Lovereading4kids Reader reviews of Goblins by Philip Reeve

Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading4kids members.

Sam Harper, age 10

A brilliantly funny adventure. Skarper and Henwyn make a really hilarious pair. It’s a fantastic story and you should read it, closely followed by the rest of the ‘Goblins’ series. I love them!

Did you know that there are different tribes of goblins? Or that they start their combat training the moment they are born by clouting each other over the head with mini mallets? Life as a goblin is tough! Skarper is a cleverer than average goblin though, which is surprising when his hatchling master keeps teaching him the wrong words like lettuce, worms and burks instead of letters, words and books. However Skarper manages to work it out and teach himself from the piles of books in the bum-wipe heaps. This doesn’t prevent him from being catapulted from Blackspike Tower in the bratapult (a catapult for brats) and once he’s out of Clovenstone the adventure really begins. He meets Henwyn, the son of a cheesewright, who creates a cheese monster with the help of three terrible wizards. They find a dragons egg, Henwyn falls in love with Princess Ned, a cloud maiden, and they battle with trolls, witches and other nasty creatures to prevent the evil Lych Lord from rising again. Will they succeed? Their future depends on it.

‘Goblins’ is a brilliantly funny adventure. I love Skarper and once he teams up with Henwyn they make a really hilarious pair. It’s a fantastic story and it looks great too, I love the illustrations of goblins reaching around the text. It’s
as good as ‘Oliver and the Seawigs’ which is another superb book also by Philip Reeve. You should read them both, closely followed by the rest of the Goblins series. I love them!

**Stanley Howarth, age 7**

Absolutely amazing book.

**Action packed, filled with adventure and very funny.**

**From the very first chapter I was hooked and could not read the book quick enough!**

**Can not wait to read the next book!**

Well what can I say...

Amazing.

‘Goblins’ had me hooked from the very first page.

Scarper the goblin taught himself to read, from the 'Goblins bum wipe pile', he can not keep his mouth shut and ends up upsetting the Goblin King. Which gets him catapulted out of the tower.

He then meets Henwyn, who has been banished from his town, because of the cheese monster.

They then go on an action packed adventure, to rescue a Princess Henwyn read about.

They meet lots of creatures along the way, Sorcerers, Giants, Trolls, mini Dragons, Twiglets, Bog creatures and a Comet.

This book is great, I could not put it down.

I would recommend it to anybody who wants to read a really good action packed adventure.

**Holly Honeyman, age 8**

A fantastic, funny, fantasy book filled with trolls, giants wizards and of course goblins!

I really enjoyed Goblins by Philip Reeve, he is an amazing author. I have read some of his other books and especially loved ‘Oliver and the Seawigs’.

‘Goblins’ is the first instalment in a new series set in a magical world full of
different creatures such as trolls, giants, swamp monsters and the badly behaved goblins.

The story revolves around Skarper a goblin with a brain and sensitivity. The other goblins in Clovenstone are a bit stupid. He is ejected from Blackspike Tower and begins an unlikely quest with the polite hero Henwyn, the cheesewright.

I loved the characters in this novel. There is sensible Princess Eluned, Breslaw the one-eyed, half-tailed goblin hatching master and my favourite a cheese demon - the fondue from hell. The funny comments move the story along and make you want to read more.

I would recommend this witty book to anyone who loves fantasy adventure and fighting goblins.

William Longlands, age 10

‘Goblins’ is a really good mix of different genres: Fantasy, humour and action. There are quite a few different living things in it. They are: giants, humans, goblins and twiglugs. The two main characters are Skarper who is a goblin and Henwyn who is a human. **I would strongly recommend this book.** Some of the main bits are: when the cheesery falls down and when Skarper gets catapulted of the roof of the tower in the braterpault. ‘Goblins’ is written really well. My favourite part was right at the end. Skarper is a clever goblin. Much cleverer than the other goblins. Henwyn is a bit mad. The goblins hate humans. Skarper is the only one who does not.

**Marks out of 10: 10**

Callum Broomfield, age 10

I really enjoyed reading this book because it was fast moving, imaginative and well written. The story is about one goblin who’s thrown out a window for being too clever. Skarper escapes his troubles in the world of softlings (humans) and proves himself brave, resourceful and something of a hero. The book is fun to read and I would recommend it for children 9 yrs and above.

**This book is fast moving, imaginative, well written and fun to read for children 9 yrs and above. 10/10**
James Harrison, age 10

This is a so-so book with a great ending.
This is a so-so book with a great ending, a rubbish start and a medium middle. I really wanted to put the book down at the start: Nothing happened! Philip Reeve just wrote down Skarper’s life story which was SO boring. The only thing that stopped me from doing this was three or four good bits in the middle. The end made me glad I had read the book at all.

Ewan Young, age 11

Brilliant story - definitely should not end up on the ‘bumwipe heap’!
I read this with my sister and we both loved it. It has all the usual fairytale characters but none of them are quite what they seem; a princess called Ned, a nice Goblin, a hero who doesn’t really have a clue and even the baddies turn out to be goodies!
I thought the way Goblins got all the words (or wurms) muddled up was really funny.
It took a little while to get into the story but then I couldn’t put it down. I can’t wait to read the other books in the series

Joseph Harris-Hart, age 12

A great book for kids who like mystical creatures, magical adventures and who enjoy imaginative stories. All kinds of adventures in strange places....I loved it!
This is a story about Skarper a clever goblin who is catapulted out of Clovenstone for interrupting King Knobbler. He meets a young softling(human)called Henwyn who mistakes Skarper for a troll...until they both meet one, on a bridge!
Henwyn wants to be a hero and sets off to find a princess to rescue Skarper goes in the opposite direction to get further away from Clovenstone and the other goblins.
He meets lots of magical creatures including cloud maidens,twiglings,a giant and sorcerers to name a few.
Henwyn and Skarper meet again when Skarper is captured by three sorcerers who are then attacked by goblins. Henwyn,the giant and twiglings rescue him
and the adventure continues.

The place and characters are described in detail and at the front of the book is a map.

This book was great fun to read and at times I laughed out loud to the witty remarks made.

I think it would be popular with kids who like magical adventure stories in strange places. Age 9+ This is the first book in a series and I look forward to reading the next one.

Heather Greenan, age 10

An exciting book, good for children who like adventure and mystery tales.

‘Goblins’ is a good book but is quite hard to get into. I think it is aimed at older children rather than younger ones, maybe about 9+ because it is quite hard to understand and has a few tricky words in it.

My favourite character in the book is Princess Ned because she is different to princesses in most other books because she’s not all polite and girly. She likes going on adventures and living in the wild. I also like Skarper because he is clever and cunning.

Overall I thought ‘Goblins’ was quite a good book but a bit of a hard read, I’d give it 8/10.

Poppy Jeavons, age 15

I really enjoyed ‘Goblins’. I thought it had good, strong and well thought through characters. The plot was interesting and fast paced. I did find some parts a bit confusing, but it was very gripping!

I liked the different creatures in it, and how detailed they were, and how some things were not as they seemed!

Toby Slocombe, age 10

Fantastic imagination for a book about Goblins. The Idea about a bright Goblin makes you eager to read on to find out his adventures.
The description builds a strong picture in your mind about what the atmosphere and characters look like. The names of the character or object just strikes laughter into you like – King Knobbler and his sword Mr. Chop-u-up.

Jennifer Towler, age 8

This book wasn't really for me. There were bits that I liked - especially the chapter 'bum wipe' - because it was funny, but it didn't grab by attention or imagination.

I thought the book was too long and a little slow.

Finn Morris, age 12

This is a really interesting book which creates a myth about how the Goblins and air maids get created.

Jam packed with mythical creatures, I enjoyed this book a lot even though I didn’t think I would at the start. If you enjoy books with good plot and interesting characters then this is for you. One of the best things about this book is its mixture of genres; part comedy, part fantasy, part adventure but all epic. I give this 9/10.