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Timmy Failure: We Meet Again by Stephan Pastis

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$19.99

What Timmy lacks in detective skills he makes up for in perseverance and commitment to his cause. At first, Timmy appears to be pumped up with self-belief and an enlarged ego.

However, the outward hype hides a few vulnerabilities, such as fear of the dark and a lonely nature in need of an imaginary friend - a large, clueless polar bear. Our hero's imagination also stretches to excessive paranoia about other people's intentions towards him.

Physical activity is a definite no-no for Timmy, in spite of his mother's encouragement for him to be involved in sport. He's convinced the baseball coach is determined to maim him with curveballs and passes out when a ball hits him lightly on the head.

There are so many problems in his life to deal with! A school nature project is another burden which interrupts the intrepid detective's sleuthing. When the principal threatens Timmy with permanent suspension, it's essential that he knuckles down and starts working with his project partner. Unfortunately, he's not pleased at being paired with Corrinna Corrinna, whom he perceives as devious.

Humorous line drawings illustrate the complicated life of the perplexed investigator. He's a comical, endearing young fellow who often stumbles into trouble. Although, when his best friend is in strife, Timmy's courage is admirable.

The combination of entertaining storyline and graphic illustration is a popular format with primary school readers. Published in hardback at a reasonable price.

Reviewed by children's author Jean Bennett

Author's website:

www.timmyfailure.com

