

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of The Outsiders by Michelle Paver Part of the 'Gods and Warriors' series

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

**James Lawrence Griffith, aged 10**

*This gripping historical adventure story would suit all adventure lovers with an interest in mythology. I loved it and found it similar to the Percy Jackson books.*

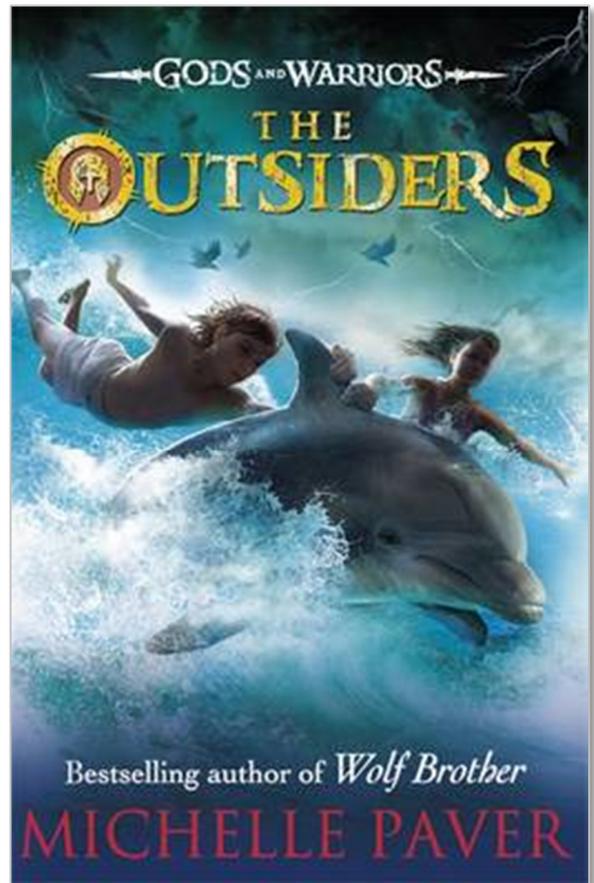
*'The Outsiders' is a gripping historical adventure story set in the Ancient Greek era. It features Hylas, a goatherd, and his sister Issi who were left by their mother as babies on the mountainside and as a result they are known as Outsiders as they live outside of the village. Koronos' Clan want all Outsiders dead and therefore hunt them.*

*The story follows heroic Hylas as he embarks on a perilous quest to find Issi when she mysteriously disappears. In Hylas' search he befriends a dolphin who guides him to the sea goddesses' island and here he finds a girl. But can the girl help him escape the dreaded Clan and find Issi?*

*'The Outsiders' is one of my favourite books I have ever read because the author uses great descriptions of the setting to make you feel that you are really in Ancient Greece (a part of history that I am very interested in). In addition I love mythology and adventure genre!*

**Lucy Minton, age 10**

*An excellent read because it draws you in from the start.*



*The outsiders is a book about a boy named Hylas who, after a terrible attack on his home (which is a cave) must embark on a terrible adventure. He has to find his sister Issi and discover the truth about "the crows".*

*I liked this book because there was lots of action and I was never quite sure what would happen next. This story is an excellent read because it draws you in from the start, where Hylas is trying to pull a black arrowhead from his arm. I also really liked that this book was set in Bronze age Greece which is a period in time I did not know about, so this was really interesting. The authors notes at the back helped me understand the period.*

***I would recommend this book because it is fast paced and ends on a cliffhanger.***

**Adam Pattenden, age 12**

***The first installment in what promises to be a brilliant series describing a boy's desperate search for his sister in Ancient Greece.***

*This is an exciting adventure story set in Ancient Greece. It is easy to read and the pace is fast enough to keep you interested but you can still enjoy all the details of the story. Hylas is an outcast who has to fight to survive as he is being hunted. He is separated from his sister and finds himself stranded on a remote island. He discovers that, through a twist of fate, the extremely privileged daughter of the High Priestess is also stranded on this island. In order to evade capture and certain death, they must work as a team to escape the island and continue the search for Hylas' sister. You will be desperate to get your hands on the second instalment of his adventure!*

**Lucy Allan-Jones, age 12**

***'The Outsiders' is a compelling, nerve-wracking, unputdownable and unique story.***

*It tells the story of Hylas, a boy born on the mountains outside the village and yet the subtle difference of being born outside the village means that the crows (the leaders of the town) are after him and all people like him but Hylas doesn't know why. The story goes on and Hylas finds himself on the run, looking for his sister and betrayed by his best friend. The world is not going well for Hylas.*

*The second main character in this story is Pirra, the daughter of a high and very prestigious priestess who doesn't really want anything to do with her*

daughter. The priestess decides the time has come for Pirra to get married and she finds a suitable husband for Pirra, who is desperate not to get married and foolishly burns her cheek thinking that no-one will want to marry her if she's ugly, but the plan does not work and so she runs away. By coincidence, or perhaps fate, Hylas and Pirra find themselves stranded on the same island. At first they don't get on but can they resolve their differences when it really matters?

The last main character that the book follows is a dolphin that Hylas names Spirit. Spirit is eager to adventure further outside the safety of his pod and loses himself. Luckily, he finds Hylas and the two bond immediately but Spirit is lonely away from his pod and doesn't understand why Hylas can't join him in his underwater world. This simple misunderstanding leads to a fatal incident; can the two ever be friends again?

**Altogether a gripping and highly recommendable read. Five stars out of five.**

**Robert White, age 10**

***A gripping read, this book is impossible to put down. Gods, warriors, a chase, a shipwreck, a rescue, what else could you ask for?***

*Set in Ancient Greece, the book tells the story of Hylas', the last outsider's, quest to find his sister. He sets off on a hazardous journey in the hope that he will find his sister.*

*The House of Koronos (aka The Crows), hunt Hylas because an ancient prophecy foretold that an outsider (Hylas) would hold the 'dagger of Koronos' and destroy 'The House'. Hylas meets Telamon, son of the chief of Lykonian, who plots with him to help him avoid being captured by The Crows. Hylas escapes to the sea and falls asleep on a boat which is shipwrecked in the middle of a storm. Sharks circle him trying to knock him off his plank of driftwood but just in time a dolphin, named Spirit, arrives to save him. The Crows continue to pursue Hylas through many different dangerous and difficult situations. Will Hylas survive to fight another day? Read the book to find out.*

*I really enjoyed this book and can't wait to read the next book in the series. I recommend it to people who like action & adventures stories. It's perfect for fans of Percy Jackson.*

**Jenny Bridgeman, age 8**

***This book brought me to a mystical place where gods and warriors are born.*** The main character is a brave boy called Hylas who's gone off in the wilderness in a quest to find his sister Issi. This book contains magic, adventure and survival.

*This book had me glued to it. I would love to have the next book for my birthday. I think this book would be good for eight years and up. I'd rate this book five stars because it's so awesome! It's so good I would pass it on to my school library. This book reminds me of two of my favorite books 'Beast Quest' and 'Goosebumps'. My favorite part in the book is when the dolphin pushed Hylas into the water. My favorite character is Hylas because he's brave, clever and a survivor.*

*To be honest this book really got me into it and I just have to read it again until I get bored of it. I wish they made more of these books like fifty sixty odd. It doesn't matter if it hasn't got any pictures in it because the story is as brilliant as the illustrations.*

**Tabi Cooper, age 12**

***Action. Adventure. Survival. Following the mythological story of Hylas, a twin, this shows us what it feels like to be an 'outsider.'***

*This mythological story follows Hylas, born an 'outsider' alongside his twin sister. After a scary encounter with evil, mysterious black warriors, Hylas is separated from his sister Issy. Then he bumps into his old friend Telamon and they head West in a chariot ('borrowed') to the sea. Here Hylas meets Pirra and it all gets really interesting.*

*This is a tense read and I enjoyed the adventure/fantasy style of the book. Michelle Paver drew me in with her exciting storytelling and I want to read more of her work as I hadn't read any of her books before. She writes really well with lots intriguing adjectives that help to build tension. I also love animals so I enjoyed the use of them throughout the story.*

*I would recommend any teens and tweens to read this if they like adventurous story lines with a sprinkle of fantasy.*

**Lucas Abbott, age 9**

***Great story, great characters, a gripping tale.***

*I really enjoyed this because I liked it when Hylas went out to sea and survived the storm. Also, I liked it when Pirra found the wreck and then later in the story a man called Akstos said that it was his ship and he had pinned down Hylas to find out this information. I also liked it when Pirra thought Hylas knew the spell when Akstos muttered it while crushing buckthorn leaves.*

*I can't wait to read the Burning Shadow.*

**Mukunth Kowsik, age 12**

***If there is a book with a steady storyline that will take you into the story without any complications and keep you on the edge of your seat until the end, it's 'The Outsiders.'***

*This is a thrilling series with a mysterious and chilling bronze age as the setting. It was this setting and the location of Greece that appealed to me immediately. The story is about Hylas, a goatherd boy who is different from others and so is an outsider. He is on the run from Crows, a vicious set of people who want to get rid of outsiders. With his sister lost and his only guide a dolphin and a girl for a friend, he must survive and hunt for the truth before the Crows get to him.*

*I have to say that the quick paced action had my mind racing, the book immediately got into action mode and stayed so till the end. Hylas' power to fight was so cool and he makes a valiant hero. Fans of stories from made-up, ancient lands (like in The Hobbit or Percy Jackson) and legendary characters (talking animals, monsters etc.) would love this book of action and adventure. I have to give a 9/10 for the amazingness of the book!*

**Emily Bolton, age 11**

*'The Outsiders' is a breathing taking book that brings you into another world. At every turn of the page you want to know more. At the end of the chapter you want to read more. And when you finish the book you are a bit disappointed because it has ended, but at the same time on the edge of your seat to read the next spellbinding book.*

*'The Outsiders' is a creative book about Hylas' journey to find his sister Issi, but to make matters worse someone wants to kill him. His only friend is a girl on the run and his only guide is a dolphin. Will the gods ever help him?*

*Michelle Paver is a fabulous author that has written every page of the Outsiders carefully and used some magic in her books. Not the kind of magic that's written*

*about in books but magic that has come from her herself.*

*As Hylas' journey continued I felt entwined in the book itself, I felt that I was actually there, actually written in to the book.*

*Reading the Outsiders has inspired me to read and write more, making me use more creativity and imagination. I hope that the Outsiders will work the same magic with you as it did with me.*

**Caelainn, age 9**

***I enjoyed the book. I liked how the author used description, so I had a clear picture in my head.***

*My favourite part was when Hylas was on the island with the daughter of the Goddess. I liked when they helped the dolphin and described the dolphin in detail. The author told the reader what was happening every minute. It was good when he was hunting for food and she was watching with jealousy.*

**Sam Moffat, age 11**

***If you like books which have strong bonds between animals and humans you would like it. It was quite nice as well to see how the dolphin is thinking.***

*I personally thought this book was not for me. It was a bit of a disappointment because I loved the 'Wolf Brother Series'. I found this book a bit dull in comparison. It had a good storyline but it seemed to go on for a long time. The main character is a boy called Hylas who befriends a dolphin while on the run from the 'Crows' a band of evil warriors set to destroy all outsiders because of a prophecy. I think the reason that it was not so good for me was because I expected it to be much more action packed. If you like books which have strong bonds between animals and humans you would like it. It was quite nice as well to see how the dolphin is thinking but if you love action packed books that leave you on the edge of your seat then you may not like it as much. I would rate it six out of ten.*

**Lewis Duckworth, age 12**

*A fantastic novel full of adventure. This book is about a child, called Hylas, who has been separated from his sister. He goes on the search to find her and he ends up in the middle of a crisis.*

*At the beginning of the book, I got a bit bored of this book and read others. However when I came back to read this book I didn't like it. I loved it!! I like the way the author, Michelle Paver, was creative with this book to make it feel realistic. However I especially like the way he has put a survival guide up so that if you do end up like hylas you would know what to do.*

***This book is amazing and you definitely should not hesitate to get this book. If you see it at the shops don't just look at it .... BUY IT!!!!!!***

**Ellen Faulkner, age 12**

***The Outsiders was fairly good and it moved at a good pace but it lacked a little bit in the plot. I felt like there could have been more but it was okay.***

*The Outsiders was good but it needed a bit more in terms of plot. It didn't have enough to keep me satisfied. There were times where I got bored in the middle but the start and the ending were quite good. I felt that there were no real surprises, no proper plot twists, other than that Telamon being related to Kratos, and it was very predictable. The end confused me slightly. But other than that, it was good.*

*The descriptions were vivid and the language powerful but I do think that you would be better off reading another, stronger Michelle Paver book, such as 'Wolf Brother'.*