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***What Dog Knows* by Sylvia Vanden Heede Illustrated by Marije Tolman, translated by Bill Nagelkerke**

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP \$19.99

Join cousins Dog and Wolf as they learn about robots, pirates, knights, mummies, skeletons, rockets, the moon, and more. These are often topics of fascination for children, and the author taps into this interest. With the help of books, Dog and Wolf also learn about the difference between fact and fiction. The reader will too, through the funny antics and conversations of the cousins.

Dog and Wolf are great characters. Wolf has a worrying penchant for sharp knives and flesh and blood. However, he is also mischievous and loves making funny rhymes. Dog is kind and knowledgeable, learning a lot by asking questions and reading books. The dialogue and comic interplay between the two characters is hilarious, but it is the wonderful illustrations that really bring their distinct personalities to life, and make them interesting and likeable.

This book is a unique mix of story, factual information, activities, and quizzes. The use and placement of full page illustrations, speech and thought bubbles links these components together in a satisfying way. The humorous visual jokes are an added bonus.

What the Dog Knows is a beautifully designed chapter book, with superb use of colour, clever use of fonts, and a sturdy production that will withstand many hours of reading and re-reading. The book will suit beginning or independent readers and would also be a good read aloud for children 6 years of age and over. Overall – funny, informative, imaginative and intriguing...a joy of a book!

It follows on from *Wolf and Dog*, the first story about the cousins (Gecko Press, 2013).

**Reviewed by Lee Rowe,
Librarian, MLIS, RLIANZA, ALIANZA**

