

Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of **Cogheart** by Peter Bunzl

Below are the complete reviews, written by the Lovereading4kids members.



Isabella Campbell, age 11

Cogheart is an amazing book. From the outset, the characters and the treacherous plots take you on a thrilling, magical journey of adventure and the final twists will leave you spinning.

Set against a backdrop of Victorian streets and glinting airships criss-crossing the skies, mechanical people and animals serve the humans of the world. In a tragic airship accident, a pioneer in the field of these mechanical creations disappears, taking with him a secret that some would kill to know. Only his daughter, Lily and her new friend, Robert, have the key to this secret. However, in their quest to find

answers they are stalked by eerie men with mirrored eyes, who will stop at nothing to get what they want.

Lily Hartman's love of "mechanicals" sets her aside from the other characters, as does her fierce, fiery determination to do what is right. Her friend Robert astounds the reader with his courage. He listens to his father's advice about how it takes a brave heart to win great battles and faces fear after fear to save Lily and the world.

I read this captivating story of secrets and lies, friends and enemies with passion. Peter Bunzl has created a masterpiece: this incredible tale is a work of art, intricately spun. 'Cogheart' will appeal to fans of Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy.

Rohan Delamere, age 10

A steampunk fantasy adventure that had me gripped with its brilliantly woven characters and cast of mechanical wonders. An amazing read! Fans of Phillip Reeves Mortal Engines series would love it.

Cogheart is a steampunk fantasy about Lily, who is taken from her horrible boarding-school by her governess. She meets a boy called Robert who is the son of a clockmaker. Lily has also got a pet mechafox called Malkin. Two strangers with mirror eyes are chasing her and Lily and Robert don't know why. They think it may be to do with her father's secret invention, the perpetual motion machine. Lily and Robert have to travel across England in an airship and through the streets of London as they run from the mysterious villains chasing them.

I found the book slightly hard to get into at first but it became more and more captivating. I recommend it for ages 9-12, both boys and girls. My favourite part of the book was when Robert and Malkin went into Big Ben to rescue Lily, even though the villains had set it on fire. My favourite characters were the robot servants as they were incredibly intriguing.

Erica Motoc, age 10

*A story that carries many emotions and secrets. A box that could change the world. A secret so big. Two hybrids, murder and drama. Heroes and villains, **this book is perfect for children who like drama and moments of tension that make you hold your breath at every written word.***

'Cogheart' is filled to the brim with stomach turning words and descriptions. I will recommend it to children over 8.

Iulia Motoc, age 8

The story is full of descriptions. *It is about a girl called Lily who has a dead mother and her father is missing. Her father used to make mechanical animals and robots, which he is famous for. Her maid is evil and works with the evil robots, which does not help.*

Sam Harper, age 11

A really different and exciting adventure full of fantastic creations, twists and turns. I loved it!

When Lilly's Papa vanishes in an airship crash she is sent to live with the horrid housekeeper Madame Verdigris. Lilly has strange dreams which are muddled in with her memories and they guide her to find a cherry wood box in her Papa's safe. Her Papa created mechanicals and mechanimals and Lily has a strong link with these clockwork people and animals and believes that they have feelings and are more alive than everyone thinks. She hates it when Madame sends the house mechanicals away and when they are collected by mysterious men rather than the cog and bone merchant, Lily suspects that something strange is going on. But why would anyone want her Papa's old mechanicals? When Robert, the apprentice clockmaker from the next village, arrives with a secret message for Lily they manage to escape from Madame but it seems that they are followed everywhere. They're not even safe with Thaddeus at the clock shop and when Mr. Roach and Mr. Mould come after them they have to go on the run again. Lily has a damaged letter from her Papa which leads them to London to find her godfather, Professor Silverfish, along with Malkin, her clever mechanimal fox, and Anna, a reporter, who they meet at the airship crash site. They should be safe with her godfather but he is not all he seems. He wants her Papa's perpetual motion machine, the Cogheart, and he will go to any lengths to get it. Even murder!

This action packed adventure was so fast paced I found myself holding my breath for some of Lily and Robert's escapes and near misses. Mr. Roach and Mr Mould with the mirrored eyes were really creepy and I loved the mechanicals and mechanimals, especially Malkin. I wish I had a pet like him!

Freddie Barth von Wehrenalp, age 9

Cogheart, a fantastic fantasy novel, blew me away into its pages. It took me two restarts to really get into this but I am so glad I did.

Cogheart is an amazing book that I would recommend for anyone aged 8 and over. It is my favourite book this holiday, second all-time best after The Wildwood Series. It is full of danger, mysteries and excitement. The heroine, Lily, is a quick thinker, surprisingly brave and adventurous and she always has a plan up her sleeve.

Cogheart absolutely blew me away into its pages and the author's imagination.

Caitlin Hill, age 9

This book was so exciting that I read it really quickly! *It's about Lily who is the daughter of an inventor and his Zeppelin is shot down and he goes missing. Will she find out what happened to him? I loved this book from the start as it starts off really exciting with Lily's dad who is an inventor having his Zeppelin shot down. He is then missing but his mechanical fox leaves the ship before it crashes and has to get a message to Lily. Lily is at a boarding school but she does not fit in and does not like the other girls. She likes the mechanicals who are robots that need winding up and they help around the school or the house. When the news of her dad reaches her she is taken out of school and brought back home by Madame who was their housekeeper. Lily is suspicious, she needs to find out what happened to her dad, will she?*

Zoe Basson, age 9

This book swept me away into a world of pure imagination.

Cogheart has the most amazing plot that surprises at every turn. The characters are described vividly and I felt as if I was with them every step of the way.

I bonded with the mechanicals and felt for Lily and Robert, while being deceived and horrified by the bad guys.

It was a treat reading Cogheart and I will now recommend it to all my friends and family.

Maia Fuller, age 11

Cogheart is an amazing book. It enters you into a world of steamships and mechanicals. You won't be able to put it down once you've read the first sentence.

Peter Bunzl is a great author and I really hope he decides to write more books. My favourite character was Lilly because she was fearless and never gave in. She would always save the ones she loved and didn't ever forget about them. I also really liked Robert because although he was scared of heights, he managed to overcome his fear and that is very hard to do! Cogheart is the most well written book I have ever read. I think it would be great for children and adults alike to read. It enters you into a world of steamships and mechanicals. You

*won't be able to put it down once you've read the first sentence. **I don't think anyone could not like it. It's not a book for girls only, or for boys only, everyone will love it! I would give it 11/10!***

Emily Lonsdale, age 10

This book is magical, an alternative version of Victorian England.

*I loved this book though it took a long time to get into it. I loved Maniken, the mechanical fox who was intelligent, fast and clever as well as cool as he could speak English. Though I found the plot a little slow and it took some persevering, it was worth reading and **I would recommend it if you were looking for something different.***

Charlie Swan, age 10

***The book was absolutely brilliant and one of the best I've ever read - a story of sadness, happiness, comedy and adventure - lots of it!** This story is about a girl called Lily whose mother has died in an accident. She lives with her father, but one day her father is involved in a zeppelin crash and Lily tries to investigate. She meets incredible characters along her journey, including a boy called Robert, a mechanical fox named Malkin and some men with mirrored eyes!*

The story is very imaginative because lots of the characters are mechanical figures. As I was reading through the book I wondered what Cogheart meant. I found out at the end and thought it was very magical. The book was absolutely brilliant and one of the best I've ever read - a story of sadness, happiness, comedy and adventure - lots of it!

Louie Mee, age 11

I really enjoyed this book. It had a thickening plot, and amazing character descriptions.

My favourite character was Malkin because he seemed really friendly and I think I'd like a mechanical talking fox in real life!!

The ending was a huge surprise! I won't spoil it... Go and get this book! It's one of the best I've reviewed so I'd give it 4.5/5.