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***A House for Donfinkle* by Choechoe Breerton, illustrated by Wayne Harris**

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$27.99

Lyrical rhyming text, reminiscent of Dr Seuss, brings the quirky characters to life, especially the industrious Donfinkle.

*Up high in the grasslands
where Wooble Beasts roam,
Donfinkle Vonkrinkle
is building his home.*

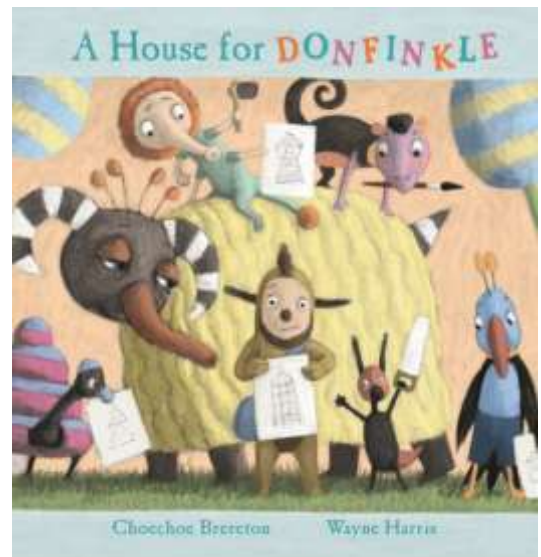
The eye-catching design in a similar shape to a lighthouse, is built with mud walls, beech wood windows and a pine porch. A low fence and slender trees complete the beautiful home. But busybody, mean-spirited creatures soon swoop in to criticise Donfinkle's work of art.

*The door is too shiny,
the walls are too square,
the porch is too piny,
the roof is too bare.*

Donfinkle tries to incorporate the multitude of bizarre suggestions as to how he should alter his home until it is no longer his dream house - it's a monstrosity. Finally, the critics realise the harm they have caused and set about making amends.

Colourful digital artwork by Wayne Harris shows imaginative characters and chaotic scenes. The eccentric fault-finders are seen as a discordant lot each trying to outdo the other. Although, when they start to work together then warmth returns to the illustrations and harmony reigns in the final pages.

The landscape format keeps the detailed building activity close to young readers' line of sight, particularly when the illustrations extend to full double-spread and the end papers. A classy, hardback publication with durable paper.



Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

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