Books: Five new books to read in lockdown

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ENTERTAINMENT LITERATURE

Children's book of the week

Do Grannies Have Green Fingers by Fransie Frandsen is published in paperback by Artfox.Bookwolf, priced £7.99.

In this delightful book, Alexander overhears his mum saying his granny has 'green fingers', after she wins yet another gardening award. Intrigued, he keeps a look out for other examples of green fingers - and along the way notices some other colours (such as his red-faced neighbour when Tinster the dog buries a bone in the next-door garden). The illustrations are the real treat. Collages from Frandsen, made of photographs and illustrations, provide brilliantly fun and engaging **visual** narration. As they're layered, there's the chance to spot new and amusing items during future reads.

Text is kept simple and is positioned on different parts of the page, helping to keep things interesting for young minds. A short reference to recycling, lots of potential to spot and name different colours, and a trigger to talk about what common phrases mean (green fingers, or green with envy) all allow for plenty of fun ways to learn. Although some of the colour references might at times feel a little tenuous (avocado bubble bath), this book will doubtless keep both parent and child amused and entertained with its quirky originality.

(Review by Nicole Whitton)