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Stories for 7 year olds by New Zealand authors

Publisher: Random House New Zealand

RRP \$19.99

Here's another superb collection of 25 stories from well-known New Zealand authors such as Jane Buxton, Emma Neale, Barbara Else, and Sandy McKay. It's a good companion to the Random House publication 'Stories for 6 year olds'.

Young people will enjoy the Kiwi themes that bring to life familiar scenes, experiences, and recognisable dialogue. Humour enlivens many of the stories such as the unwanted gift of an ugly jersey, and the girl who gave up brushing her hair. The topics are wide-ranging encompassing family stories, sibling rivalry, friendships, holidays, athletic competitiveness, animals, and environmental issues.

Capable readers should be able to read and understand these stories on their own. They are suitable for buddy reading, and especially handy to fill in those last ten minutes before the school bell rings. Many of the stories could be used as examples to prompt young writers to develop their own creative ideas.

The large typeface with plenty of white space is an aid to reading for this age group. Some black-and-white sketches accompany the stories for visual interest. The stylish cover and short story format make this an attractive publication for young readers moving into chapter books.

Parents, teachers, and librarians will appreciate this versatile selection of stories for read-aloud sessions. It also makes an excellent gift.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

