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Barbarians! by Kyle Mewburn, illustrated by Donovan Bixley

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RRP \$12.00

Barbarians!, Book 6 of the *Dragon Knight* series, is another fun read, a stand-alone story for those who have not yet embarked on this series or the *Dinosaur Rescue* books (who will certainly want to after reading this), but better still for those who have.

Descriptions of revolting smells, toilet humour, and the plentiful similes are great fun:

But rescue was about as likely as an ogre fart smelling like a rose.

The minutes rolled by as slowly as a lump of manure being pushed by a one-legged dung beetle.

Both author and illustrator clearly enjoy their work! The pen and ink illustrations add to the fun of this fast moving story line. Children progressing to chapter books who like illustrations and action aplenty will have plenty of laugh-out loud moments.

Merek, the shape-shifting dragon/young knight in training, has yet another adventure with Breena, who dresses as a boy (Brin) in order to take part in knight training. When they are captured by Barbarians, tied, and strung upside down from a tree, it is Brin who works out how they can escape, then Merek, in dragon form, sends the Barbarians packing.

The maps (*Merek's Village* and *Isle Beback Castle*) and the fact pages (*Top Five Heroines of the Middle Ages*, the *Five Worst Medieval Jobs* and *Five Fun Facts about the Northern War*) add further humour to the storyline, especially for the adult reading aloud. There are many references which the young reader will completely miss: e.g. *Whithering Heights*, *Heath Cliff*, and the *Glob Theatre*. The footnote on Page 14 and the final sentence on Page 52 cannot fail to amuse, and even the chapter headings are a play on words. A book for all ages!

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Reviewed by Chris Wright

