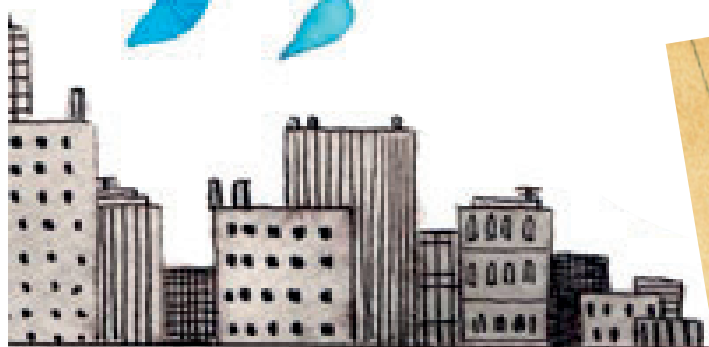


**EXCITING CHAPTER BOOKS
FROM
NEW ZEALAND AND
INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS**



Nitty Gritty is a series of exciting chapter books written by acclaimed New Zealand and International authors.

The series includes 48 paperback readers covering the age range 8-14. The **Nitty Gritty** Novels come with strong themes, cutting edge design and rich texts to motivate young readers.

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Nitty Gritty

Level Zero

Reading Age: 8–10 years
Approximately 10,000 words

The Ninth Dragon

FANTASY

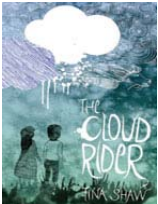


Australian author **Melaina Faranda** is a prolific writer of books for young people. She is the author of an international young adult series, *The Circle*, and published a further nine titles. Melaina Faranda's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *Memory Bones* (level 1) and *Jack No Name* (level 3).

Zac's mum has landed the job of a lifetime – working with ancient relics at a museum in China. And now Zac has to join her over the holidays. Zac had planned to be hanging out with his friends, surfing and riding the new skate park down the road. Now he'll be stuck in freezing cold, deadly boring China. But, after Zac finds a mysterious carved dragon at the airport in Beijing, the trip takes a strange turn. It might not be such a lame holiday after all . . .

The Cloud Rider

FANTASY

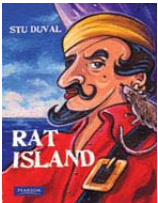


Tina Shaw is an Auckland-based writer, editor and Programme Manager for the NZ Society of Authors. Her work for children, young adults and adults has won her several awards, grants and fellowships, including the Creative New Zealand Berlin Writers' Residency. Tina Shaw's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *Petronas* (level 1), *Into the Hinterland* (level 2) and *Dogs of the Hinterland* (level 3).

Ellie and Jay are playing in the top field of their family farm when a mysterious creature falls from the sky, injured. The Cloud Rider needs to get back to the clouds where he belongs or the evil Werrets will take over the sky and create all sorts of terrible storms. But, when no one else in the family believes their story, Ellie and Jay realise that it is up to them alone to save the Cloud Rider . . .

Rat Island

ADVENTURE/MYSTERY



Stu Duval is a professional story-teller and artist. He has had six previous books published for young people, including, from the Nitty Gritty Series, *Deep Ark 6* (level 1), *Ride of the Katipo* (level 2) and *Lake of the Dead* (level 3).

Tam is a cabin boy aboard the pirate ship Terrified Jane. He lives in fear of the dreaded pirate Captain Ezekiel Tombs and his pet scorpion Virus. Tombs sets Tam the awful task of spying on his shipmates and assures him of a dreadful fate if he doesn't obey his commands. Meanwhile, the crew demand that Tam take their side and mutiny against the captain. Tam has a terrible choice to make – should he obey Captain Tombs' orders, or should he be loyal to the crew and risk the captain's wrath?

Come Down Golden

FICTION



Diana Noonan has published over 100 books for young people of all ages. Her publications include novels, picture books, short stories, plays and poems and have won numerous awards. Other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series include *Treetop Treasure* (level 0), *Flight From Ledron* (level 2) and *Win! Win!* (level 3).

Louis wants a dog. He dreams of training it to follow his commands. It would soon get used to the sudden jerks and twists that his wheelchair-bound body keeps making. It would be his friend. But Mum says no. That's nothing to what she would say if she could see the golden monkey standing on the grass just a few metres away from him, in their own backyard. Louis knows it has escaped from a zoo. They are saying it's too wild to tame, and it will be destroyed if it's found. Is it possible that Louis can tame the beautiful animal? But how can he – all by himself and from his wheelchair?

Treetop Treasure

ADVENTURE/MYSTERY

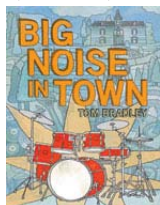


Diana Noonan

When a conservation expert visits their school, Marrick and Fran discover that a rare parakeet, Notornis Beeton, is living right under their noses. The colourful little bird can be heard high in the treetops in the forest near their home. Marrick and Fran are determined to find it. But they aren't the only ones interested in the parakeet. The rare bird is highly prized by poachers. When the pair discover a mysterious boat in the forest's cove, their adventure takes a sinister turn . . .

Big Noise in Town

NARRATIVE RECOUNT

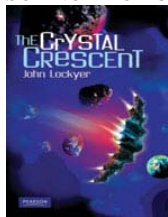


Tom Bradley is a high-profile New Zealander who has produced scores of stories for younger minds. His sixteen books have been enthusiastically reviewed, and he has also written TV sketch comedy, stage musicals and is an award-winning radio writer. Tom Bradley's other novel in the Nitty Gritty Series is *Troublesome Jones* (level 1).

Billy Wheeler has always been a noisy kid. But, ever since his parents split up, Billy's mum has been trying to keep him quiet . . . and sensible. Billy reckons "sensible" is a grown-up's code word for something that's good for you, but boring. There's nothing sensible about the drum kit he wants to buy – a really big drum kit, like really big rock bands have. And that drum kit is going to get him everything he wants – the chance to drum like a rock star. But most of all the chance to spend more time with his dad.

The Crystal Crescent

SCIENCE FICTION



Teacher and author **John Lockyer** has written numerous titles for children of all ages. In 2002, he was shortlisted for the Elsie Locke Award. He has written three other Nitty Gritty novels: *The Intruder* (level 1), *Lost* (level 2) and *Date of Origin* (level 3).

The ozone layer has been destroyed and Earth is at risk. The only hope for human survival is to find the precious liquid telotion. When heated, telotion creates huge amounts of ozone. Raki and Tando are on a mission to find a source of the rare substance when they crash land on an unknown planet. What are the mysterious blue creatures they discover there? And why have they taken over Tando's mind? Raki will face the biggest challenge of his life in his quest to find out and save them both.

Dog Alert

FICTION

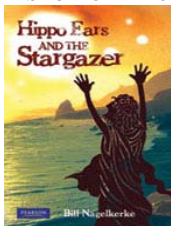


Canadian writer **Alison Lohans** has written numerous books for children and young adults. She has twice won the Young Readers' Choice Award for the Saskatchewan Writers Guild. Her three other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are: *Doppelganger* (level 1), *River Rat* (level 3) and *This Land We Call Home* (level 2).

Zoe had never let being in a wheelchair stop her from doing what she wanted. So, when her parents decided to move to a remote town in north Canada, it sounded like a real adventure. But now that she's here, Zoe's not so sure. The snow makes getting around difficult. All the other kids at school are into snow sports and Zoe can't join in. And, to make matters even worse, the town is full of unpredictable wild dogs. It would be hard to defend yourself from a dog attack in a wheelchair . . .

Hippo Ears and the Stargazer

HISTORICAL FICTION

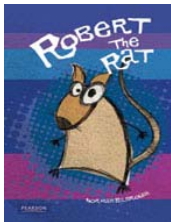


Bill Nagelkerke has written numerous stories, poems and plays. In both 2006 and 2008 he was successfully nominated by Storylines to be a member of the international Hans Christian Andersen Award jury. Bill Nagelkerke's other novel in the Nitty Gritty Series is *Hot Money* (level 1).

Hipparchus and his sister Sappho live on the island of Samos in Ancient Greece. They spend their spare time listening to the ideas of their friend the Stargazer. They are enchanted by his stories about the stars, the sun and the Earth. But Hipparchus and Sappho discover that not everyone agrees with the Stargazer's ideas, and stories can be dangerous. They must find their friend and warn him before it is too late . . .

Robert the Rat

FICTION

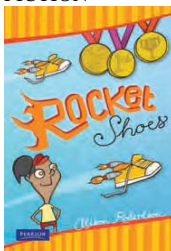


Wellington-based writer **Norman Bilbrough** has written numerous stories for young people and has twice won the Sunday Star Times short story competition. He was Writer in Residence at the University of Canterbury and won the New Zealand section of the International PEN competition. His young adult novel *The Birdman Hunts Alone* was a finalist in the AIM Book Awards senior fiction category in 1995.

All Josh can think about is the pet rat he desperately wants for his birthday. Toby at school has a rat so why can't he? But Grandad wants to get him a metal detector like his own. It's embarrassing enough having to dig the holes at the beach for Grandad, let alone scavenging himself. They never find anything but junk anyway. And there's one other little hurdle to overcome – Mum cannot stand rats.

Rocket Shoes

FICTION



Hamilton-based writer **Alison Robertson** writes fiction for young readers. Her first book, *Knocked for Six*, won the 2000 Tom Fitzgibbon Award. She has a background in journalism and applied arts.

No one can outrun Cassie Price. Her dad tells everyone he meets that she has rockets in her shoes. And she seems to win every game she plays without even trying very hard. But winning isn't always what it's cracked up to be, especially when your friends start saying mean things about you. And, when a new girl at athletics poses a challenge to Cassie, she might have to rethink how important winning really is to her.

Space Race

SCIENCE FICTION



Glynne MacLean has written several novels for young people. *Roivan*, a sci-fi novel for young teenagers won the 2003 Sir Julius Vogel Award for Best New Talent. Glynne MacLean's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series include *The Spiral Chrysalis* (level 2) and *The Time Stealers* (level 3), which were both finalists in the 2009 Sir Julius Vogel Awards, and *Escape* (level 1).

Kimi is the pilot and Ben is the navigator. Together they are Team Human and they're in the race of their lives. They are out to prove to every alien in the solar system that Humans can fly. But first they have to choose the right spacecraft. One that's fast enough to win. And then they have to outwit double-crossing aliens and cold-hearted pirates. They both know it's dangerous out there. Luckily they have a little help from a shape-shifting friend . . .

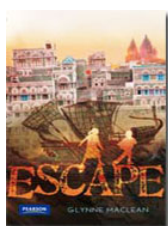
Nitty Gritty

Level One

Reading Age: 9–11-years
Approximately 20,000 words

Escape

HISTORICAL FICTION

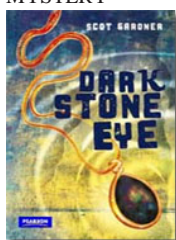


Glynne MacLean

The port city of Suq, on the island of Socotra, is a bustling centre of sea-going trade in the days of the Byzantine Empire – a crossroads where races and cultures meet. It is also the home of Katin Alexis, from a family of Greek fisherfolk, and her best friend Asha Patel, the daughter of a struggling Indian trader. The girls are best friends, so why has Asha disappeared without a word to her? And why is Katin's father whispering in the night about Asha and her brother being sent to Alexandria to work as slaves? It seems that Katin cannot get the truth from anyone. And time may be running out for Asha...

Dark Stone Eye

MYSTERY

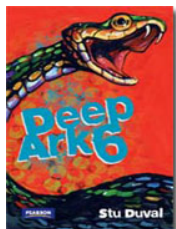


Scot Gardner is a well-known Australian author whose novels for young adults have met with critical and audience acclaim. He has been shortlisted in the CBC Awards and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards for Young Adults. He has written two previous Nitty Gritty novels: *One Wheel Drive* (NG2) and *The Lost King* (NG3).

When you're twelve, you're supposed to be too old for bedtime stories. But Ben's nanna has been telling him the same story for more than a month, and he's sucked right in. It's getting so he's more interested in hearing the next instalment than hanging out with his friends. The story is about a mysterious jewel like a dark eye that has a powerful effect on all who own it. It's a horror story and a love story at the same time, layered like fossils with history, suspense and mystery. And, as the stone in the story makes its way around the world, Ben realises it is coming ever closer to him and his nanna. You never know where it might end up....

Deep Ark 6

SCIENCE FICTION

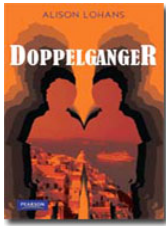


Stu Duval is a professional story-teller and artist. He has had six previous books published for young people, including *Ride of the Katipo* (NG2) and *Lake of the Dead* (NG3).

Rom lives two thousand metres under the sea and has never seen the sun. His dad runs Deep Ark 6, an underwater zoo that is home to the most venomous snakes and spiders that ever crawled the Surface. The place gives Rom the living creeps. Rom likes to dream about the days on the Surface before the Great Meltdown. To him, trees, blue sky and green grass sound like an alien planet. Little does Rom know that Octo Serp, his father's slithery assistant, also likes to dream about the Surface. Rom is about to find out that dreams can turn into nightmares!

Doppelganger

MYSTERY

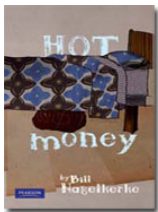


Canadian writer **Alison Lohans** has written numerous books for children and young adults. Her three other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *Dog Alert* (NG 0), *River Rat* (NG3) and *This Land We Call Home* (NG2), which won the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards Young Adult award.

Connor's Easter holiday is certain to be an exciting time. Not everybody gets to travel to Greece and Turkey on a cruise ship! From the minute Connor and his family arrive, however, bizarre things start to happen. He keeps seeing a boy who looks almost exactly like him. After Connor's ship ID card goes missing at the Parthenon, he begins to be accused of doing all sorts of things he hasn't, like running up charges on an Internet account he's not supposed to have – and his parents don't seem to believe he's innocent. Connor suspects that his Dopplganger might have something to do with it. But who is he and what are his motives?

Hot Money

ADVENTURE

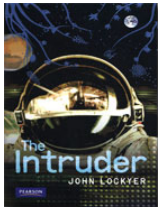


Bill Nagelkerke has written numerous stories, poems and plays. In both 2006 and 2008 he was successfully nominated by Storylines to be a member of the international Hans Christian Andersen Award jury. His work has also been broadcast on National Radio's 'Storytime' and various children's television programmes. His other book in the Nitty Gritty series is *Hippo Ears and the Stargazer*.

It's not every day that ten thousand dollars lands at your feet. Miles and August are mucking around on their bikes after school when a bank robber's proceeds are flung from a speeding car's window, with the police in hot pursuit. Miles knows what he must do with the money – he must hand it in, right? But he and Dad could really use ten thousand bucks right now – they could move out of Gran's place, maybe even buy a house of their own . . .

The Intruder

SCIENCE FICTION

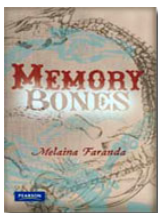


Teacher and author **John Lockyer** has written numerous titles for children of all ages. In 2002, he was shortlisted for the Elsie Locke Award. He has written two other Nitty Gritty novels: *Lost* (NG2) and *Date of Origin* (NG3).

Earth's population has exploded and there is not enough food to feed everyone. However, a mineral has been discovered deep beneath the surface of the moon that produces bumper crops, grown in massive domes at the lunar base. The sole occupant of Moon Base is Luca, who supervises the computerised supply chain. A few days before the end of his posting communications with Earth fail and Luca's ordered, monotonous world is further disrupted by an unknown intruder. Who or what is it? Where did it come from? What does it want? Is it friend or foe? Luca must find the answers to these questions on his own, as Earth is a long way away . . .

Memory Bones

HISTORICAL FICTION

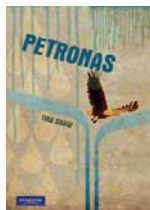


Australian author **Melaina Faranda** is a prolific writer of books for young people. She is the author of an international young adult series, *The Circle*, and published a further nine titles. Melaina Faranda's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *The Ninth Dragon* (level 0) and *Jack No Name* (level 3).

In the earliest years of the nineteenth century, as Napoleon Bonaparte's war ships patrol the English coastline, Mary Anning spends her days scouring the cliffs near her Dorset home. She looks for the fossilised remains of long-vanished sea creatures to sell to the gentry for money to feed her stricken family. Her beloved father, once a thriving cabinet-maker, is now broken in body and spirit and her mother has lost too many children to poverty and ill-fortune to love those who remain.

Petronas

FANTASY

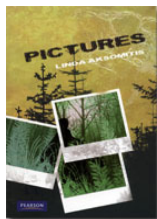


Tina Shaw is an Auckland-based writer, editor and Programme Manager for the NZ Society of Authors. Her work for children, young adults and adults has won her several awards, grants and fellowships, including the Creative New Zealand Berlin Writers' Residency. Tina Shaw's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *The Cloud Rider* (level 0), *Into the Hinterland* (level 2) and *Dogs of the Hinterland* (level 3).

It seemed like a miracle – a dream come true: a beautiful, deserted city with plenty of water and everything anyone could need. No longer would they have to live as nomads, constantly struggling to survive, searching for water in the desert. But who were the people who used to live in Petronas? And why would anyone leave such a perfect place...?

Pictures

ADVENTURE

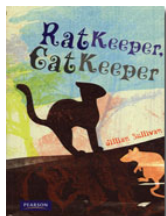


Canadian author **Linda Aksomitis** has written extensively for the education and trade markets. Her Nitty Gritty 2 novel, *Run*, was a finalist in the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards Young Adult award and received many excellent reviews.

Sam is on his annual family holiday, travelling with his Canadian grandparents. Sam is having to adjust to Grandpa's recent stroke and resulting disabilities. Then, as if that isn't bad enough, a girl in the next cabin, Taneal, just won't take no for an answer and follows him everywhere. Sam and Taneal don't agree on much of anything, particularly what kind of creature Sam's caught glimpses of with his camera. Is it a giant black bear or could it be something even more mysterious?

Rat Keeper, Cat Keeper

CONTEMPORARY FICTION



New Zealand author **Jillian Sullivan** writes fiction and non-fiction for children, teenagers and adults. Her work has been published for over twenty years and includes three novels, three collections of short stories and over sixty short stories for children and adults. Her work has won numerous awards both in New Zealand and internationally. She has previously contributed to the Nitty Gritty series with Silverstream (NG2) .

Meg's new stepfather, Mike, has given her cat to the animal refuge and Meg's mum doesn't seem to care. It was cruelty to animals . . . and children. Her mum says that Starry was nothing but trouble anyway, and besides Mike is allergic to cats. But Meg has a cunning plan to get Starry back, and it involves Ryan Stark, one of the meanest boys in school, and his pet rats. It's just too bad that Meg hates rats, with their glittering eyes, long, revolting whiskers and despicable bald-leather tails, almost as much as her mother does. But she has to get Starry back before they give her away, or worse . . .

Super Sister

FANTASY

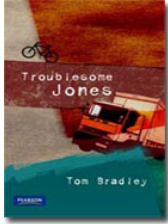


Auckland-based writer **Gary Cross** has written four previous novels for young people, including *Walking into the Fire* (NG 3).

Aaron Bindon doesn't really fit in. He spends most of his time in that limbo land occupied by average, unpopular kids. He dreams of being as powerful as one of the superheroes that soar through the skies above his town fighting evil. But Aaron's life starts to get more interesting when the government declares that, for reasons of national security, all the superheroes in the community need to come out from behind their masks. Wouldn't it be great if the Crimson Avenger or Captain Solar turned out to be someone Aaron knew?

Troublesome Jones

CONTEMPORARY FICTION



Tom Bradley is a high-profile New Zealander who has produced scores of stories for younger minds. His sixteen books have been enthusiastically reviewed, and he has also written TV sketch comedy, stage musicals and is an award-winning radio writer. Tom Bradley's other novel in the Nitty Gritty Series is *Big Noise in Town* (level 0).

It's nearly midnight on Greg Jones' eleventh birthday and he's cold, wet, hungry and in trouble. Worse, he is trouble. It seems everything that's gone wrong with his family lately – and there's plenty – is all his fault. His mum is in hospital because of him. His dad is off in his truck in the back of beyond, and probably not coming home, because of him. In twelve years, Greg has made enough mistakes to fill a book. But maybe the book will still have room for a good chapter if he can track down that scumbag Bargain Bob and make him give back their money.

Nitty Gritty

Level Two

Reading Age: 11–13-years
25-30,000 words

Flight from Ledron

SCIENCE FICTION



Diana Noonan has published over 100 books for young people of all ages. Her publications include novels, picture books, short stories, plays and poems and have won numerous awards. Other novels by Diana Noonan in the Nitty Gritty Series include *Treetop Treasure* (level 0), *Come Down Golden* (level 0) and *Win! Win!* (level 3).

After fourteen-year-old Amon finds an injured bird in the desert outside Ledron, his whole world is turned upside down. Ledron is the last community to survive the water wars - no other life exists. Or so their Leaders have told them. Now his mother, Lydia, is ill and Amon knows his community does not have the resources to help her. The bird seems to offer hope, but hope of what? If somehow they manage to escape into the desert, how will they survive, and what will they find?

Into the Hinterland

FANTASY



Tina Shaw is an Auckland-based writer, editor and Programme Manager for the NZ Society of Authors. Her work for children, young adults and adults has won her several awards, grants and fellowships, including the Creative New Zealand Berlin Writers' Residency. Tina Shaw's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *The Cloud Rider* (level 0), *Petronas* (level 1) and *Dogs of the Hinterland* (level 3).

The town of Bassorah lies at the edge of the Hinterland, a vast, desert-like plain, lorded over by the tyrant Herit. Fourteen years ago a baby, Vancy, was left at the edge of Bassorah by a mysterious silver dog. Brought up by foster parents Vancy has always felt like an outsider and is haunted by the identity of her true parents. Now she is fourteen, and it is more obvious than ever that she doesn't belong. She is determined to find out the truth behind her birth, but that means venturing out into the Hinterland ...

Island Bound

MYSTERY



Deb Loughead, a Toronto author and poet has been writing since she learned how to read. As of 2012, Deb has published over 25 books for children and Young Adults.

Hannah is suddenly uprooted from everything familiar when her family moves from their home in Toronto to the island of Bermuda. While struggling to fit in to island life and deal with her inner conflict, Hannah finds herself caught up in a mystery that she, her brother Jake and friend Maya must solve.

Lost

SCIENCE FICTION



Teacher and author **John Lockyer** has written numerous titles for children of all ages. His science fiction is especially popular with boys. In 2002, he was shortlisted for the Elsie Locke Award. He has written three other Nitty Gritty novels: *The Intruder* (level 1), *The Crystal Crescent* (level 2) and *Date of Origin* (level 3).

A virus has been ravaging the Earth-cloned planet of Eco, threatening the future of human inhabitation. Valdez has only recently arrived on Eco to join his famous scientist sister, when the shuttle he is travelling in crashes in a remote part of the planet. As Valdez struggles to survive in the harsh environment where he now finds himself, he is haunted by the unknown fate of his co-pilot as well as the suspicion that his sister may be hiding a terrible secret.

My Summer of the Lions

CONTEMPORARY FICTION

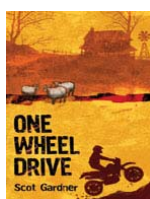


William Taylor has written novels for adults but regards these as an 'apprenticeship' for his children's and teenage fiction. Taylor has won the Montana New Zealand Esther Glen Award, the Senior Fiction Award, and in 2004 was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to children's literature and the community

With a dead mother and a father who seems too preoccupied with his own to care what his son gets up to, Martin spends his evenings hanging out at the poolrooms and video arcades and stealing hubcaps with his best mate, Sam. The only friends Martin can talk to are a couple of old zoo lions, Felix and Felicity. But they can't help him when his life of petty crime spirals out of control.

One Wheel Drive

CONTEMPORARY FICTION



Scot Gardner is a well-known Australian author whose novels for young adults have met with critical and audience acclaim. He has been shortlisted in the CBC Awards and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards for Young Adults. He has written two previous Nitty Gritty novels: *Dark Stone Eye* (NG1) and *The Lost King* (NG3).

Bradley Carstairs' family is cracking at the seams. Brad's dad used to work at the steel mill but fate forced him into a shearing job in distant Queensland. His mum works at Gellerton Cheese and hates every stinking minute of it. But they are hanging on to the farm. Just. Brad's older sister, Caitlin, is giving him a hard time and Brad feels like he's losing control. When he finds the keys to his dad's motorbike he decides to take a ride that will change his life.

Ride of the Katipo

MYSTERY

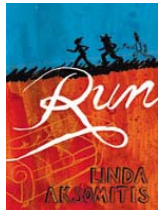


Stu Duval is a professional story-teller and artist who travels New Zealand performing his unique tales, accompanied by live painting, all of which are highly acclaimed by audiences young and old. He has had five previous books published for young people, including *Rat Island* (Level 0) and *Lake of the Dead* (Level 3).

At school, Jack lives in the shadows trying to avoid the bullies who make his life miserable. Whenever he can he escapes to the isolated Wetapunga Bay, but when he discovers two bodies on the beach his sense of refuge is shattered. Through Jack's quest to solve the mystery of the bodies he discovers that all is not as it seems at Wetapunga Bay...

Run

HISTORICAL FICTION



Canadian author Linda Aksomitis has written extensively for the education and trade markets. Her Nitty Gritty 2 novel, *Run*, was a finalist in the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards Young Adult award and received many excellent reviews.

It's the summer of 1911. Thirteen-year-old Victoria's life has changed dramatically in the past year – her mother has died in childbirth, along with the baby brother she'd longed for and her father has already remarried. Victoria doesn't care much for her stepmother, or her stepbrother, Jacob. But when Victoria is suddenly struck down with an illness that leaves her partially paralysed, her relationship with her new family members begins to change as they give her the hope that she just might run again.

The Sign of a Warrior

ADVENTURE



Leanne Hills

Staying home and studying while his photographer father travels to an African village isn't an option for Ash. But when his plane lands in Nairobi, Ash realises the postcards he'll be writing his friend won't be what he'd imagined. Instead, the dream that's been haunting him since his mother died has become an everyday reality – at any moment he could come face-to-face with a lion, a spear his only protection. Ash must learn to be a warrior – only that way can he understand his dream and this place so far away from home.

Silverstream

ADVENTURE



New Zealand author Jillian Sullivan writes fiction and non-fiction for children, teenagers and adults. Her work has been published for over twenty years and includes three novels, three collections of short stories and over sixty short stories for children and adults. Her work has won numerous awards both in New Zealand and internationally, including two Highlights Fiction Awards and a Highlights Author of the Month Award. She has previously contributed to the Nitty Gritty series with *Rat keeper*, *Cat Keeper* (NG1) .

In a future society, the government restricts its citizen's rights and punishes people who disagree with its regime by sending them to work camps. Six years ago, Lorna's father was killed during a protest meeting, now Lorna's outspoken mother has disappeared. Lorna refuses to lose another parent to the oppressive camps and makes a decision that will put her own freedom, and even her life, on the line ...

The Spiral Chrysalis

FANTASY

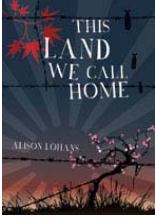


Glynne MacLean has written several novels for young people. *Roivan*, a sci-fi novel for young teenagers won the 2003 Sir Julius Vogel Award for Best New Talent. Glynne MacLean's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series include *Space Race* (level 1) and *The Time Stealers* (level 3), which were both finalists in the 2009 Sir Julius Vogel Awards, and *Escape* (level 1).

When Nareen finds a spiral-shaped chrysalis in her backyard she is sure it's the magical chrysalis her Gran had told her about. Nareen, her brother Carl and her best friend Kelly are soon drawn through the spiral into another world. They only have a week to find their way out before the spiral fades away and they are trapped forever....

This Land We Call Home

HISTORICAL FICTION



Canadian writer **Alison Lohans** has written numerous books for children and young adults. Alison Lohans has three other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series: *Doppelganger* (level 1), *River Rat* (level 3) and *Dog Alert* (level 0), which won the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards Young Adult award.

It is 1941 in rural California. Paula Harmon and Ken Nishimura have been friends and neighbours for as long as they can remember. But around them racial tension mounts as World War II intensifies and culminates in the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Suddenly, Ken and his family are considered enemies in their own country. Paula and Ken's friendship is tested and their lives changed forever in the horrifying events that follow.

Nitty Gritty

Level Three

Reading Age: 12–14-years
30-35,000 words

Date of Origin

SCIENCE FICTION



Teacher and author **John Lockyer** has written numerous titles for children of all ages. His science fiction is especially popular with boys. In 2002, he was shortlisted for the Elsie Locke Award. He has written three other Nitty Gritty novels: *The Crystal Crecent* (level 0) *The Intruder* (level 1) and *Lost* (level 2).

In the middle of the twenty-first century, Rezza lives with her sister Boyd and a group of other young, female outcasts. Terrified of the Guards who control the Earth, they survive on what they can find or hunt. And they wait for their Date of Origin, when they will find out if they too will morph into Aggers, the slave workforce controlled by the Guards. But a group of rebels has a daring, dangerous plan to make this Date of Origin the last one ever...

Dogs of the Hinterland

FANTASY



Tina Shaw is an Auckland-based writer, editor and Programme Manager for the NZ Society of Authors. Her work for children, young adults and adults has won her several awards, grants and fellowships, including the Creative New Zealand Berlin Writers' Residency. Tina Shaw's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *The Cloud Rider* (level 0) *Petronas* (level 1) and *Into the Hinterland* (level 2).

Back in her adopted village of Bassorah, Vancy has recovered from her adventure on the Hinterland. With her friends, Kerei and Squirt, she has found out where she came from, and taken a stand against her birth father, the tyrant Herit. But on the night of her coming-of-age party, disturbing news reaches Bassorah. Herit has called for his daughter to join him in his great stone fortress, or Bassorah will face the full force of his anger. It seems a new evil is gathering across the wide plains of the Hinterland . . .

Inside the Game

FANTASY



Pauline Cartwright has written a wide range of books for children. Her writing includes radio stories, novels, pictures books, poetry and many educational readers.

Chris was excited to find Seven Missions in Uncle Reg's computer basement. It was the computer game that had first hooked him in. The idea was to brave armed guards, blazing deserts, gaping chasms, dragons, monsters to complete seven missions and restore the Little Princess to her kingdom. But something had changed in the virtual world of Seven Missions, and Chris and his cousin Amy were now trying to save a real person from real enemies, battling for their lives in a terrifying new reality. They had somehow found themselves inside the game!

Island of the White Spear

MYSTERY



Simon Higgins is the writer of critically acclaimed historical adventures set in Asia. Simon spent years in law enforcement, as a police officer, prosecutor and finally, a licensed private investigator, working on murder cases. Since 1998 he has seen a dozen novels published, including 2 bestsellers, 2 Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Books of the Year, and short-listings for the Ned Kelly Crime Fiction and Aurealis Fantasy Awards.

When three friends go treasure hunting on a remote Pacific island, they find more than they had expected. With their boat damaged, getting home is going to be tricky. And it seems that they are not the only ones on the island of the white spear . . .

Jack No Name

HISTORICAL FICTION



Australian author **Melaina Faranda** is a prolific writer of books for young people. She is the author of an international young adult series, *The Circle*, and published a further nine titles in 2009. Melaina Faranda's other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series are *The Ninth Dragon* (level 0) and *Memory Bones* (level 1).

Abandoned as a baby to the care of Glastonbury Abbey's monks, Jack No Name has never ventured further than Glastonbury's flat, endless fields. But now, thanks to his skills in the abbey's kitchen, the abbot has ordered his presence on a journey to Wells Cathedral – the most beautiful and majestic cathedral in all of England! On the eve of his departure, gathering mushrooms on the tor behind the abbey, Jack meets an old woman and her granddaughter, being pursued by a menacing rider in black. It seems Jack's knightly dreams of serving women and children, the weak and the poor have become a frightening reality.

Lake of the Dead

MYSTERY

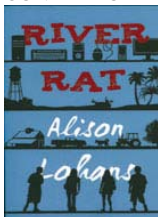


Stu Duval is a professional story-teller and artist who travels New Zealand performing his unique tales, accompanied by live painting, all of which are highly acclaimed by audiences young and old. He has had six previous books published for young people, including, from the Nitty Gritty Series, *Rat Island* (level 0), *Deep Ark 6* (level 1) and *Ride of the Katipo* (level 2).

Six classmates are on a hiking trip to study the geological features of the vast and wild Bellevue Forest when the mighty Mt Darius erupts. The group are swept into a violent landslide of soil and rock. Josh and Greer find themselves alone, the fate of their companions unknown. The landscape has changed dramatically and the pair are lost. When they stumble upon an abandoned town, they uncover long forgotten secrets of the area and discover why the lake that surrounds the town was once given the name Lago Dos Mortas – Lake of the Dead . . .

River Rat

CONTEMPORARY FICTION



Canadian writer **Alison Lohans** has written numerous books for children and young adults. Alison Lohans has two other novels in the Nitty Gritty Series: *Dog Alert* (level 0), *Doppelganger* (level 1) and *This Land We Call Home* (level 2), which won the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards Young Adult award.

Scott is spending the summer at his aunt and uncle's ranch in California. There's not computer for him to play his on-line game, Tallinn's Quest, his cousin Emily looks down her nose at him and strange people hanging around the ranch are making his aunt and uncle nervous. The only good thing about summer in California is tubing down the river with the other river rats ...

The Lost King

ADVENTURE



Scot Gardner is a well-known Australian author whose novels for young adults have met with critical and audience acclaim. He has been shortlisted in the CBC Awards and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards for Young Adults. He has written two previous Nitty Gritty novels: *Dark Stone Eye* (level 1) and *One Wheel Drive* (NG2).

Peter King never wanted to go on the school wilderness camp. Twelve grumpy teenagers, heavy backpacks, tired legs, bad smells, biting flies and a lot of pointless walking – his idea of a good time. Not. He was even less happy when Mr Pearson put him in an activity group with one girl he didn't know, another who had made sarcasm an art form and . . . Jye Sullivan. Sully had been tormenting him since primary school. And now, thanks to Sully, they had left the track and couldn't find it again. The bush was closing in and so was the cold, dark night. They were lost!

The Present

CONTEMPORARY FICTION



Andrea Torrey Balsara is a self-taught artist and illustrator. In addition to writing and illustrating, Andrea works on stained glass projects, and oil painting. She lives in Ontario with her husband and two children, and her four unruly pets.

On Julie's fourteenth birthday, her father surprises her with Rudy – a weird boxer golden retriever mix with a mashed face and a furry tail. But Julie's world is soon turned upside down by her father's departure from the family home, her mother's emotional breakdown and her dad's new girlfriend, who isn't the woman he thinks she is . . .

The Time Stealers

SCIENCE FICTION



Glynne MacLean has written several novels for young people. *Roivan*, a sci-fi novel for young teenagers won the 2003 Sir Julius Vogel Award for Best New Talent. Glynne has written two previous Nitty Gritty novels – *Space race* (NG1) and *The Spiral Chrysalis* (NG2).

Yakkity, yakkity, yak. If it weren't for his self-obsessed ex-girlfriend Jaz, Neil Jarvie would be entirely happy with his life in Tal City. Sure there were probably more manicured trees than there were people, but the surveillance net was so thorough you could always find any person or place or information you wanted on your mobile. Except, oddly enough, about the history of Tal City. And now he had a Timer on his hands. He'd thought it would be interesting to help out a time traveller, but this one seemed obsessed with her own history, as well as ridiculously paranoid about surveillance . . .

Walking into the Fire

HISTORICAL FICTION



Auckland-based writer **Gary Cross** has written four previous novels for young people, including *Super Sister* (NG 1).

Olivia Dempsey's life changes forever in December 1941 when a Japanese fighter plane appears in the clear blue sky above her school playing fields. The Japanese army has invaded the British colony of Malaya from the north and Georgia's father must leave their rubber plantation to help fight the invaders. Ho Lap, the family's Chinese servant, is sent to take Olivia and her best friend Georgia to the train station. From there they are to travel to meet their mothers in the safety of Singapore. But safety proves hard to find and help is far away . . .

Win! Win!

ADVENTURE



Diana Noonan has published over 100 books for young people of all ages. Her publications include novels, picture books, short stories, plays and poems and have won numerous awards. Other novels by Diana Noonan in the Nitty Gritty Series include *Treetop Treasure* and *Come Down Golden* (level 0) and *Flight From Ledron* (level 2).

Phoebe had done something terrible, and now she was in a truck and had no idea where she was going. After what she'd done, she was better off going somewhere nobody knew her and staying out of sight. It was just too bad if her mum was worried about her. Mum had chosen to stay with Mick, despite the effect his gambling problem was having on the family, so she couldn't expect to have Phoebe as well . . .