



Helping you choose the best books for children



LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the Ghost Ship** by Philip Pullman

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



Seren Daly, age 10

*I found it exiting and gripping, impossible to put down and ignore for even a second. 'The Adventures of John Blake' is an exiting book, it is also a comic book just to let you know. It may look like it is a boys book but it is not, **I think both genders will enjoy reading it.** My favourite part was the beginning it was very exiting and adventurous and it would be great to know more. This book grips you, once you start reading you can't stop. The ideas for this book are really adventurous and Philip Pullman probably spent a lot of time and effort on it, if there was a sequel I*

would definitely read it. This is a fantastic book and can recommend this to 9s and above I hope they enjoy it as much as I did.

Ross O'Gorman, age 10

A thrilling, action-packed adventure about a time-travelling ghost ship. Philip Pullman's first graphic novel is immensely enjoyable, filled with amazing images and draws you in from the very beginning. The Mary Alice travels through time and is manned by a crew who have been rescued, some several centuries ago. The ship sails into 2017 and saves an Australian girl called Serena from the sea after she fell overboard from her family boat. There is lots of mystery and intrigue in this story. The central character John Blake ended up

on the ship after his father's science experiment went wrong and he was saved by the Mary Alice. The ship has been sighted many times throughout the centuries and the British Government are keen to find out more about it. The mega wealthy Dahlberg is trying to kill John because he witnessed him killing the man who actually invented the new kind of battery from which Dahlberg had made his fortune. John has to try and bring him down first and destroy his empire. **It's fast-paced, mega exciting and impossible to put down. The illustrations are really strong and are so good at bringing all the different strands of the story to life.** The title hints that there may be more stories about John Blake to come. I hope so, because I would love to read more.

Toby Little, age 9

Every single time I had to stop reading it, I was very annoyed – I even took it into school, and every time the lesson started again, I was grumpy that I got interrupted – it was that good.

John is no ordinary boy. He is on a ship with ghost pirates, and he has a watch with which he can travel through time. One day, a girl gets lost in a storm, and John saves her. But to take her home will be very dangerous for John and the crew, because a villain is out to get them.

This book by Philip Pullman has a few swearwords in it, but it's amazing to read. You can follow the storyline very well, but it keeps you on tenterhooks. **Every single time I had to stop reading it, I was very annoyed – I even took it into school, and every time the lesson started again, I was grumpy that I got interrupted – it was that good. The drawings were amazing, and had a lot of detail.** The humans in it looked very realistic, and I would love to know how John Fordham made the fog look so realistic. The age range is about 9-15.

Twitter @tobyiswriting

Bella, age 10

This story seems quite grown up and different but I enjoyed reading it with my Dad.

The adventures of John Blake book 1 is a interesting book it's not like other books I have read but I've only read one graphic novel so far and that was more cartoony than this one.

I like the story and the pictures and it inspires me to want to write my own

comic page but not a whole book like this.

I enjoy reading books like this with my Dad because he likes art and time travel stories.

Noah Scott-Sentence, age 10

A thrilling, action-packed adventure!

I really recommend this book. It's very exciting and also funny.

This book was an exciting and sometimes funny read. I liked the illustrations. I really liked it when John said he had put Serena back with her family but she was actually right there on the ship!

The most exciting part is when a missile is sent to the ship and you think that the ship is going to be blown up -- but you'll have to read it to find out what happens!

Joshua Zinkin, age 12

Gorgeously drawn comic that feels as if you are stepping inside a film, with a wonderful narrative that feels like a good adventure but also contains plenty of modern references.

*This is a hugely enjoyable comic strip book that tells the story really well, and isn't funny or silly like some comics, but a serious story that lends itself well to visuals. In fact the narrative is easy to follow, with minimal but effective text, with so much of the story in the pictures. A family are sailing when one of them gets swept overboard and picked up by a ghost ship that travels through time, with historical people on board. There are also people who are set on destroying the ghost ship, and without giving too much away there is a phenomenal battle scene. I loved this when it was in *The Phoenix* comic and looked forward to it weekly, but now am delighted to have a full story in book format. It's well worth owning and gifting to my friends too.*

Twitter @minervamoan

Daniel Bisland, age 9

This comic book is about a boy called John Blake. This book starts in the sea when a girl falls off her family yacht and drowns and then appears on a ship with the name of "The Mary Alice". She has time travelled to the past; to the

time of the pirates! The crew has a special boy called John on board who has an extremely special secret!

What is the secret?

I recommend it to 8+ adventure and comic fans. I give it 5/5. If you like mysteries this is the book for you. Also, if you don't like long, boring books without any illustrations, you will like this book!