

Chicken
Scratch
Reviews:
5 New
Traditional
Middle Grade
Novels

Kiri Jorgensen

WWW.CHICKENSCRATCHBOOKS.COM

Recommendations for you

As the gatekeeper for the kids in your life, it's hard to find new traditional middle grade novels that you can trust. At Chicken Scratch Books we're here to help! First, that's all we publish, so you can confidently grab anything we offer. Second, can direct you to lots of other published books that also fit the mold.

Here are 5 book recommendations with reviews from us to you!



Kiri Jorgensen

Review #1

Nickel Bay Nick

by Dean Pitchford

Publisher: Puffin Books 2013

Quality: *5 Chicken Scratches*

The writing is strong, with an engaging contemporary story that flows well. The vocabulary is robust, and the main character connectable.

Clean: *5 Chicken Scratches*

There is no colorful language, no sexual innuendo, and no descriptive violence or abuse.

Traditional: *4 1/2 Chicken Scratches*

At the beginning of the story, the protagonist engages in lots of petty crime, but through the story, he recognizes the change he needs and how his choices make that change. He learns the importance of family.

[Click here to learn more about Nickel Bay Nick>](#)

Review #2

Some Kind of Courage

by Dan Gemeinhart

Publisher: Scholastic Press 2016

Quality: *5 Chicken Scratches*

The writing is very strong and lyrical, and well placed in this historical setting. Great vocabulary and connectable main character.

Clean: *4 1/2 Chicken Scratches*

There is mild colorful language by the adult outlaws, no sexual innuendo, and no descriptive violence or abuse.

Traditional: *5 Chicken Scratches*

The main character is on a classic quest to find his stolen horse, and along the way learns about true friendship, courage, and the importance of family.

[Click here to learn more about Some Kind of Courage >](#)

Review #3

Book of a Thousand Days

By Shannon Hale

Publisher: Bloomsbury 2007

Quality: *5 Chicken Scratches*

The writing is strong, and the fantasy story melds seamlessly with the connectable characters. The vocabulary is rich, and the plot engaging.

Clean: *5 Chicken Scratches*

There is no colorful language, no sexual innuendo, and no descriptive violence or abuse.

Traditional: *5 Chicken Scratches*

The story has a mythical tone, and follows the path of a princess's maid. She works to find the truth and expose the dark forces trying to destroy the kingdom. She learns to understand love and friendship.

[Click here to learn more about Book of a Thousand Days >](#)

Review #4

Ungifted

by Gordon Korman

Publisher: Scholastic 2012

Quality: *5 Chicken Scratches*

With multiple points of view, the contemporary story unfolds and moves quickly. The writing is strong, fun, and engaging.

Clean: *5 Chicken Scratches*

There is no colorful language, no sexual innuendo, and no descriptive violence or abuse.

Traditional: *4 1/2 Chicken Scratches*

The main character is living a deception to keep from getting in trouble. He learns to see his classmates in a much more accepting way, and to recognize true friendship and teamwork. Family is emphasized.

[Click here to learn more about Ungifted >](#)

GORDON KORMAN

NY NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Review #5

Absolutely Truly

By Heather Vogel Frederick

Publisher: Simon and Schuster 2014

Quality: *5 Chicken Scratches*

The writing is strong and comfortable, and the contemporary story flows well. The vocabulary is rich, and the characters connectable.

Clean: *5 Chicken Scratches*

There is no colorful language, no sexual innuendo, and no descriptive violence or abuse.

Traditional: *5 Chicken Scratches*

The main character moves to a new town, and uncovers a mystery to be solved. She learns to value community and family relationships at a higher level.

[Click here to learn more about Absolutely Truly >](#)

Truly



A Pumpkin Falls
Mystery

We're here to help you find New Traditional Middle Grade novels.

But we also offer so much more. Check out our website and see how else we can help you. Sign up for our BookLetter, and you'll be first in line for new publications, new information, and ideas for making your role as gatekeeper easier.

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