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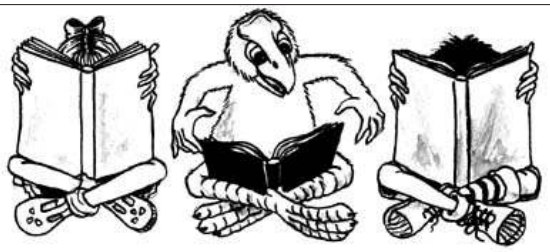


Hester and Lester - Kyle Mewburn

Published by Random House, RRP $29.99

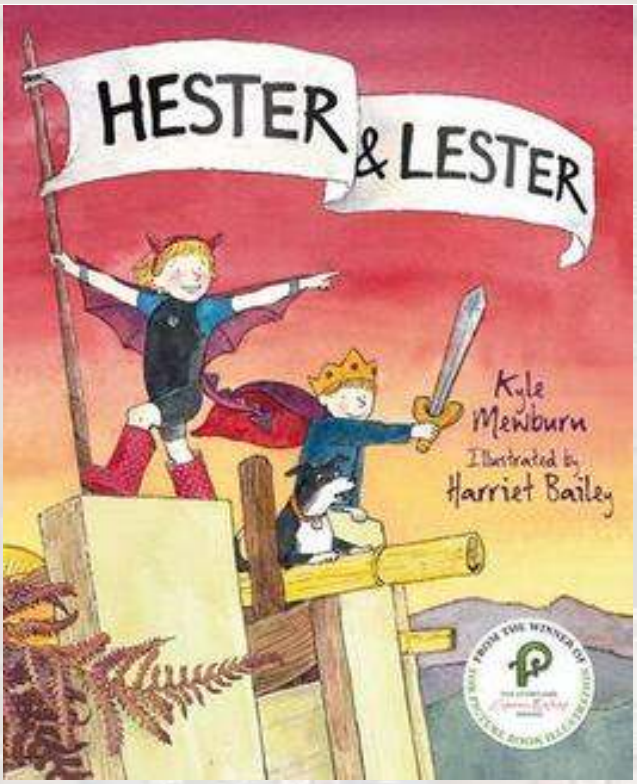
Thumbs up to this celebration of creative kids exploring the outdoors.

Young Lester is bored with playing on his own and is rather glum. His big sister, Hester, helps Lester to discover his imagination and their world becomes a shared adventure. Together they build a castle amongst the trees. They dig a moat and fill it with ferocious beasts. Then they make a drawbridge wide enough for a dozen horses. Their kingdom expands as their inventive story unfolds.

Harriet Bailey's illustrations are a superb partnership with the author's text. Earthy, autumn colours match the natural materials the children use in their play world. Larger-than-life snails become a troop of soldiers in suits of armour. Bamboo sticks line the ramparts as mighty cannons. Hester and Lester sweep leaves of gold from the forest floor to fill the castle's treasury. The family dog joins in the fun and games until it's time for tea.

A warm-hearted story that should encourage youngsters to play outside. The quality hardback publication is a bonus.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.



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