

The larger-than-life pirate is back for another adventure. His ship, the SS You Beauty, has been stolen and his mode of transportation is now a bus. He drives up to Billy and Heidi's school and persuades them that he needs their help. The bus is full of interesting sea creatures and a pig that thinks he's a parrot.

The pirate's vernacular is not the norm. Instead of using common pirate phrases like 'shiver me timbers' and 'ship ahoy', he comes out with funny expressions like 'butter me bathers' and 'well I'll be a mouthful of seagull's toothpaste'.

Neil Curtis' illustrations, though black and white, beautifully complement the story.

This book would be aimed at children aged seven to ten. The text is easy to read and well spaced.

This book would be great to read with a class as an introduction to a study on the sea. Many interesting sea creatures have a part in this story that could spark an interest in finding out more about sea life.

I did, however, find that this book lacked the element of adult appeal, but it will be a great addition to our library. The children will love it.

Nova Gibson, Summerland Primary School, New Zealand

This easy reader, page turner ruffles the reader with nonsensical word play and the plot of pirate antics is a good encouragement for students reading for pleasure.

Together with the block print illustrations that are such amazing graphics we go on a journey with the timid Billy and Heidi. There is so much nautical word play the reader is 'hooked' from the beginning of the book. There is a treasure trove of vocabulary appropriate for a 10 year old reader.

The main character a pirate being bossy, quick witted and somewhat mad is the main protagonist and the reader forms a bond with the kids in this story because they appear to be stuck with this overexcited bossy pirate aboard the 'SS You Beauty'. These are the sort of characters that the audience, primary aged children would identify with.

The story is loaded with illustrations and the reading is easy with a make believe crew, plenty of actions and plenty of variation in the font and style appearing on each page.

Glad to read a book like this and it will be popular chapter book because it is such a page turner.

Its main purpose has been to entertain.

Helen Latimer, Lakemba Public School, NSW