**BOOK REVIEWS**

**by Jessica Kealy**

**Moxie** by Jennifer Mathieu

Image result for four and a half star rating

Perfect for any teenage feminist, **Moxie** is a strong book which is now being advertised with the slogan, “Read this, and then join the fight”.

It’s easy nowadays to forget what feminism is about, and some would go as far as saying that it’s no longer needed. This book argues very differently. It is set in a school in the middle of Texas, where Viv Carter and many other female pupils in her school have adapted to the appallingly sexist rules.

That is until a girl called Lucy arrives, with ideas about feminism that she gained from her old school.

Throughout the book Lucy’s ideas on matters reflect what a lot of the audience might be feeling throughout. Most will probably feel her anger at what was allowed, and what wasn’t, and at the rules that the girls had to follow so that they didn’t “distract” the boys, who effectively ruled over the school.

Spurred on by ideas of the ways her mother used to challenge stereotypical views about women, Viv Carter decides to rebel. She starts quietly at first… but soon she has a whole rebellion on her hands.

A brilliant book in general, with a little bit of romance throughout (however this can be easily overlooked), this book does include a bit of swearing and serious older issues, so it is certainly not a book for younger children!

However if you are a keen teenage feminist, whether boy or girl, you are sure to enjoy this. As they say… Read it, and then join the fight!

**La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust Volume 1** by Philip Pullman

Image result for four star rating

Any fan of Northern Lights by Philip Pullman and His Dark Materials series will adore this new addition. It still revolves around the main protagonist from Northern Lights, Lyra; however this is a very different Lyra.

We’ve travelled back in time, and are now reading the prequel to Northern Lights. Lyra is a baby in **The Book of Dust** and has some new friends… and some new enemies.

Possibly because I was never the biggest fan of the original, I wasn’t as thrilled about the book as I think others will be. The insight into Lyra’s very troubled (and in parts, confusing) past is a brilliant idea from Pullman, and I do think that I will read the next two volumes to come, on the basis that it is a fantasy world that will definitely take your worries away from your real-life problems, and focus them on much bigger worries in a different one.

However, if you aren’t a fan of books where the troubles just seem to mount up, and you get annoyed when the characters in the book don’t listen to other characters that are actually right, then this probably isn’t the book for you. But if you do want a book that will force you to read solidly for a couple of hours non-stop (because let’s be honest, it’s almost impossible to put down this action-packed book), then this is ideal.