



Helping you choose the best books for children



LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **King Coo (sampler)** by Adam Stower

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



Eleanor McIntosh, age 10 from Red Maid's Junior School

An amazing and fun book! I can't wait to read more! This is an amazing and fun book about an ordinary boy called Ben who discovers an extraordinary world at the end of a tunnel which he finds while he is hiding from bullies who are on the warpath. He meets an interesting character called King Coo who is actually a girl but who has a long beard which she makes into amazing shapes called The Curly-whirly, The Antlers and my favourite, The Fuzzface. She has a pet wombat called Herbert who she lives with in an amazing tree house, which she made

herself and which has things inside such as cushions made out of Hebert's hair. I have really enjoyed reading this book with illustrations that helped me to picture the characters and King Coo's tree house. I can't wait to read more!

Ollie Hopwood, aged 7 and Toby Hopwood, aged 5

King Coo taps into every fantasy my children have, with a mysterious forest filled with amazing treehouses, water slides into pools, mischievous characters, and even a friendly wombat.

King Coo taps into every fantasy my children have. The underdog hero, Ben, escapes a nasty group of bullies and meets the mysterious and mischievous bearded girl King Coo. Ben finds himself in a forest that could have been designed by children, with an extraordinary treehouse, long water slides into pools, heaps of anarchic fun, and even a friendly wombat.

The book is aimed at upper primary aged children but, with author Adam Stower's captivating pictures on almost every page, my five year old was just as taken with the book as my older boy. Unlike most reading books with pictures, in King Coo the images and the dialogue within them are designed to be read as part of the narrative, which is great for young readers as it makes the flow of the book easier to understand.

King Coo is divided into small chapters ending on enough of a cliff hanger to have young readers anxious to turn the page and find out what happens next. The sampler we read certainly had my boys asking for more and they have picked up the book several times to chuckle over the pictures once again.

We have so many questions after reading the sampler - what has been making holes all over the town, is the Mayor really going to pay one ba-jillion pounds to the person who solves the mystery, and what is Ben going to do about those bullies? We're looking forwards immensely to finding out.

<http://acornstem.co.uk/#sthash.JuHnLUoP.dpbs>

Erica Motoc, age 11

This book is life!

*The wording is a brilliant choice for younger children, but this could really be for anyone. **It is hilarious with the way King Coo does things, really the quality of a good book. Did I mention the PHENOMENAL illustrations? I highly recommend this book.***

Why not buy it and read about the adventures of Ben Pole and whatever he gets up to? You can never know.

What about the Mayor's son (A big bully) and his goons : Gertie Plank, her twin, Bertie Plank and 'Long Tom' Tommy Plum.

Prisha Yadav, aged 7

*It was fun to read this book and **I would recommend this book to everyone. I enjoyed reading this book as the story was amazing. I like the expressive pictures with some interesting information.** It is a good book for everyone to enjoy. King Coo character was very different. The story was adventurous and full of imagination. It was fun to read this book and I would recommend this book to everyone.*

Oscar Smith, age 9

I would recommend this book to anyone who is a fan of funny books. If you liked Captain Underpants, but want something a bit more challenging to read, come this way! 'King Coo' (by funnyman Adam Stower, author of 'Sing A Song Of Bottoms', what a brilliant title!) is a book of laughter, wombats named Herbert, and utter silliness! Join Ben Pole, A.K.A. Bean Pole, if you're Monty the school bully, on an adventure which is, honestly, a complete accident, with King Coo, a vine swinging girl with a fully grown beard! (I know, right!)

Lila Arbell, age 9

Ben Pole has two strong characters in his life, each of them showing their strength in different ways: Monty using bullying and terrorizing and Coo using kindness, friendship - and bossiness. King Coo is a very good, exciting book. Like most ordinary school children do, Ben Pole has two main strong characters in his life: King Coo and Monty Grabbe, the Mayor's son. Each of them show their strength in different ways: Monty using bullying and terrorizing and Coo using kindness, friendship and bossiness.

I like how Coo isn't REALLY a girl but also isn't REALLY a boy, she's both, as in - she's got a beard and she calls herself King, but she is also determined to make sure that Ben knows and refers to her as a girl.

The illustrations are completely part of the story, a bit like the Ottoline series by Chris Riddell.

I only received an extract from the book and can't wait to read the rest.

Robyn Chorley, age 8

A great book, I can't wait to read the rest!

King Coo was brilliant. I really liked it because it was exciting and mysterious. I can't wait to read the whole book! I liked the character King Coo as she was very funny. I also loved the pictures, the one on page 41 especially!

Annabelle Cassidy, age 8

This is a really funny book that made me laugh out loud, and want to tell all of my friends about it.

This extract was from a really funny book that made me laugh lots. King Coo is

my favorite character because she is funny and does silly things. In the book there is also Ben Pole, he is a little book who gets bullied and then goes down a hole and find King Coo and they have adventures together. I really, really want to read the rest of this book as soon as it comes out. It would be good to read for all children aged 5 and over who likes to laugh a lot.

Ellen Cox, age 10

This was the best book I have every read. 'King' Coo is an excellent book that everyone will enjoy.

A fun easy to read book with well-drawn pictures. King Coo is in the interest of everyone and always makes me smile. I loved King Coo and I will definitely recommend this book!

Noah Scott-Sentance, age 10

I thought it was really funny!

My favourite bit was when the bully chewed the toffees which were actually coins! I would like to continue reading the book when it comes out. I liked the illustrations too, they were very good.

Ellen Hall, age 7

I loved this book from the start to the end.

I liked the character Ben Pole the best, he always seems to be the one whose getting chased by Monty Grabbe, the school bully. This book is scary at some times and funny at other times. King Coo is strange to look at, he appears in the story when Ben is getting chased by Monty and falls down one of the 'alien' holes that keeps appearing. Ben runs through a tunnel to find a jungle where King Coo lives. He is a friendly King but sometimes gets over excited.

Toby Little, age 9

Through the whole book, I never knew what was going to happen next, and the illustrations were really good.

Ben was always a shy boy until now. Now there are holes appearing in the town and the mayor has promised a 'ba-zillion pounds' for whoever solves the

mystery. Monty the school bully chases Ben into a dead-end road, then, suddenly, a hole appears in the ground, and Ben falls into it. He wheels a bin over the hole so that Monty and his gang cannot find him. Then, he realises that there is a tunnel. He goes through the tunnel and finds a forest. He gets caught in a trap, and then he meets King Coo, who shows him around her kingdom.

Through the whole book, I never knew what was going to happen next, and for each new character that appears in the book, there is a special page that describes the character. The black-and-white illustrations were really good. I think this book is for 7-and-over children, and anybody under 10 who likes fictional characters.

You can follow Toby on Twitter: @tobyiswriting

Adam and Lilia, age 8 ½

You should read this book because the words and images together create a really enjoyable story.

The story was very interesting because you get to meet all sorts of characters.

The story line was amusing; I enjoy adventure and mystery books, which this was. The character of King Coo was is not typical of what you would find in a book because of the unusual plot twist.

Edward Simmons, age 7

I love King Coo & Ben Pole the most. I enjoyed all the illustrations, especially the full pages telling you about each character. I'm so glad Ben found that tunnel, with a waiting surprise!

I really enjoyed reading about Ben Pole. He is a normal boy just like me. Then he finds King Coo! I loved reading this story. I cannot wait to read more of the adventure!

Naysa, age 9 - Baring Primary School

'King Coo' is a hilarious book. If you read it, it will be very, very interesting and you won't want to stop. Do you know, King Coo should be Queen Coo because actually Coo is a girl that has a beard.

Elsa, age 9 - Baring Primary School

*'King Coo' is a very good book. It's very funny because it doesn't make sense. King Coo isn't a boy, it's a girl! Adam Stower is a very good author! **It might be short, but it's funny! Plus, it makes you want to read on! You better buy it, or you're missing out!***

Abbie, age 9 - Baring Primary School

'King Coo' is a very crazy, good book because, well it's just interesting and a very shiny book – it's a gold book. By the way, King Coo is not King Coo, its QUEEN COO!!!! When you read it, you will be amazed by how good Adam Stower the author is. Don't miss out!"

The following reviews have been written by Yr 4&5 students from Tilston School:

Cara

'King Coo' is an amazing well planned book with intriguing events. The illustrations are very well suited to the book and I think extremely creative.

All the characters in this book have distinctive personalities which used in many chapters. This story takes place in the city of London and a magical forest including bullies wombats and a girl with a beard. Lots of the events introduce a new character which kept it interesting and exciting.

This book is by Adam Stower and all of it is extremely creative with many unusual chapters. I would definitely recommend this book to someone else. I think this book would be great for 7-11 year olds.

Jack

I really enjoyed this book from the illustrations and the content also I really admired from the way that you created the book. You made the book very imaginative plus you put lots of twists and turns in the writing. I also admired how you put little documents of the main characters with facts about them. My favourite character is Monty Grabbe because he has a very naughty attitude with a very cool look. My favourite bit of the book is when Ben meets King Coo and eventually starts following him when King Coo leads him to his colossal treehouse [his home] then they find his friend Herbert.

*There truly is nothing that I could say for you to improve since **it is just such an amazing book**. I also appreciate every bit from it always had a cliff-hanger. The only thing I would say for you to improve on is to try and make some parts a little bit longer.*

I would recommend this book four and a half stars for its creativity, I would definitely recommend this book for five to twelve years old for older people may not fancy it because it is quite imaginative. I would also love to see more books about this and I'm sure everyone will enjoy your book.

Theo

*This book is about a boy called Ben Pole who falls into a tunnel that leads to a forest ruled by the tree-swinging, trap-making, treehouse-building, hairy King Coo. For the day Ben hangs out with King Coo. I would recommend this book for children of the age's four to ten. I like the part when Ben falls into the sinkhole and ends up in a forest, with a hairy, strange girl called King Coo! My favourite character, King Coo, is full of surprises all of which blow my mind. I love how Adam Stower has added in lots of comedy and surprises. Although I still think it is an outstanding book, I also would advise him to put in an enemy that tries to destroy the wood but once again it is an amazing book and it should win a lot of competitions and go on to be a quick-selling, popular book. I think it all fits in quite well and I love the position Adam Stower puts Ben in. **King Coo is a wonderful, entertaining book full of unexpected twists and turns** for example, King Coo has a pet wombat that has to do exercise every day and that it sheds its skin all the time. This book is very intriguing and imaginative and I would recommend it to everyone under the age of ten. I would definitely buy this book when it is published in May. This should be a popular book.*

Louis D

'King Coo' is a wonderful book full of fun about the hopeless Ben Pole, cruelly named Bean Pole because of his weak physique and big brains, which is easy-to-bully material for the wicked Monty Grab. Ben's dad had told him of the city's mysterious sinkholes which had occurred quite recently. After the school bell rang he tried to dash out but was quickly acquainted by the immoral bullies... After the meek boy scampered away, he was sunk to the one and only King Coo!

***I really like the book because it's crazy and full of fun, the ideas are incredibly creative and the illustrations are very well made** but in my*

opinion I feel that you could change it by dragging the scenes out a bit more as it feels all of a sudden. My age rating would be from 6-11 as the wide contrast of vocabulary and art give it a unique, childish aura to it.

Josh H

***I really enjoyed reading this book** and the average age is around 4-10 years old, and I really like the use of the sink hole and traveling into the other world. The setting really sets the tone for both scenes. This has a very good moral for the whole story.*

What would have been better about the book? The book could have been better by putting some questions into the book and putting more adjectives in.

What I enjoyed about the book? The book was very descriptive and the pictures give you a lot of descriptive pictures in your head.

What do I think about the girl having a beard? I thought it was quite weird but I thought about it again and I thought it was quite imaginative.

Ben V

*This is a book review on King Coo. It is written by Adam Stower, who wrote **an astonishing book**, and he is a substantial author in my opinion. One day a boy named Ben Pole, mysteriously hid from the bully Monty. I would rate this a three and a half out of five because, I like the illustrations but the description could be improved. I would read this to children of the age of six. I like when Ben fell into the water. I like the book because it uses informal and formal language, which gives a twist in the works. I think the book could be improved by its choice of words and description. I would not recommend this book to my friends due to age.*

One day a boy named Ben Pole, who fell down a puzzling tunnel met a bizarre girl named King Coo. Will they be friends? Is this book for you?

Freya

I am writing to you because of the new book King Coo. I enjoyed this book because of the comedy involved and I think that the title and blurb are very intriguing. I thought that the different vocabulary blended together was incredible.

My favourite characters had to be King Coo and his pet wombat Herbert. The fact that King Coo was actually a girl really surprised me. How you put the book together was very creative and inventive.

The only thing that I would improve on is to have the book made more suited for children of all ages. I would definitely recommend this book to a friend and think the book is suitable for people aged 4-10.

I loved reading this book and think it was very well thought out.

Jasmine

'King Coo' is literally the best book I have ever read! *I love how the author has drawn AND written everything, because that man is skill full! And it's just the language that he uses to, (not to mention the drawings!) also how he made a massive twist to the king\queen thing for king coo. I think the age is 4 over, approx.*

The idea I get from this book is funny- it can take me down to giggle factor, but it could only make a 5-6-7 year olds laugh. The setting of the city, forest and the school is perfect, and how he has a 'fact file' for and of the new characters being introduced, such as ben pole, Monty Grabbe, King Coo and Herbert the wombat. I guess being a wimpy kid brings fun and good luck!

I HAVE to say and give this book 4 and half stars, because it has amazing drawings, ideas and how he set out all of the pictures to be perfectly placed. All I need to say it is a really good book for children to help them imagine and enjoy stories like this one and other similar books as well.

Ellie B

*It is set in a forest under a city. The main characters are Ben Pole-who tries to be unnoticed. King Coo-crazy, fun smart bearded GIRL. Ben falls down a hole and meets King Coo and sees her home land. **I really enjoyed reading this book. It was very funny.** I would recommend this book to 7-11 year olds. I like the book because it is very intriguing and I would like to read the end. This book is well worth reading. I really like Monty Grabbe. I hope this book is successful and becomes a thriller.*

Elliot H

I like this book because it is funny and has pictures not just writing.

The drawings are the best bit of the book. But it was too long for me. This book is very exciting and you never want to put it down. It is written by Adam Stower (one of the best authors in the world). I would recommend this book to people between 7-12 years old. This book is about a boy called Ben Pole, who gets bullied by a boy called Monty Grabbe. Ben makes an escape but falls through a mind bobbling sink hole and finds himself in a mysterious world...

Ollie C

I love 'King Coo' because it has awesome humour, and I would love to get my hands on it!

King Coo in my opinion is suitable for 5-13 year olds, because it has a very good sense of humour for their age.

The book itself would be a big hit to the shops near me, in the local area.

Adam Stower, the author of this fabulous book, is awesome he changed the "c" of "coo"

Into a "b" for "boo" when he introduced King Coo!

This book is amazing, and I would like to see what's going to happen to Ben. (my favourite character so far is Herbert the Wombat).

Cameron D

*I really enjoyed the sample of this book. It is a good entertaining book (and makes you laugh a lot). It has exiting funny characters and it makes you want to read more. I think this would be great book to buy and is perfect for 7+ years. I would rate this book five stars as it is great for all users. Just reading a few pages made me get stuck straight into it. This book would be great for topics in schools and the pictures are really exciting and clever. **It is a really imaginary book and it is fun to guess what happens next in the book.***

SGR

*I enjoyed this book because of the comedy [King Coo]. It intrigued me about how King Coo is a girl and she has a beard, also why she is called King Coo and not Queen Coo. **I think this book is very imaginative [especially Adam Stower's creative ideas] and can't wait to read the rest of it!** One of my favourite parts of the book was when Ben Pole drank the slug pulp which was*

used for glue. I thought the pictures were extremely funny [Monty Grubbe with his sausage fingers]. I liked hearing about King Coo's and Ben's adventures, especially the water slides and catapults. My favourite character was King Coo with her amazing Wombat, Herbert. Another one of my favourite adventures was when Ben wore those 'stylish' Wombat hair pants. I think that children aged 5-11 should read this fabulous book.

Holli S

*I am writing to you because I think your book is very creative. I like how King Coo is a girl and is much braver than Ben. **It is a nice comedy to read.** I also like that it is set in the woods because the Woods is a calm place so it is a great place to shoot it in.*

I think Ben is a normal, funny boy and fits in very well with the story. I also like the other characters such as, King Coo, Monty Grubbe, Bertie Plank, Gertie Plank, "Long Tom" Tommy Plum. It is amazing how King Coo built that tree house city by herself Ben also I think was surprised as well. Herbert I thought was a great touch to the story.

I think to make the book better make it a bit more exciting and interesting. I would definitely recommend this to a friend although I wouldn't give it to a 12-49-year-old person. But apart from that it is very powerful.

Harvey

*I like this book because it uses normal vocabulary and strong description and I love all the characters but my favourite character has to be King Coo because she is funny. I like the way Adam Stower has written it. This book should be a 7+ because of its description and I will defiantly buy the real book. The blurb really makes the book stand out and I think they should make a whole series I really enjoyed reading this book and I think the world will love it to and **it just is the best book ever.***

Ollie J

*I enjoy your book because **King Coo is so crazy** and Ben and Monty Grab, and that it is intriguing. He fell down a mysterious hole .he meets King Coo [who should be Queen Coo] who is wild and she made an amazing tree house, I*

like it as well because it is different to all the other books I have read.

I would recommend this book to user people because it is excellent and funny and it is adventures, you could propyl recommend it too older kids to age 5 to 12 years old.

I rate this book 5 stars

Emily S

This book starts in the city and Ben Pole get bullied by Monty Grabb and runs into an ally way, but he falls into a sink hole and lands in the forest. He meets King Coo and they have marvellous adventures together.

The main characters are Ben Pole, King Coo. Monty, who hates Ben so much, Calls Ben Pole Bean pole!

I really enjoyed this book, I recommend it for 7-11 year olds as it is hilarious at the start, but for anyone under the age of 7 it would probably be too complicated. I would definitely buy this book when it gets published in May.

*I don't really know how this book could be improved apart from the fact that it didn't go into much detail with some of the adventures King Coo and Ben had together. Overall the book sample was **amazing!** I am definitely going to recommend this book and give it 5/5 stars.*

Grace W

Beware, spoiler alert!

*'King Coo' is **an intriguing, fantastic book** about Ben Pole (an insecure bullied boy) who falls down a hole while being chased by bully (Monty Grab) and meets a girl called King Coo.*

After reading a sample of the book I am now attached to it, this book is now one of my favourite books of all time. One of the reasons why I think the book is great is because it has an incredible vocabulary and I found it so hilarious. My favourite characters are; king coo, king coo's wombat (Herbert) and the mayor.

I would recommend this book to all my friends and family and 7-12 year olds. I loved the illustrations and the little fact files for the characters. I feel the book has a cool, funny and interesting storyline and I hope they make another book. I don't think there's anything I want to change about the book.

It was very descriptive and very funny. Overall it was an excellent book and I'll

give it a 5 out of 5. I can't wait to read the rest when it's published in May.

Alex

This book is great for children aged 7 to 11. The main character, Ben, who gets bullied by Monty Grabbe, goes on an amazing journey, through treacherous sink holes and tedious tree-tops. Ben finds himself lost in a forest ruled by king Coo.

Death-defying traps snatched Ben and left him hanging from a tree, as King Coo swooped through the branches looking at Ben curiously. King Coo had a spear and a golden crown.

King Coo's mighty beard reached from head to toe, king Coo looked as bonkers as a baboon, and suddenly King Coo launched into the air and landed like a savage. Then King Coo swung its spear, nearly taking Bens feet of, and Ben fell to the flaw.

*I give this book a five star rating because **it is a great book and it makes you laugh.***

Henry

I like this book because it twists and turns from being bullied by a couple of bullies to being met by a bonkers King [King Coo].

This book is about a boy called Ben Pole who falls down a mystical sink hole and has a small adventure in a whole new world beneath the city of London in a forest with death-defying traps, tall thick trees and mythical creatures [Wombats].

What would have been better about the book? I didn't really like the fact that as soon as one thing happened it just moved on; I would have liked more detail/

Would I recommend it to a friend? Yes, if they were under the age of eight because I don't think that a nine or ten year old would particularly like or enjoy this book.

Mya J

I am writing to you because I want to tell you but your book is a bit childish and I will love it but the age you should do it for is 1-10 year olds and it had loads of info but the twist was kinder funny but it was like a comedy book.

*And it is really good but in a book. I never knew that a girl had a beard! but that was a surprise and it was a really great book. It showed what the caricature have loads of info but it tells you after you see the names but he put it with loads of info as well and **it is full of happy stuff** and sad stuff in the amazing fabulous and great out's tuning words in the book.*

Josh D

I like this book because it has three different settings, which makes it more interesting, it is set in a city, school and a forest. The book is based on a boy called Ben Pole, who can never be found around school, gets bullied.

The main characters are called; King Coo, Ben and the school bully called Monty. Surprisingly King Coo is a girl, who has long thick hair and a huge beard.

Ben is a skinny schoolboy, who can never be found at school, gets bullied. The book is about Ben Pole at his life at school and lots of adventures. Like when he fell down the thin black hole, then on into a Forest and then falls into lots of traps and meets a mysterious character named King Coo.

*The reason way I liked this book is because I thought it was interesting, **I liked the way it was set, and the book had strong vocabulary.***

I think the book was great, but I think Adam Stower needs to make it for older children as well, because the bully was called silly names, but accept for that it was spot on. I would recommend this book to a friend, because overall Adam Stower did well to write it and I cannot wait to read the full book.

Joseph

I enjoyed reading the sample of King Coo by Adam Stower. I would give it 4 and a half stars and recommend it for ages 6-13. Ben (the main character) is a young boy who has a ridiculous life and faces social problems including a big mean bully named Monty Grab the son of mayor Grab. The basic storyline goes: Ben wakes up on a Wednesday morning eats his breakfast then is late for school. He arrives at the last moment but in the playground he gets chased by a bully and ends up hiding under a bin with a mystery hole beneath it. The bully doesn't find him and when he finds a tunnel he takes a turn for adventure then ends up in King Coo's woods (King Coo is a girl with a giant beard.) I think it

would be a better book if King Coo had more friends as well as Herbert the wombat. Apart from that I wouldn't change the book a bit. **It is an exciting book (judging by the sample) ideal for 'Tom Gates' or 'Goosebumps' fans and I would recommend this book to a friend.**

Laura H

The main Characters are Ben and King coo and they must come up with their most amazing inventions yet. I think this book age rate is from 7- 12. It takes place in a city and it is about a school bully called Monty on the warpath. One-day Ben pole falls down a hole and discovers something and someone (he finds king coo) – completely amazing. Tree-top swings, waterslides. Life certainly isn't dull with king coo and her pet wombat, Herbert.

It involves sink holes which means you go down a hole. **I personally think that it is funny and it will attract lots of people.** Would I recommend this to a friend? yes because I think it will get lots of people onto it.

Denis C

One day, known to Ben Pole as “the worst day yet” quickly escalates into the best! What with finding a crazy leader of a misty forest with mysterious thought to be extinct characters such as a wombat named Herbert, the great King Coos companion. This book also has exceptional vocabulary and I recommend it for 7-11 year olds. **People who like funny and adventurous books such as this will fall in love with King Coo.** Ben Pole is a fantastic character and I love how Adam Stower described him.

Charlie M

I really enjoyed this book because I liked the vocabulary used and it had language for children age 7-12. **This is a funny book and I laughed at the bit when he fell in the water.** But it was a great example to people who are bullying to stop. I have listened to this book and I think it is great and I also wanted to ask if the book cover will be gold? And is it longer or is there a number two? I liked the character Ben Pole because he tricks Monty Grabbe when he put his one-pound coin in his sweat wrapper. So I'm coming to the end of my review now I just want to say again what a wonderful book it is.

