

# BOOKRAPT™

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## ***Sam & Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett illustrated by Jon Klassen**

**Publisher: Walker Books**

**RRP \$27.99**

A picture book that captures the delight of boys digging holes along with the hope that treasure might be found.

Sam and Dave swing shovels over their shoulders and march off in their gumboots to the backyard. They begin digging a hole with tradesman-like precision and determination. Their watchful dog has his own idea of what treasure he would like to find.

“We are on a mission,” said Dave. “We won’t stop digging until we find something spectacular.”

Earthy tones show up well against the cream paper. There’s a clever contrast between the storyline and what can be seen in the pencil and digital illustrations. As the boys dig deeper and deeper, cross-sections show shining gems to the sides of their hole.

Dave thinks that digging straight down isn’t getting them anywhere so they agree to tunnel off to different sides. The reader can see that their decision-making leads them all around the treasure. Young readers will be bursting to shout out and tell the boys where they should dig.

Eventually, the exhausted and dirty boys sit down in their hole for a rest. However, the dog can sense his buried treasure is close by. He digs and digs until they all fall right through the bottom, down, down, down.

But where do they end up? The artist has left visual clues that will provoke some interesting discussions.

**Reviewed by children’s author Jean Bennett**

**Author’s website:**

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**Illustrator’s website:**

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