



***Barking Mad* by Tom E Moffatt, illustrated by Paul Beavis**

Publisher: Scholastic NZ

RRP \$17.00

Barking Mad won the Tom Fitzgibbon Award for 2015. It is the first book published by author Tom Moffatt, but will surely not be his last. He has created realistic characters and authentic dialogue in a far-fetched tale of mind-swapping. With humour aplenty, this is a chapter book with a fast moving pace.

Sally and Finn's parents explain to their children that their much-loved grandfather has gone mad and is about to be taken to a special hospital. The children are fearful – they know Grandad hates hospitals and don't want to believe he is mad.

"Something wasn't right at all! Grandad is definitely a bit wacky, but that's what makes him so great. He's like one of those crazy inventors you see in the movies, but he's not crazy crazy, if you know what I mean."

When they discover the cause of this supposed madness, they know their parents will not believe them. It is up to them to sort things out and get Grandad home again. But everything they try seems to land them in ridiculous situations, and sometimes into trouble with the authorities.

Humorous black and white illustrations add to the craziness of the circumstances they get themselves into. Typical siblings, there is frequent friction, but for the sake of their grandfather Sally and Finn work through this.

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Reviewed by Chris Wright

