

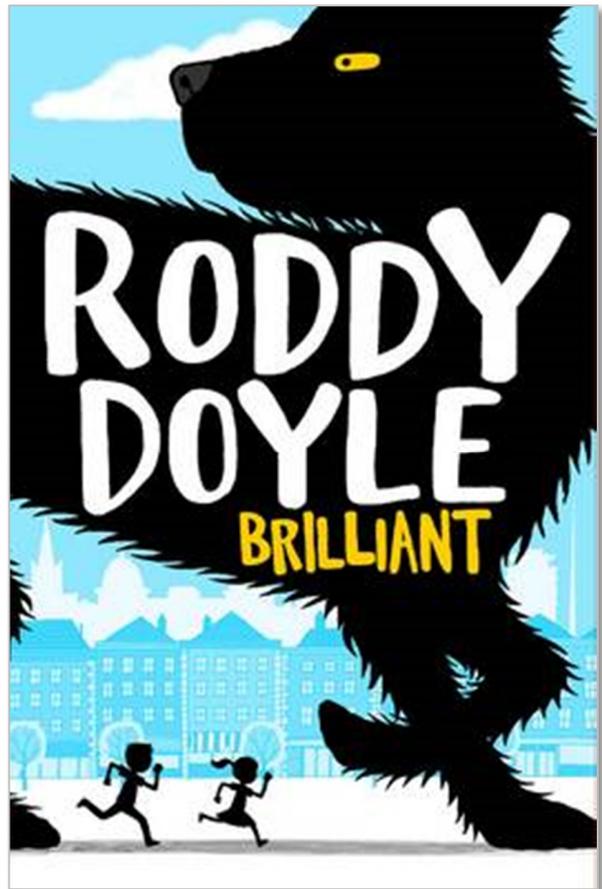
## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Brilliant** by Roddy Doyle

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

### **Sam Harper, age 10**

*'Brilliant' is the story of Gloria and Rayzer and their quest to help their uncle. Their lives are fairly ordinary. They live in Dublin with their mum, dad and gran and they like to play a game in the evenings where they creep downstairs after bedtime and hide under the kitchen table, listening to the grown-ups talking. But things aren't so much fun since their Uncle Ben came to live with them, there seems to be a lot more mumbling and a lot less laughter in the house. From under the kitchen table they hear that the Black Dog has got Uncle Ben and they decide to track down the mystery dog to free their uncle. They find lots of black dogs on the streets of Dublin but they are nowhere near nasty enough to be the dog they are searching for. They meet Ernie, a weird vampire-kid who likes hanging upside down, and his dog Fang, and, together with help from talking zoo animals and sarcastic sea gulls, they track the Black Dog down. But has the clever creature tricked them, what is it doing with Dublin's funny bone and how can a magical word help?*

***'Brilliant' is a comical, quirky story which never quite leads where you expect it to. It's full of crazy characters and quick-fire sarcasm. Brilliantly funny!***



**Adam Graham, age 10**

*Can you really have a drunken seagull, talking animals and vampire as your job description?! Is there a black dog with Dublin's funny bone, can one truly brilliant word save the friends and family of millions of Ireland's kid's? If you want to know the answers... READ THE BOOK THEN!!*

*'Brilliant' is a fantastic book about many kids who are running after one black creature who has given all the older citizens of Dublin an overdose of depression, leaving their family incredibly angry! Will the children manage it or will they fall down at the powers of this evil creature? I got asked by myself who you recommend this book for and I said **"I would recommend the fantastic book – 'Brilliant' -to anyone aged from about eight - thirteen and who loves action packed, thrill seeking and stupendously good books, as this is one of those fantastic, one-of-a kind books!"***

*I have one last thing to say and that is that you must read this book if you want to live. I will find you. You are not safe unless you have this book in your possession. I'm coming for you! Muhahahahahahahah! I'm slightly evil!!!*

**Charlotte Rosevear, age 10**

**'Brilliant' IS Brilliant!**

*It's about two children who have an Uncle, called Ben. Uncle Ben's business had gone from bad to worse, in other words it has closed down. Uncle Ben has given up his home because he has no money, therefore he goes to live with his niece and nephew, Gloria and Raymond. They climb under the table to listen into their parent's conversation. When their Granny says that 'The Black Dog' has got Uncle Ben, Gloria and Ray run after the dog and meet up with lots of other children.*

*They find 'The Black Dog' who is frightening, he tries to take the city's funny bone and take away all the adults laughter.*

*A brilliant book to "Get your nose in!"*

**Jemma Rubens, age 10**

***This brilliant book**, written by Roddy Doyle, **is a real page-turner and I just could not put it down.** It was an eventful tale, involving certain animals that I am fond of.*

*My favourite part (hard to choose) was when the dramatic twists occurred and*

*your mind just started to whirr with delight. I enjoyed the fact that it wasn't just a random title; the word BRILLIANT was used in an unexpected context.*

*It is an amazing book and everybody from five to eleven should enjoy it!*

**Ben Brown, age 10**

***A brilliant story about chasing the black dog of depression around Dublin. It's not depressing, it's got talking animals and is just very funny and BRILLIANT.***

*Brilliant in every way. When Gloria's and Rayzers Uncle Ben came to stay they heard that he had lost his job and that the black dog of depression was on his back and that it had stolen Dublin's funny bone. All the kids of Dublin joined in the chase to try and get the funny bone back. This took them through the city of Dublin, including the zoo where Gloria had a chat with a Meer cat! All the while the dog was growing bigger. My favourite character is Ernie because he is a vampire and is always joking.*

*I gave it a 10/10 it is BRILLIANT*

**Charlie Upchurch, age 10 - <http://coolkidscreations.net/>**

***'Brilliant' is an amazing book that couldn't get any better. It's brilliant!***

*'Brilliant' is one of the best books I have ever read. The story is based in Dublin and features many characters. A young girl named Gloria and her brother Raymond are looking for Dublin's funny bone which has been stolen by a very sly suspect: the black dog of depression. The black dog is a shape-shifting grey cloud who is creeping around Dublin making all of the grown-ups depressed and miserable. So Gloria and Raymond set off, hoping to make their Uncle Ben happy again, making many friends (including Ernie) along the way.*

*I like the fact that all the children in Dublin joined Raymond and Gloria to chase the dog. My favourite character was Ernie. Despite being a vampire he is a big softy. With a mixture of stupidity and pure awesomeness, he pulls a few vampire tricks out of the bag and saves the adventure many times.*

*I thought Brilliant was an amazing book that couldn't get any better. It was brilliant!*

**Alice East, age 9**

**'Brilliant' is a brilliant book for children - it is about a black dog who makes everyone in Dublin City depressed!** It is like a cloud moving around the city from house to house making people feel sad.

Only the children can stop the black dog but they have to work together with lots of children to figure out how to stop the black dog making the adults feel so unhappy.

I liked that all the children decided to go out and try to defeat the black dog together.

The book was written in easy to read language. The book contains adventure and it makes you laugh out loud in places.

**Sidney Greenslade, age 10**

**'Brilliant' is an exciting and funny story following the brave children of Dublin as they set out to save their families from the Black Dog. Thoroughly enjoyable.**

'Brilliant' is a story set in the city of Dublin where the adults are under attack from the Black Dog of Depression.

The main characters, Raymond and Gloria, must try to shift the Black Dog from their Uncle Ben's shoulders but first they have to find it. After scouring the neighbourhood they finally locate the Black Dog and give chase, following it for hours and hours. Just when it seems they will never catch up, other children join the chase, wanting to save their families from the Black Dog too. They must overcome problems and face danger – the fate of the adults of Dublin is in their hands.

I liked reading 'Brilliant' because the author had painted such a clear picture of the characters and the city of Dublin that I could imagine myself running alongside the children as they searched for the Black Dog. 'Brilliant' is an excellent book to read because all the children are so brave and loyal and, although they have a serious task to perform, the story is also funny and exciting. Some parts felt so real and frightening that I was on the edge of my seat!

'Brilliant' was thoroughly enjoyable and I will certainly read it again.

**Jacob Tomlin, age 11**

*This book is just brilliant! 'Brilliant' tells the story of how a group of children set out to defeat the black dog of depression and get back the nation's funny bone.*

***With talking seagulls and a meerkat called Kevin, this romp through the streets of Dublin has it all! Roddy Doyle at his 'Brilliant' best.***

'Brilliant' is a moving, funny, heartwarming story about a group of children trying to defeat the black dog of depression that has settled over Dublin since the recession started. This book helps the young people understand how the adults in their lives have lost their funny bone. I loved the language used by the author and it reminded me of a fairy tale.

**James Harrison, age 10**

***This is a really brilliant book. Brilliant characters, brilliant idea, brilliantly written...Just brilliant!***

***It has the signature Roddy Doyle 'things' such as talking animals and objects.***

It has the signature Roddy Doyle 'things' such as animals and objects having conversations with the characters. But, although the idea is great, you get the feeling that there isn't quite enough happening in the book to write about. Like, they go to the zoo and Phoenix Park for two seconds and there a third of the story has happened. The other two thirds are: being at home and chasing after a cloud. The seagulls get a HUGE part...why?

**Sophie Bridges, age 11**

***I think 'Brilliant' by Roddy Doyle was a great book because it is easy to understand, I like dogs and once I read the first page I wanted to read more, it was that good.***

**Amie Coffman, age 10**

***Hard going I'm afraid and a little boring. Not to my taste! I much prefer page turners and exciting stories. Sorry!***

*I wasn't too keen on this book. I found it a little confusing and boring in places. It was a bit too serious for me and I really struggled to finish it.*

**Joseph Harris-Hart, age 12**

***Lots of children are running after the Black Dog of depression to get Dublin's funny bone back.***

*Gloria and Raymond are brother and sister. Their uncle Ben is depressed, he lost his job, his home and is now living with them.*

*One night Gloria and Raymond hid under the kitchen table whilst listening to the grown-ups talking. Their grandmother was there too and said that Uncle Ben had the "Black Dog" of depression on his back.*

*The story is mainly about them chasing the "Black Dog" including running through the local Zoo. There they discover the animals and birds can talk.*

*With help from the seagulls they continue to chase the black dog.*

*Once they had run through the zoo and the park chasing it, they came to the beach and came face to face with the Black Dog! Will they get the funny bone?*

*This book didn't hold my interest although I imagine lots of children will enjoy it as it is very imaginative and funny in places especially when the animals spoke to them. I rate this book 3/5.*

**Adi Mehta, age 8**

*The hateful black dog of depression has stolen Dublin's funny bone. Can Gloria and Rayzer [and the other kids in Dublin] save the bone? **This exciting novel of a story has absorbed me into it.** I skipped homework to finish this fantastic book.*

***Read it, trust me you won't be sorry.***