



***The unlikely adventures of Mabel Jones* by Will Mabbitt illustrated by Ross Collins**

Publisher: Puffin Books, Penguin Random House UK

RRP \$ 17.99

This is a ripper adventure packed with non-stop action, bravery, and dastardly villains. It's a swashbuckling tale of great daring, witty dialogue, and loads of humour. Primary school readers will zip through the 290 pages.

When young Mabel unwittingly does 'The Deed' she is transported to *The Feroshus Maggot*, a pirate ship captained by the wolfish, one-eyed, one-legged Captain Idryss Ebenezer Split. He and his misfit crew are horrified when they are joined by a girl. They're on a quest to find the missing pieces of the letter X which will give them access to a portal into the hooman world.

As the pirate ship sails through dangerous seas, Mabel encounters treachery and alarming situations. However, she's a resourceful heroine who meets all challenges with ingenuity and spirit. Along the way, she receives assistance from an unlikely helper and gains the respect of her shipmates.

Ross Collin's line drawings enhance the personalities of the outlandish characters. They're a rag-tag bunch with individual peculiarities that the artist accentuates in his comic sketches. A variety of text styles adds emphasis to important phrases which 'pumps-up' the dramatic moments (perfect for reading aloud).

Hopefully, there will be more Mabel Jones books published soon to entertain young readers.

Mabel Jone's website:

www.mabeljonesbooks.co.uk

**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett**

