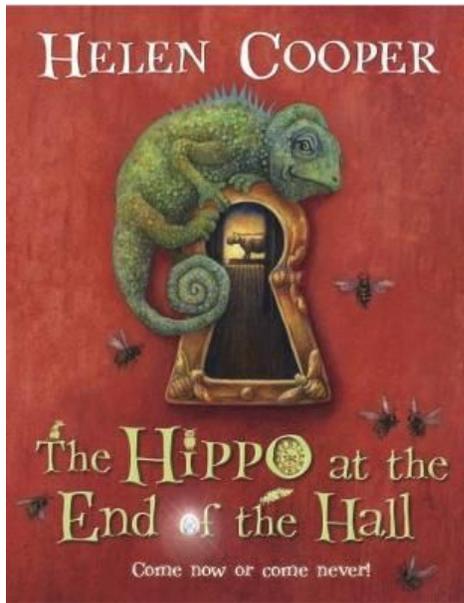


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **The Hippo at the End of the Hall** by Helen Cooper

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



Ethan Watkin, age 10

The Hippo at the End of the Hall is a great book and an exciting adventure. It's like the film 'Night at the Museum'. Very good.

'The Hippo at the End of the Hall' is a brilliant book. The book feels good and the pictures are very good and help you imagine what the characters are like. I love the way the story makes you want to help Ben with his mission.

This is one of the best books I have read this year.

Linda Brown

What a wonderful magical, mysterious adventure.

Ben, our main character receives an invitation to The Gee Museum, which has been delivered to him by some bees! It arrives with the milk early one morning. Ben opens the envelope and his magical adventure begins. Even though his mum doesn't want him to accept the invitation, for the first time in his life he disobeys her and takes up the challenge of 'come now or come never!' Which is clearly printed on the bottom of the invitation.

As Ben enters the museum he feels strongly drawn towards the hippo that graces the front cover of this wonderful book. He is then caught up in a story of odd tales, witches, magical animals and family secrets. This charming story has also been illustrated with enchanting pencil drawings by the author. They give a light and bewitching glimpse into the world of the Gee Museum and help bring the story vividly to life.

'The Hippo at the End of the Hall' is a mix of folk tales, myth and travel and

has a curious quality to it that makes it wonderfully original. I love a good museum and after reading this wonderful story I will go into the Natural History Museum in London with different thoughts in my head as I go around the animal exhibits and curiosities and wonder what stories they have to tell. 340 well written pages that are suitable for 9+ readers and the occasional adult!

James Boran, age 12

A great adventure set in a museum with a touch of magic.

‘The Hippo At The End Of The Hall’ is a fantastic book and looks amazing. I loved the cover. It already feels like a book that will be around for a long time. The other thing I loved about this book was the setting. It is set for the most part in a museum. An old, neglected museum full of stuffed animals. This gives great atmosphere to the story and allows us to believe that there could be magic here. Ben, the hero of the story is trying to save the museum from evil developers. He is helped by the animals in the museum.

As well as being an adventure story it is a story about childhood and innocence. Children believe that anything, even magic, is possible but as they grow up they lose that power. This novel is unusual because it is illustrated and the illustrations really bring the story to life. I read it in one sitting and would recommend it to anyone who likes stories about magic

Judith Smith, age 12 ½

A novel about a museum may not seem very appealing at first glance, however, take a closer look and you will find many treasures inside. Will good win through?

Will the museum be saved or will the developers get their way? You will have to read it to find out. There are good and bad characters - who you can identify with. Will good ultimately win the day or will evil get the upper hand? There are some surprises, some parts you are hoping will come true and others that you hope will not. Suspense is built throughout the book. It is well worth a read, it would be lovely to see a follow-up book on what happens to the characters next.

Hannah Minton, age 12

It was great and exciting. ‘The Hippo At The End Of The Hall’ is an exciting read, with lots of twisting mysteries.

You follow the path of young boy Ben, as he tries to figure out the truth to his father’s

disappearance. Ben is an interesting boy, who is hardworking and always trying to be good. However, when the situation requires him to step in and hurl into possibly dangerous places, Ben does so. He is an inspiring character, who tries to keep his family safe at all costs. Ben uses his abilities wisely, when the plot takes him to the Gee museum. When Ben arrives, he sees two people discussing something between themselves which eventually causes Ben to try to save the museum and everything in it, including the friendly hippo, an owl called Flummery, Sengi, and Leon, all of whom are members of the museum.

*In the book, there is **a combination of thrilling fantasy, and realism, which takes ben through a plot that is truly ground breaking.** It enables the reader to get lost in it, and the stunning black and white illustrations are beautiful. I enjoyed reading the book because there was a lot of action, and fantasy, two genres I adore. In addition, it told a sweet happy-ending, and had a creative plot. The whole book wasn't a difficult read, and therefore a little break from more complicated books. However, it was still great and exciting – really fabulous. I couldn't put it down.*

Bella, age 10

Really fun and magical book, great pictures too.

When I first read the title to this book 'The Hippo At The End Of The Hall' I thought it might be a bit babyish but the blurb on the back sounded really good so I thought I would try reading it.

It wasn't babyish at all it was fun and exciting and really interesting too. Ben was really brave and I loved the animals especially the Hippo and the owl. I also really like the pictures in this book, they are fun and detailed and sketchy. I really enjoyed this book and think that it will be really popular.

Oliver Thorpe, age 11

*'The Hippo At The End of the Hall' is about a boy who has lost his father, going to a magical museum to help save it and its' magic from developers. It is **a fun read with great illustrations and an original yet easy to follow plot.***

*The museum displays stuffed animals and other artefacts from around the world, like a natural history museum, but Ben can talk to the animals and together they unlock the secret of the wild magic hidden inside the silver bottle. During the course of the adventure, Ben meets the owner of the museum, Constance, and discovers that she is a long lost relative of his dad's family. Maybe that is why the animals talk to him? **This book would appeal to anyone with a vivid imagination, especially who like stories with magic. I am an animal lover, and that definitely makes it***

appeal as well.

Harsh Budhdeo, age 10

Amazing mix of characters and creatures, kept me on my toes. Not to mention the suspense on the gem.

Very captivating and exciting. I really enjoyed the suspense created around the gem, and all the exciting characters of the creatures in the book. Loved the bees and the role they play in the book is so important. The author has got so much happening in the book - kept me on my toes. Great story.

Maia Fuller, age 13

'The Hippo at the End of the Hall' was such an amazing book with an amazing story. *I loved the illustrations, they really helped you to picture the story as you read. My favourite character was Constance the museum owner because I loved how kind she was and her beautiful museum, filled with so many special secrets. I also loved the character Ben because he was so brave and he didn't let anyone get in his way. The story is about Ben receiving a strange letter in the post telling him to come to the museum - when he gets there, all kinds of secrets are revealed and Ben is needed to help the museum and it's specimens before it is gone completely. I would recommend this book for children over 9 and adults. **The book is so beautiful and I really think people should read it.***

Matilda Greenacre, 11

Perfect, an amazing story.

This book had a great storyline and was so creative. The way it was written made it suitable for any age group and i think it is a story that any child would easily enjoy. The main idea of this book is about animal trapped in an ancient museum that is going to be destroyed. When ben visits the museum the can understand and talk to the animals and it is down to him to save them. I think that this book was an overall amazing book that i think every child should read.