abound and will add humour for many readers amid tales of flood, bushfire and acts of bravery by Stamp, his owner James, and the newest member of the team, Ace. Animal lovers will be attracted by the covers and should enjoy reading about the adventures of the rescue dogs. C. Keane

USER LEVEL: Stage 1 Stage 2
Paper $9.99 each

REVIEWS TITLES IN THIS SERIES
Bush rescue
SCIS 1702825
Farm rescue
SCIS 1703250

We meet again
PASTIS, Stephan
Walker Books, UK, 2014 (Timmy Failure 3)
ISBN 9781406356748

The third volume of Timmy Failure’s adventures and misadventures as a junior detective on his quest for Greatness continues its eclectic style. Graphic novel pages are interspersed with pun-filled text, survey questions and black and white picture clues. Some jokes, while humorous for young readers, are also seemingly aimed at adult readers, relying on a knowledge of other literary works, songs, movie titles and other media. Much of the action takes place at a school camp, with many familiar elements, most with a quirky twist. Official pages of related online resources for students and teachers are promoted in a section called Take a break between cases. I. McLean

USER LEVEL: Stage 2 Stage 3
SCIS 1683752 $17.95

Meet Marly
PUNG, Alice
Puffin Books, VIC, 2015 (Our Australian girl)
ISBN 9780143308492

Marly’s family made the treacherous boat journey from Vietnam when she was two years old and she remembers very little of her life before Australia. When her uncle and his family arrive and share their house, after seven long years in refugee camps, Marly is torn. She wants to help her cousins blend into the Aussie life at school, but … The conflicting values and priorities of each culture make Marly, at first, begrudge and then appreciate what is important. The name-calling and ostracism in the playground might lead to discussions of similar behaviour, both in the present and times past, to support History outcome HT3-3. This title is the first of four about Marly and her family in Melbourne in the 1980s. Although broadcast years before publication of this series, this Writers talk interview provides insight into the author’s background and writing, supporting a study of the English K–10 concept, Perspective. S. Morton

USER LEVEL: Stage 2 Stage 3
KLA: AC; English; HSIE
SYLLABUS: English K–10; History K–10
SCIS 1694821 Paper $14.99

Lennie the legend: solo to Sydney by pony
REEDER, Stephanie Owen
National Library of Australia, ACT, 2015
ISBN 9780642278654

Two threads of Australian history combine in this fictionalised reconstruction of Lennie Gwyther – life during the Great Depression and the completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Using primary and secondary sources, identified in detail at the end of the book, the author describes nine-year old Lennie’s life on the family’s Victorian farm, his enthrallment at the engineering marvel of the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and his determination to be at the opening. Each chapter concludes with a double page spread of added historical information. Lennie’s journey was an astounding feat of perseverance and independence, albeit supported by a network of his father’s contacts, which might provoke discussion as to its feasibility in a modern context. Occasionally the invented dialogue sounds a little simplistic but the wealth of historically accurate background more than counterbalances this, ably
The rabbit and the shadow
RUTTEN, Melanie
Translated by Sarah ARDIZZONE
Book Island, NZ, 2014
ISBN 9780994109804
Six disparate characters take part in this illustrated chapter book – the Rabbit who wants to grow up, the anxious Stag, the Soldier at war, the Cat and his recurring dream, the Book that wants to know everything, and the Shadow. Everyday childhood experiences can sometimes be overwhelming, but here, through ten short chapters, they are explained in a gentle and comforting fashion. They include the discussion between a parent and child about what might happen if the parent is no longer around, the anger and hurt displayed by a child moving between divorced parents, the desire of a child to prove they no longer need an adult’s supervision, and managing fears and friendships. Each character gains a greater understanding of self and is better prepared to carry on in a positive frame of mind. S. Morton
USER LEVEL: Stage 2 Stage 3 Stage 4
KLA: AC; English; HSIE
SYLLABUS: English K-10; History K-10
SCIS 1696919 $24.99

Frank Einstein and the antimatter motor
SCIESZKA, Jon & BIGGS, Brian
Amulet Books, UK, 2014 (Frank Einstein; 1)
ISBN 9781419715068
Aiming its jokes at several audiences, this clever take on the Frankenstein saga and real science theories has wide appeal. Some media culture in-jokes are quite obscure, including references to popular science fiction stories. Frank is a child genius scientist and inventor. Assisted by robots, Klink and Klank, he creates an antimatter motor in an attempt to win the Grabco science prize. Arch rival T. Edison indulges in kidnapping and espionage to steal his ideas. Illustrator Brian Biggs contributes design plans, labelled diagrams and cartoon graphics to support and enhance the text. Support materials for students and teachers can be downloaded from Frank Einstein. I. McLean
USER LEVEL: Stage 2 Stage 3
SCIS 1676920 Paper $11.99

The greying
SUTHERLAND, Dallas
Noveletta, USA, 2014 (The Landland chronicles)
ISBN 9781495206962
The greying is a fantasy novella for students aged 9 to 13. After the death of her mother, Meah, the central heroine, finds herself alone and lost in Landland, an enchanted realm where all manner of wicked birds and beasts live, under the evil power of Queen Berilbog.