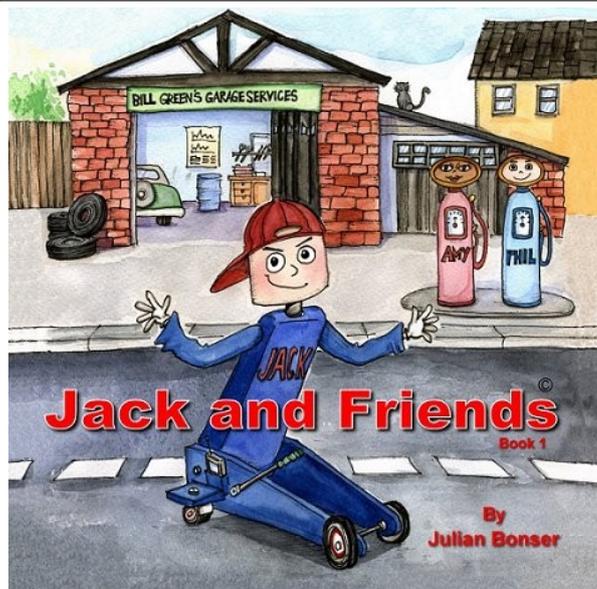


# Advance Information Sheet

Julian Bonser Books



# Jack And Friends

A full colour  
Illustrated Children's Storybook  
**Julian Bonser**

**Jack** works in Bill Green's garage as a trolley-jack - which is why he's called Jack! His job is to lift up cars and other vehicles so that Bill can crawl underneath to repair them. Jack's ability to lift heavy loads makes him a popular guy around the neighbourhood. He's animated and gregarious and always ready to come to the assistance of friends and passer's by. On a regular basis, as his episodic life unfolds, Jack proves himself to be the local hero who saves the day, as well as life and limb! And he's a solid personality who'll win the affection of young people.

**Jack and Friends** targets the shortfall in children's books for young boys aged 4 to 8 years and fits into the 'Thomas the Tank Engine' genre. It features intelligent storylines and employs a 21.6 cm (8.5 inch) square format, with 40 large full colour illustrations by the talented Shirley Chiang. Using pen, ink and acrylics, Shirley has created imagery that's rich in character and soul. The accompanying text has been carefully harmonised with the illustrations and given a uniform level of reading 'difficulty' throughout. Storylines are innovative and entertaining, and subtly encourage readers to think, be community-minded, and adopt safe habits. Children of 4 to 5 years old will enjoy having the book read to them, whilst 6 to 8 year olds will be able to read it unaided on a progressive scale of competence. Book 2 is in the planning stage.

**To Quality Assure Jack and Friends**, it was piloted at six Primary schools. Around 470 pupils provided feedback on the book through either real-time classroom reviews or Book Review templates. They related well to the main character, found the storylines engaging and loved the illustrations. Teachers praised the book for its well structured content and the 'challenging' words in the narrative. Overall, the feedback was of the order of 90% positive. Jack and Friends is a book children can re-visit as their reading and comprehension advances. **Importantly**, the young reviewers were unanimous in stating they'd be tempted to pick up the book if they saw it on display in a bookshop.

**About the author:** Aged seven, Julian Bonser wrote a simple poem and won a prize – a whopping one guinea. With this he bought a Bakelite woodwind recorder, which he dropped and broke. And his burgeoning literary career took a 50-year sabbatical. Now armed with memories, experiences, creative skills, imagination and a determination to put them to practical use, he's scribing in earnest, and already a well published author.

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The author is available for interviews. Copies of this book are available on request.

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