in the great outdoors. My favourite part is when Donkey asked all the questions. My favourite character is Donkey because he likes reading books and he's helpful. I didn't like the part when Goat had the ball because he's holding a ball when he's going camping, not footballing or any other ball game. He thinks it's too quiet in the tent.

By Sophie Heath View Community Primary

I liked when they decided to go to the picnic and when they played fun games inside the tent and when Goat got out her scooter. They both were funny and they decided to have a picnic and that's the bit that I liked.

By Ehtisham Heath View Community Primary

I like Donkey when he is swinging on the bench and he is swinging in a hammock. Donkey is helpful and funny. They fell asleep, at the end, together as friends. I like when Donkey is in the pool with sunglasses and flowers in his mouth. I found all the pictures in the book very funny.