

'Locked Down' book was a great read because everything fitted in like a jigsaw puzzle. It had some VERY funny bits! My favourite part was reading about Zac's favourite phobia, the defecatioesio phobia.

There were a few scary parts like the man with the shotgun and blood on his arm. Other favourite parts were when the whole family started to work together and Stevie learnt to knit, Zac helped his mum to make a water collector to water the plants and Uncle Merv helped them out by telling them how to get ready for the pandemic.

The author did well because the story was enjoyable to read, at times the book made me feel sad, excited, happy, scared and nervous. The author made the book very relatable.

I would like to read other books by the author. I think it would be a good idea if the author made a book about Covid-19. I'd recommend this book to readers aged 10 to 14.

Angus, age 10, Hamilton

Locked Down is a book about a pandemic. Zac is 12 and it's told from his point of view.

I liked this book because it was set out well. I liked the change in fonts, the little explanations, the map, the blue journal and the lists. It helped break the book up and made it easier to read. The book is paced smoothly and wasn't too slow.

There are no huge words and there are some definitions for bigger or obscure words which I liked. It reminded me of our lockdown even though it was written over a decade ago. I like the cover illustration especially the chickens.

My favourite part of the story was when Zac discovers some of the eggs are missing and thinks someone might be a thief. I liked this bit because it was detailed and a good mystery.

I usually read much bigger novels but this was short and sweet compared to the other ones I read. 238 pages but not all of that is words because of the pictures and how it's set out.

I think people would like this book if they read journal/diary type books or real life set up ones. If you like books with pictures like the Treehouse Story books you should like this even though it's not goofy.

I think ages 8-10 could read this because there are short chapters (a day or two) and interesting bits to look at.

Austin, age 10, Timaru

Locked down is a funny and exciting book that I really enjoyed . The story follows Zac Flint through a strict and difficult lockdown. It is very relatable because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The first chapter pulled me in immediately and once I had started reading I couldn't put it down.

In one part of the book Zac finds his dead Dad's journal which tells of his Dad's hiking trip and is really exciting. It also shows how things can go wrong, no matter how prepared you are.

My favourite part of the story was Zac's catch-the-egg-thief investigation with the mechanical bird alarm because it is really funny.

The layout of the book with headings, lists and pictures makes it interesting and easy to read. The book also has a map at the beginning which I love because it helps readers to understand the setting of the book.

This book would be suitable for kids aged from 9-12 years old.

This is a great story at a pivotal point of recent history. My favourite part of the book was when Zac found his fathers old journal he was writing in while he died because it was a moment when he thought a piece of his Dad was with him, and after he lost his dad that must have been a great feeling. Having his Dad's journal helped ease the pain a bit because it felt like his Dad was working through the tough times with him.

One of the things the author did well was when Zac was reading his fathers old journal. The author changed the vocabulary a little bit so the readers knew it was in a notebook and not actually part of the journal or book that was sharing Zac's experience, so they know that it wasn't Zac who wrote in the journal but that it was his Dad.

Personally I did quite enjoy the book because it was about something that is actually happening right now around the entire world and something that so many people have mixed emotions about. Knowing that people know so much about it that they could write a book about the experiences other people are going through even if it was a true story or made up it reminded me in such a vivid way that if Covid-19 is bad, but there is hope that things can go uphill from here.

I recommend this book for 8-12.

- Charlise McGregor, age 10 ½ , Hamilton

What was your favourite part of the book and why?

I like chapter two because they were still learning about the pandemic and they didn't really know much about it. I was excited and nervous for them. I like how the book is set out like a diary and we find out day to day what is happening. I liked the description of the people and what they were doing. I liked the whole book - it was kind of like the Covid pandemic that we had to stay at home for, expect it was more exciting. I could relate to some of the story though, having to stay home.

What do you think the author did well?

I think the author did a really good job with the layout and with the style of the book. I could image the people and the settings and what was happening. I felt like I was part of the group. It was a little like when we were in lockdown and I thought it was funny as I could see myself counting the groceries and watching who ate all the food especially the food I liked. I would get mad when my sister ate all the chocolate and my favourite cereal too.

Did you like the book? Why or why not?

I liked the book because it's hard to stop reading it once you start reading it. It hooks you in. It was interesting, had suspense and it was funny. I felt like the people were my age and it could have been me and my friends in the story. Stevie in her room glued to the TV is exactly like my sister so I felt that I could relate to the people in the story.

What sort of people might like this book? Would you recommend it to a certain age group?

I would recommend this book to people who like reading and to people who like mystery books. I would also recommend this book to people aged 11-15. I felt that my friends would like the book as much as I do.

-Danica, age 13, Whangarei

I loved Locked Down and reading it made me feel very lucky to live in New Zealand right now because there is no community Covid-19 here. I felt I was able to relate to the children of the Flint family.

I think the author did well making the story come to life, the author made it feel like this was actually happening. It seemed very realistic. I like that the author uses lists a lot and uses lots of little explanations throughout the book because it made it feel like it was written by a child.

My favourite part of the story was when Zac read the blue journal because it was like having an adventure story within a story.

I really enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to anyone who like to read realistic fictional stories, particularly children aged between 8 and 12.

-Emily, age 9, Christchurch

Locked Down is an awesome book, it has everything! It has action, mystery, excitement, and a bit of romance.

The book is based on the XB276 influenza virus that threatened the Flint family. Zac Flint wakes up to the news that everyone has to stay home, soon enough they have no electricity and no clean water. The only company they have is their closest neighbours.

Throughout the book secrets are revealed and mysteries are solved. Zac realises that his dad left his journals in the attic. Zac reads a journal called *The Blue Journal*, with tales of the mountain that he died on. I really liked how the author added little facts in case the readers get confused.

My favourite part of the book was when Zac saw this creepy bald guy at the end of his street who then spotted Zac, then disappeared in a flash - it was real spooky!

I would probably recommend this book to confident readers around 9 - 12 years old. Overall this was an amazing story and I really enjoyed it!

I give it a five star rating!

-Jake, age 9, Hamilton

I have just finished reading "Locked Down" by Jesse O. "Locked Down" was about a boy and his family and their challenging times through the Covid Lockdown.

The story is about Zac Flint who lives with his Mum, brother, and sisters in Hansen New Zealand. Zac is an adventurous 12-year-old boy who experiences difficult times during lockdown.

My favourite part of the story was when Zac discovered his Dad's journals and learns about his Dad's adventures as a Trek Guide. This part of the story was my favourite because I enjoyed learning about Zac's Dad's challenges as a Trek Guide and how he got through them.

I found some of the wording confusing in the first chapter of the book but once I understood who the characters were it made more sense. I liked the Authors topic of Lockdown because I would love to see new generations read and learn about other people's perspectives, ideas, and challenges that people went through during lockdown.

Children that are interested in history and learning about other people's experiences would enjoy reading Locked Down. I would recommend this book for 10-15 year olds.

-Kate, 11, Southland

Locked Down was a really interesting book. I personally really liked this book because it really got me hooked and painted a picture in my head. It was really interesting seeing how the Flints got through the lockdown.

My favourite part of the book was when Zac was reading his dad's blue journal. This was my favourite part of the book because it really got me hooked when Zac said that his dad died on his trek so I really wanted to find out what happened. I also was really interested in seeing what challenges Zac's dad came across and how he got through them.

I think the Author did really well in creating clear images by using great describing words and detail. I also think the author did well in finding cool ways that helped the Flint family survive during the lockdown. I'm glad that during our lockdowns my family always had food and electricity. I think people who like books about survival would quite like this and people who like books about mysteries maybe.

I think maybe ages from year 6 and up or if an experienced younger reader wanted to read this it could be good for them to.

-Kyra, 12, Auckland

I liked the part when Zac reads his father's journals. Those journals caught my attention. My favourite journal was the blue journal because it was so fascinating. It was really astonishing that he got to know his father better by that journal.

I liked how the author used descriptive words in the story. This book is a really wonderful piece of writing. I loved how Toby Morris added some pictures. Some kids love pictures. Great illustrations Toby. Outstanding effort Jesse (Jessica).

I am addicted to this book. I will love to read this book over and over again. I like this book because it really has a good story and theme (and also because it's in NZ!)

I would recommend this book to New Zealanders that went through Lock Down. Children who like stories with a bit of pictures. The age group should be 8-12 just because it has a lot of the word "dead".

-Lauren, age 10, Tauranga

Like a neighbourhood survival story this book opens the world to what would happen if you were stuck in your homes trapped by a massive global pandemic. The author weaved together the experience of Zac during this time and what happened in the past to his Dad.

I liked how the author did this by adding the writing from the blue journal. It really draws the readers into the story, creates action and excitement, and when I am reading that area I find it hard to put down.

There were some really interesting topics the author brought up but never expanded on further such as Zac describing with mysterious detail about a cupboard in the attic, and in the end they never opened it. Also visiting the lockdown market which seemed to be a bit rushed over. Other parts were described in great detail and were gripping to read such as the shocking and intriguing Colonel Mustard's run down house.

I greatly enjoyed this book and hope others do too. I think other people should read it because it teaches you that you can always find an adventure even in your own house. It spreads your imagination to see the things around you differently. I would recommend this book for ages 10+ and those with an interest in adventure, mysteries and survival.

-Luke, age 10, Auckland

Locked Down is a fictional book based on true events. It tells you about the Flint family's lockdown experience during a pandemic.

I liked this book because it was exciting and made me want to keep turning the pages and finding out what was going on with the Flint family. I think what the author did really well was that he was descriptive and it felt like I was there with Zac as he secretly read his Dad's journal, or Tessa when she ran out of Honey Puffs.

Locked down was also full of facts about lockdown, the pandemic and much more. It was also full of humour throughout the book and I found myself smiling on many occasions. The book contained many mysteries, too, and throughout the book, I would be gathering the clues and trying to figure the mysteries out. My favourite part of the story probably was when Zac secretly read his dad's journal, because it was exciting and informative.

I would recommend *Locked down* to readers aged 10-12 who enjoy exciting stories based around actual events.

-Peyton, age 11, Oamaru

Now let's get to the point, my favorite part of this story was the slight description in every sentence or so, which really helped picture every place that you placed the character in, which was really helpful because a lot of books these days lack in the description box sadly.

I loved the way the community came together once power went, how they traded and bartered, the author showed a community working together not greedy

What I think the author did well is it made me think that Zac is an actual person and the book is their diary, and all of the things he and his family "went through" is so realistic that I nearly teared up. And yes I know it may seem a bit dramatic but I just felt that way.

The reason I absolutely love this book is because as I said in the first paragraph most books these days lack in the descriptive box, but another reason is that I could really connect to this book and the people inside it. The reason being is that when in quarantine you feel enclosed and away from society, and you just drift apart from people around you. So whilst in quarantine I would recommend for you or anyone you know feeling like that, to make them feel better in these times of distress around the world

I would recommend this book for anyone in need of a character to connect to, and in need of having some quiet time to sit somewhere under or tree or outside to just relax and read this book or a book you enjoy reading.

But to be more accurate I would recommend for ages 8-68 I made the range bigger just in case some other adults would definitely like to have this book.

-Sopheap, age 11, Waikanae

I thought *Locked Down* was an interesting read. It made me want to go climb a mountain or milk a cow or go on this exhilarating adventure outdoors. It made me wish I had a bush in my backyard. I loved how the Flints sort of just rolled with the punches like if something broke or there was a problem they thought about it and found a way to fix it or made a substitute for it using the resources that they had. They didn't just throw it out and buy a new one, because they couldn't. They had to fix it or live without it because all the shops were closed.

I think that more people should try to fix their broken things too instead of throwing things out. The Flints stayed calm even in a crazy situation. I hope other people can learn from this example especially since it is pretty similar to what everyone has been going through in the last year or so with COVID-19.

-Wheriko, age 13, South Auckland