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www.bookrapt.org.nz info@bookrapt.org.nz



Who Sank the Boat? and other stories ***A Pamela Allen Treasury***

Publisher: Picture Puffin

RRP \$45.00 hardback

'A Treasury' is a fitting description for this picture book treasure chest. Hordes of children have grown up with Pamela Allen stories as their favourite books. How to choose one title amongst all the gems is impossible. Therefore, this selection addresses the problem with nine sparkling stories from the award-winning author and illustrator.

Allen's trademark humorous, noisy, energetic and astute stories are showcased in this stitched hardback, landscape publication with a slipcover. Her talents as a wordsmith and an artist are displayed with plenty of white space to set off the vivid, lively illustrations and playful prose. The eccentric, appealing characters are quirky and delightful. The good-size, clear typeface helps new readers to work out the words.

Several of Allen's stories have animals with human characteristics and habits that invite children to consider some of their own behaviour. For instance, *My Cat Maisie* offers an amusing example of how not to treat animals. *Who Sank the Boat?* could be the starting point for a variety of discussions and water experiments. While *Share said the Rooster* has an overt message of the perilous fate that befell two obstinate men. *Grandpa and Thomas* is a realistic, warm-hearted story about a small boy and his grandfather.

This collection of classic children's stories would make a perfect Christmas gift for families to read aloud together time and time again.

Interview with the author/illustrator:

<http://tinyurl.com/gg42o9a>

Reviewed by Jean Bennett



