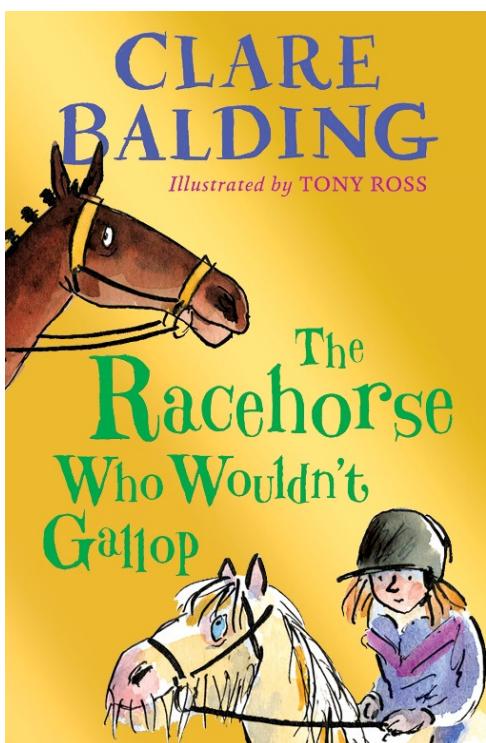


Helping you choose the
best books for children



Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of **The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop** by Clare Balding

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



Isabel, age 9

A really great book that I thoroughly enjoyed, more please!

A funny book which I really enjoyed reading. It didn't take me long to read as it is a story that you just want to read until the end.

I especially enjoyed the ending which I did not expect at all.

This is a good book for everyone not just girls and not just girls that like horses.

Amina Hassan, age 10

Astounding and astonishing. I loved this book, the suspense was real.

I liked that they bought a racehorse by accident and the journey they had just to get the horse to gallop. It was an excellent book. Astounding and astonishing (and lots of more words that are good of course) it was a great book people of all ages will want to read.

*I have been there with Charlie facing all her problems with her. I liked that her dream had helped the family's problem. She had become a star with a lot of hard work and determination. Her one big problem being solved had helped other little problems. People didn't believe in her but she showed them that she could do it. I liked the book and I'm sure you will too so **how about you join Charlie, face her problem with her and cheer her on in this great book. It'll be fun I promise.***

Caye Gould

Charlie dreams of winning the Epsom Derby with her horse, Noble Warrior. A beautifully written story with an underlying message, if you want something and work hard at it you can achieve your dream.

Charlie lives on a farm with her parents and two brothers, Harry and Larry. Dreaming of owning her own horse, Charlie visits the Newmarket Horse sales with her father. Whilst waving to her friend, Polly, at the sales, Charlie doesn't realise that she has in fact bid on a horse! Charlie and her father drive home in their cattle truck with not one, but two horses, Noble Warrior and Percy. Determined that Noble Warrior, or Noddy as Charlie calls him, will be a successful racehorse Charlie persuades her parents to enter him in the most famous horse race, the Epsom Derby! The story follows Charlie's ambition and determination to see her dream come true. A wonderful storyline beautifully told with subtle humour and an underlying message that if you want to achieve something and work hard at it, your dreams can become a reality. A wonderful story that can be read by children themselves or by parents as a bedtime story, it is a book that will delight all readers.

Daniel Bisland, age 9

This book is about a girl called Charlie who lives on a farm with her family and Charlie's friend Joe. One day, when Charlie was at school, she met her friend Polly who told her about a horse show at the weekend. So, as soon as she got home she told her mum. Her mum said she could ONLY go if she didn't buy anything! So, the next day, she went with her father to the show. When they went to the bidding ring, there was one horse and one pony. She saw Polly and waved at her but it cost her £1,000. But how? You'll have to read the book to find out! THIS IS WHERE THE STORY BEGINS!

What is so special about the horse? Why doesn't he gallop? Who is naughty Percy? How does Charlie become famous? All these questions will be answered in the book. I give it 10/10. If you like watching the Derby and horse racing, this is the book for you. I recommend it to 8+ horse lovers.

Emily Yates, age 10

An easy enjoyable read with fun characters and a lovely theme - don't give up on your dreams!

This was an easy enjoyable read suitable for 8 - 11 years especially if you like horses. The best part of the story is how stubborn Noble Warrior is, who won't go anywhere without his best friend Percy the palomino pony. It had a lovely moral - don't give up on your dreams. It had a slow start but as the story progressed it became more and more engaging. I enjoyed the names of the cows in this story like Madonna and Princess Anne. I would read another book by this author.

Arun Jethwa, age 11 – Blenheim Primary School

Great read - fun and humorous throughout! 9/10

This book is really fun to read and brings out the personality of the horse through humour. It reminds me a little of a David Walliams books which I love! I'd recommend this book to both boys and girls who like funny stories - it's not relevant that it's a horse so if you don't like animals this is still fun. 9/10

Esmee Oliver, age 8

Charlie is a 10 year old girl who loves horses so she is secretly delighted when she accidentally buys a racehorse at an auction. With the farmworker as jockey and herself as trainer they have ambitions to win the Derby.

This book is funny and easy to read. Charlie is a very entertaining and determined girl. I think this book would appeal to people who like horses and those who enjoy a good laugh.

Saffron, age 11

This is a very good story and I like the storyline. I don't think there's too many changes needed. I did think the dog drawing looked bit weird but it's mainly about the story. I overall love the story line to this book as it goes bit by bit and doesn't rush too quickly. My favourite part is the very beginning with Charlie and Boris, it was quite funny as well because the old London Mayor had that name. Overall I think this is a very good story, and it could be a good book to come out and turn out very well.

Martha Cox, age 7

Exciting and funny story - not just for horse lovers. I would definitely recommend this book to my friends.

Percy and Noble Warrior, the horses, are really funny and always like to be together which was really tricky for Charlie at times. It's hard to pick a favourite part but I did enjoy reading about when Charlie met a fortune teller - you'll have to read the book though to find out if her prediction came true!!

Mia Goodman, age 10

A great, hilarious read. It is easy to understand and the wording is simple so I would recommend it to young readers. I really enjoyed having a smile and laugh whilst reading this book! This is a hilarious book with a simple storyline. It is easy to understand so can be enjoyed by younger readers.

It is about a farm girl called Charlie, who dreams of having a pony but accidentally buys a racehorse. The racehorse is strong, healthy fit and ordinary and changes her life!

But there is just one problem...the horse will not gallop! And he won't even leave the stables without Percy the pony.

The events in this book are hilarious and kept me smiling all the time!

It is great for any fan of Dick King-Smith as it is a funny animal book.

It is very different to what it says on the blurb but I would really recommend reading the book to find out more...

Annie Sherratt, age 11

This is a perfect book for any horse mad person - like me. I really enjoyed it and the characters in this story are great.

I understood most of the technical horse terms because I do it in real life. There is lots of courage, determination and perseverance in this amazing book. This is an excellent book and I'd highly recommend reading it.

Ava Townsend, age 6

***A story about a young girl, Charlie, and her desire to own a horse.
Who better written by than ex-jockey Clare Balding!***

A book which, coincidentally, we started reading during the Olympics when my daughter was feeling particularly inspired!

The story is about a 10 year old girl, Charlie, who loves horses and is desperate to own one of her own.

This is the perfect book for horse mad children and shows the journey Charlie has to go on to train a shy horse into a champion.

I have to admit that I think this book is probably more suited to children older than my daughter (6).

It started off well but I think we will save and re-visit when she's a bit older.