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***That's not a Hippopotamus!* by Juliette MacIver illustrated by Sarah Davis**

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**RRP \$29.99 hardback
\$19.99 softcover**

Liam's class is on a visit to Don's Safari Park where many creatures roam wild and free. Although one animal seems to be missing - a hippopotamus.

The hunt is on! The harried teacher tries to keep her class under control as they dash off in pursuit of the hippo. The over-excited children discover many animals, including some that terrify their teacher, but the hippopotamus remains elusive. Liam has a hunch he knows where the large animal is hiding, but the teacher doesn't listen when he tries to tell her.

The rhyming story rollicks along in step with the speedy searchers:

A missing hippopotamus!

The trail is getting hotter, Miss!

*Good thing we're here. The very best
of hippo-hunters in the west.*

Sarah Davis's choice of soft colours works well with the natural environment. Her illustrations are full of action. The kids are a wonderful mix of boisterous, studious, follow-the-leader, and feral personalities. While the teacher's expressions and body language reflects the anxiety of an adult trying to protect children from mortal danger. Young readers will be delighted to spot the shadowy hippopotamus and echo Liam: "I think I see 'im..."

It's a hilarious read-aloud story and could be a helpful cautionary tale prior to a class outing.

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Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

