



# H.E.L.P. ! Crash!! ! The Noisiest Class in the School ! Chunka saves the Day

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NewsChoice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

0

I was very disappointed with the new Junior Hippos which are intended as easy readers. The idea of producing such a series is a good one but when measured against well established series like the Beginner Books and the I Can Reads these stories and illustrations just will not do.

**H.E.L.P.** presupposes that one starts reading from the back cover - at least that is what the reader must do to see the significance of those initials. The story of the quartet's attempts to find a missing cat seems to be merely a vehicle for a series of poorly illustrated slapstick situations. And the statutory two black faces are nothing short of insulting.

**Crash!!** left me speechless. The story - dog chases cat near roadworks, car and jam van crash, tar and jam everywhere - is told (partly in rhyme) in language which is no better than most reading schemes. The monosyllabic text is matched with illustrations which are its visual equivalent.

There is not story in **The Noisiest Class in the School**, just a number of incidents featuring a group of unruly children who seem - definitely - to have got the upper hand as far as their trendy teacher is concerned.

**Chunka** is an unexceptional story about how an abandoned traction engine comes to the rescue and joins the circus. But why the avoidance of contractions in the text? - " 'I shall be back,' said Chunka. 'Then I will tell you what it is like to be a circus engine!'" - is that natural language?

Running Order:

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**Links:**

- [1] <http://savfkn.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/help>
- [2] <http://savfkn.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/crash-1>
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