

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Moone Boy: The Blunder Years By Chris O'Dowd & Nick V. Murphy

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

Sidney Greenslade, age 11

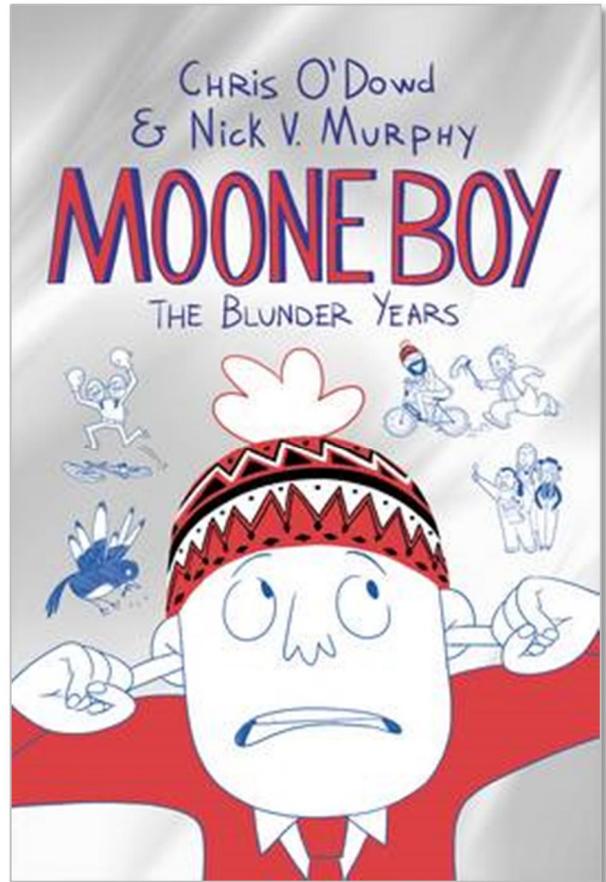
A brilliant tale of a hapless boy, his imaginary friend and how they deal with the problems of everyday life in a unique and hilarious way.

'Moone Boy: The Blunder Years' is a fantastically funny story about a young boy named Martin Moone. Martin is sick of being the one boy in a household of girls and feels that he urgently needs a copilot for his colossal fails, trips and slips on the path of life. So, when his friend Padraic suggests that Martin should get an imaginary friend (or "IF"), he decides to give it a try. But Martin's IF "Loopy Lou" turns out to be annoying, silly and never even calls him by his real name so when an imaginary clerk comes to see how Martin is getting on with his new pal, Martin begs him to become his IF instead.

The clerk agrees but Martin soon discovers that this choice could lead him into a whole lot of trouble, mishaps and several hilarious incidents...

'Moone Boy' is a brilliant book – on every page there is another joke, amusing incident or just plain silliness. I love how Martin has such a wild and crazy imagination and how the book shows silly ways of dealing with real problems in an ordinary kid's life.

I thought all the characters had good, strong personalities and I particularly



liked Loopy Lou as he was bouncy and fun and willing to do anything!

This book frequently made me laugh out loud and I couldn't put it down. It's a great, very funny book that I think both adults and children would enjoy – I didn't want it to end!

Sam Harper, age 11

A brilliantly funny read full of crazy characters, hilarious definitions and cool cartoons. I loved it!

Martin Moone needs two friends, wingmen to help him navigate his idiotic life, but he only has one and that's Padraic. Padraic is a real boy who thinks that Martin should get an imaginary friend (IF) like he has. Imaginary friends are great fun. You create them yourself but if you don't have enough imagination, like Martin, there's WhIF?, or Which IF?, a catalogue which you can choose one from. Martin finds the catalogue after speaking to a talking magpie and Bruce the Spruce in the woods and he chooses the Imaginary Friend of the Month, Loopy Lou. He also gets a free chocolate fish with Loopy Lou but unfortunately the fish escapes down the toilet and Loopy Lou is too crazy for Martin. He needs to fire him and find a new IF. CustServRep263 tries to help him but will Martin ever find the perfect IF and what will happen to Loopy Lou now that Martin doesn't want him?

This was a really funny story that left me begging for more. My favourite scene was the Imaginary Friend Swearing-in Ceremony with the hilarious oath, the Enchanted Duffle Coat, Ancient Goblet of IFfyness and the Sacred Spoon used to tap the new IF on the head 7 times. The real and not-so-real cartoons of the ceremony were great and I loved the definitions and sketches scattered throughout the book. A brilliantly funny read.

Tomasz Hawryszczuk, age 10

Really funny book and just like the TV series. If you like 'Wimpy Kid' and 'Tom Gates', you will surely like this too!

This book is all about an 11 year old boy called Martin who has lots of sisters so he gets an imaginary friend (thanks to his best friend) and soon discovers that maybe it wasn't the best idea he ever had. He then decides to get rid of his imaginary friend and get another but that doesn't quite go according to plan either! This book was so funny, I really did laugh out loud. I liked the illustrations and I loved the way that new words were introduced that I have

never heard of and then an explanation of the word was in a box at the bottom of the page. I learnt plenty of new words! I think this book is suitable for anyone over the age of 10 as there are a few rude bits in it. Highly recommend this book if you like 'Wimpy Kid' and 'Tom Gates'.

Cameron Lobban, age 10

What a funny book!

*This book is about a boy who could do with a new friend. Nobody real is right so why not imagine one. Martin Moone has to do some funny things and look through a brochure to pick an imaginary friend. His first choice is not the best and he is not sure what to do. Just in time a tall thin bearded imaginary man appears and Martin wants to choose him instead, but first he must get rid of Loopy Lou, which is not easy. At first this book was hard to get into, but then I really enjoyed it. Sometimes I didn't understand the Irish slang words and 80s stuff but then there was handy boxes which explained some things. **I laughed and laughed** but also found the ending sad. **I hope this is not the last I have heard of Martin Moone and Sean Murphy.***

Sam, age 10

Freegrounds Junior School

I laughed until I cried - a brilliant book, perfect for reading to cheer yourself up.

I'm not a big fan of diary-style books so when this arrived, I wasn't sure what to expect. After the first few pages though, I was a convert, enjoying every sentence.

I thought it was really well written and that the main character was interesting. He sounded like a lot of my friends so I could really identify with him.

The story was entertaining and kept me reading throughout. I also loved the presentation of the book - it was in colour and there were lines printed on each page to make it look like a real journal.

I've never watched the TV programme linked to this book, but based on how much I enjoyed reading it I might just start watching!

Edward, age 10

A total ball! A laugh every page!

Loved it I will read it again and again and again!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

William Longlands, age 11

7/10 I liked the plot but would not read it again.

I found this book slightly weird. It was a book that started off sadly but ended well. You always want the main character to come out on top. There are two main characters in the book. One of the main characters lives in a family of girls. He gets a good idea from his friend, but it does not work out that well at the beginning, because he chooses something because it came with a chocolate fish. So do not always think about getting something because it is on offer. Think about what really matters.

Lola Thurston-Mathews, age 8

Martin is tired of living in a family full of girls and really wants a wingman. When his best friend Padraic tells him about imaginary friends he becomes desperate to find one.

My favourite part of the book was when a really cool guy in his school called Declan wants Martin to help him go on a date with Trisha, Martin's sister. If Martin does that then Declan will be his bully protector from the bullies called the Bonner Brothers.

Out of the main characters I liked Sean "Caution" Murphy the best because he was very funny. I also liked Liam too because he was a bit daft.

I really enjoyed the book because it was very, very funny and would definitely recommend it to anyone aged 7 and over!

Joseph Harris-Hart, age 13

A funny story, and silly at times, which I liked. I picked it up to have a quick browse before I was going to read it properly but I got sucked right into it and couldn't stop reading it!

This book is about a boy named Martin Moone who is fed up with living in a house full of women, so his friend tells him to get an imaginary friend.

I liked the way the book was set out and the pictures made me laugh too.

It's rare I like a book this much, and really enjoyed this one. I like how on almost every page there is a footnote for some words that people might not know.

I really enjoyed this book and think it would be enjoyed by both boys and girls age 10+ I would personally rate this book 8/10.

Dylan Sweet

I rate this book 5 star and it can be for boys or girls, any age.

Moone Boy was a very good book. At times it was quite awkward and weird but all the same I loved it. I liked this book because it is funny and a good use of imagination. The idea of an imaginary friends you can buy in a catalogue made me want to get that catalogue and made me a bit jealous. Martin, the main character, really needs a new sidekick other than his friend Padraic and he ends up with a clown called Loopy Loo. The only problem is that Loopy Loo is very annoying and never helps Martin with anything. He decides to get another one called customer service representation: 263749. Martin thought that name was a bit odd so called him Sean Murphy. I hope lots of people read this book and this is edging me on to watch the series on Sky. I rate this book 5 star and it can be for boys or girls, any age.

Patrick John Griffith, age 10

If you love silly stuff, if you want a better imagination, if you want a laugh, then this is the book for you!

This funny fiction story features: Martin Moone and his family – 3 annoying sisters and his mum and dad, Padriac (his best friend and IF encourager) and lots more. When Martin needs a male companion - a wingman on his team, Padraic suggests he gets an IF. IFs are not as easy to come by as you might think! And they can cause lots of trouble like a hyper monkey if you don't choose the right one for you from the catalogue!*

The style of writing in this book is very similar to David Walliam's children's books, which I like. I also like the way the Moone Boy authors explain the Irish text with asterisks at the bottom of the page (these are mostly funny descriptions, rather than boring dictionary definitions!).

**IF – Imaginary Friend*

M – Marvellous book.

O – ‘Orrible sisters!

O – Odd IF - Loopy Loopington Lou!

N – Naughty IF – Crunchie when skinny dipping!

E – Eviction Notice – a long story!

B – Bonner Brother Bullies.

O – Outstanding performance throughout,

Y – You must read it!

Gabriel Phelan, age 11

Moone Boy is a weird and wonderful book, with many crazy twists and turns on the side of the plate.

The main character in this book is a rather weird kid called, Martin Moone. In this story, Martin has to win the ferocious fight against his terrible trio of sisters; Sinead, Trisha and Fidelma. Unfortunately, there is only one other male contestant in his family and sadly, that's his drunken dad, who seems more like the coward of the family, rather than the dad of the family. Martin knows that he can't come through this battle on his own though; he needs a male companion; one that is kind and fun, but where on earth is he going to get one of those from?

My favourite part of this story is when Martin gets his super cool Readybix (a cereal) bike for his birthday as a surprise.

I absolutely loved reading Moone boy - it made me laugh-out-loud about one thousand times. Although, this book is really great and funny, it is a bit rude in

places, but I think it is probably aimed at kids from 9-12. I rate this book 8 out of 10.

Alex Hall, age 9

Martin Moone tries to get an 'IF' (who is an imaginary friend). His first IF is an annoying & loud IF, so he gets another one. This one is better. The problem is that the old IF hasn't disappeared!

This book was about a boy called Martin Moone, who was the only boy in a family with 3 sisters, and a mum and dad. He didn't like being the only boy because he had no company and he was teased a lot by his sisters. He tries to get an 'IF' (who is an imaginary friend). His first IF is an annoying and loud imaginary friend, so he gets another one. This one is better. The problem is that the old IF hasn't disappeared and it should have done. This book is full of extra characters who suddenly pop up, I found this a little confusing. The book was slightly funny but not laugh out loud.

Daniel, age 8

This is a really funny, hilarious and brilliant novel.

This is a really funny, hilarious and brilliant novel. It is funny because the sentences are funny. It is about a boy named Martin and he has a horrible life so he has to get someone to help him so his best friend Padraic suggests he should get an IF. (Imaginary friend) But he gets a horrible overweight oaf so he has to get a different one. I liked this book.