

South Island Youth librarians' Conference Timaru 2016

Non Fiction

Title: **Timeline. A Visual History of Our World**

Author: Peter Goes

Publisher: Gecko Press, 2015.

ISBN: 9781776570690

Summary: An outstanding piece of work. History of the World from the Big Bang to ISIS. All the great civilisations and historical movements plus the Centuries and the decades of the 20th and 21st Centuries. Peter Goes illustrations make connections with his illustrations. For everybody.

Title: **Armistice Day. The New Zealand Story. What it is and why it Matters**

Author: Philippa Werry

Publisher: New Holland, 2016

ISBN: 9781869664411

Summary: How WW1 ended, the Armistice and Peace Treaty, the Influenza Epidemic, the Troops coming home and the effects of war on the men scarred by war and the women who lost sons, husbands fathers and fiancés. The casualties, the conscientious objectors and the meaning of the peace.

Title: **First to the Top. Sir Edmund Hillary's Amazing Everest Adventure**

Author: David Hill. Illus. Phoebe Morris

Publisher: PenguinRandom House, 2015.

ISBN: 9780143506874

Summary: Picture book story of Sir Ed and Tenzing's trip to the summit of Everest. Simple font and text with fantastic illustrations from first timer Phoebe Morris. Very accessible for everyone.

Title: Jammin' with Steven Adams

Author: David Riley

Publisher: www.readingwarrior.com

ISBN: 9780473301187

Summary: One of a number of sports biographies that include Steven Adams, Sonny Bill Williams and Benji Marshall and other non fiction texts on Rugby and Samoan Heroes. For reluctant boy readers who can't get into fiction. Superbly set out with pictures and facts. *Intermediate high schools.*

Title: **What Dog Knows**

Author: Sylvia Vanden Heeds. Illus. Marije Tolman

Publisher: Gecko Press, 2016

ISBN: 9781776570379

Summary: Wolf and dog spar it out in this non fiction work that includes information on Knights, dragons, pirates, dinosaurs robots the moon, making tea and others. The clash between wolf who is scared of the cat and can't read and the literate dog is very entertaining. *For primary Intermediate*

Picture Books

Title: **Aziz and the Little Blue Bird**

Author: Laila Koubaa illus Mattias de Leeuw

Publisher: Book Island, 2015

ISBN: 9780994109866

Summary: Set in an Arabic country young boy Azizi sees the unfairness in his country with the gap between rich and poor. He sets free a blue bird that has been captured by the gluttonous rulers and starts a freedom movement. *Sophisticated.*

Title: **The House on the Hill**

Author: Kyle Mewburn. Illus Sarah Davis

Publisher: Scholastic, 2016

ISBN: 9781775430841

Summary: Two little ghosts make their way to the house at the top of the hill. Sepia tone colour illustrations and an Edgar Alan Poe feel about the language. Best Picture book by a NZer this year.

Title: **The Lion and the Bird**

Author: Marianne Dubuc

Publisher: Book Island, 2015.

ISBN: 9780994109875

Summary: A peaceful organised and lonely lion with immaculate mane saves a bird who is flying south for the winter. They become firm friends as bird recovers. When spring returns bird leaves to rejoin his friends. The cycle of life beautifully told and illustrated.

Title: **Changing Times. Story of a NZ town and its newspaper**

Author: Bob Kerr

Publisher: Potton & Burton

ISBN: 9781927213537

Summary: A history of a family who come to NZ in the 1840's and set up a newspaper. The story of the family, the town that they helped build and the newspaper through changing technology. First class.

Title: **How to Be Famous**

Author: Michal Shalev

Publisher: Gecko Press, 2016

ISBN: 9781776570294

Summary: Pigeon has a highly inflated opinion of himself. He thinks he is famous. Perhaps he is. He does have a remarkable family but pride can lead to mistakes. Good read-a-loud.

Title: **Leaving for the Front. A Boys story**

Author Michelle O'Connell

Publisher: www.bms.co.nz

ISBN: 9781508517474

Summary: A simple story reenacting the departure of troops from Masterton during World war 1 told through the eyes of a young boy. Based on a real event the clothes and style of the original event are recreated by the school children. Beautifully illustrated and a simple read-a-loud.

Primary/Intermediate Fiction

Title: The Boy at the Top of the Mountain

Author: John Boyne

Publisher: Corgi, Random House, 2015

ISBN: 9780552573542

Summary: 7 year old Pierrot is half French half German and lives in Paris in 1936. Both parents die and he travels to Nazi Germany to stay with his Aunt who is housekeeper to Adolf Hitler. The innocent Pierrot transforms into the monstrous Pieter. A powerful story from the author of *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. *Intermediate*

Title: The Road to Ratenburg

Author: Joy Cowley. Illus. Gavin Bishop

Publisher: Gecko Press, 2016

ISBN: 9781776570751

Summary: Spinnaker rat his wife Tesina and their 4 children are forced out of their home in the city and journey to find the legendary rat heaven Ratenburg. The journey is fraught with danger. Great read-a-loud. *Primary*

Title: Enemy Camp

Author: David Hill

Publisher: Penguin/randomHouse, 2016

ISBN: 9780143309123

Summary: Ewen is in standard 5 at Featherston in 1943. He has friends in Clarry who has polio and his brother Barry. Ewen's father works at Featherston Camp where 600 Japanese soldiers, sailors and civilians are incarcerated. Emotions, beliefs and frustrations are high on both sides leading to the inevitable riot and shootings. Told in diary form by Ewen. Very readable. *Intermediate*.

Title: Terry Teo and the Gunrunners

Author: Bob Kerr and Stephen Ballantyne

Publisher: Earth's End, 2015

ISBN: 9780473330675

Summary: Skateboarding Terry witnesses a crime being committed at rich man villain Ray Vegashouse. He is captured and with help of family and friends escapes and thwarts gunrunners. Cartoon graphic picture book that has high boy appeal especially to reluctant readers. Also has a section about the history of Terry Teo as a book, a tv series and a film.

Title: Johnny Danger: Lie Another Day

Author: Peter Millett

Publisher: Puffin, 2016

ISBN: 9780143309055

Summary: When super villain Major Pain threatens the World with an undetectable weapon of mass destruction Johnny Danger and Penelope Pounds are called by M16 to sort it out. Dr Distrous is never far from the action. Witty. For reluctant readers. *Primary/Intermediate*

Title: Starlight Stables Bk1 Pony Detectives

Author: Soraya Nicholas

Publisher: Puffin Books, 2016

ISBN: 9780143308614

Summary: Poppy is living at Starlight Stables for the school holidays with her Aunt Sophia who trains young riders. She is joined by Milly and Katie and the girls become friends. They discover that horse thieves are around the neighbourhood and step in to reveal who they are.

Title: Starlight Stables Bk2. Gymkhana Hijinks.

Author: Soraya Nicholas

Publisher: Puffin Books, 2016

ISBN:978013308638

Summary: Poppy, Katie and Milly are joined by the bitchy, ruthless and unfriendly Jessica on her horse Cleopatra who she whips. The girls are not happy and when things go wrong Jessica is the suspect. *Primary/intermediate.*

Title: Detective Gordon: A complicated Case

Author: Ulf Nilsson. Illus. Gitte Spee

Publisher: Gecko Press, 2015

ISBN: 9781776570652

Summary: Part 2 in a series of read-a-lone novels about a toad and a mouse who solve mysteries and enforce the law in a large forest. Easy to read and perceptive. *Junior*

Title: Being Magdalene

Author: Fleur Beale

Publisher: Penguin Random House, 2015

ISBN: 9781775537670

Summary: The 3rd part of the trilogy about the Children of the Faith religious cult and the Pilgrim family who have constantly challenged the Rule which guides the behaviour of the cult's members. Magdalene aged 12 and Zillah aged 8 lead the challenge this time in a satisfying and positive conclusion to this story that began with I am Not Esther and I am Rebecca. *Intermediate*

Title: Goodbye Stranger

Author: Rebecca Stead

Publisher: Text Publishing, 2015

ISBN: 9781925240320

Summary: Bridge, Tab and Em are in 7th grade and have been friends for ever. They are changing physically and emotionally. When Em is asked to send a photo of herself to a hot boy it starts off a series of events that changes lives. Good relationship novel. *Intermediate*

Title: Moth Girls

Author: Anne Cassidy

Publisher: Hot Key Books, 2016

ISBN: 9781471405112

Summary: Mandy, Petra and Tina are friends. They are 12 years old and on a day when Petra and Tina tell Mandy to go home they go into an old house and are never seen again. 5 years later the old house is demolished & clues start emerging as to the whereabouts of the missing girls. A mystery/thriller

High School/Young Adults

Title: All That is Lost Between Us

Author: Sara Foster

Publisher: Simon & Schuster, 2016

ISBN: 9781925184785

Summary: 18 year old Georgia has done something she doesn't want her mother to know. In fact every character in this book has a secret. A deliberate accident on a lonely road late at night precipitates all secrets being revealed. A thriller.

Title: What We Saw

Author: Aaron Hartzler

Publisher: Harper Teen, 2015

ISBN: 9780062452979

Summary: A girl is raped at a high school basketball teams party in a small Iowa town. The consequences of this action change lives and the culture of the whole town. Well argued and an unhappy but logical ending for everyone. Attitudes and perceptions are also on trial.

Title: Not If I See You First

Author: Eric Lindstrom

Publisher: HarperCollins, 2015

ISBN: 9780008146344

Summary: Parker is 16 years old, blind, at high school and getting over the death of her father and the end of a relationship with a boy that humiliated her. She is grieving and has adopted a very testy personality. She needs to change.

Title: They Call me Alexandra Gastone

Author: T.A. Maclagan

Publisher: Full Fathom Five Digital, 2015

ISBN: 9781633700604

Summary: Melina is a sleeper agent in America living with her adopted grandfather Albert who is an agent for the CIA. Melina has been made to look and be Alexandra Gastone for a reason and when she is 18 years she is called to do a job that will break her life and others apart. Great spy novel.

Title: Hucking Cody

Author: Aaron Topp

Publisher: Mary Egan Publishing, 2015

ISBN: 9780473326685

Summary: A book for reluctant boy readers about freeriding. Pedalling downhill without fear with back wheel suspension. Lots of competition, family problems, a bad boy brother and a girl who everybody would love to meet, fearless, funny, and a stud in her nose. Easy short chapters and a great ending.

Bob Docherty

<https://bobsbooksnz.wordpress.com/>