

Children's Literature Reviews

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The Judy Moody Totally Awesome Collection

Megan McDonald ; Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
Candlewick Press, \$35.94. 2007



Reviews:

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

Judy Moody is a third grader with attitude and spunk. For adults who have not yet met her and for kids who are asking for her by name, this set is a welcome addition to other character series, including Junie B. Jones, Amber Brown, Anastasia Krupnik, Fudge, and Ramona. Judy Moody's language is authentic kid-speak (her exclamatory "rare" is, well, rare and her outraged or frustrated expletive "ROAR" is quite contagious). Judy has a pesky little brother (Stink), a best friend who is legendary because he ate paste (Frank Pearl) and a super-secret private club called the T.P. that even the "squeamishest" kid would want to join. The six books in this collection have deceptively plain brown covers with colorful trim on the edges, sort of like racing stripes. The print size and heavy leading make these books visually appealing for kids as young as seven and as old as teens. Illustrations throughout the books are enticing to all ages, and this series would be my favorite to start the year as a read aloud in the classroom. Judy Moody has a website worth the visit, too, at www.judymoody.com. The box set includes *Judy Moody*; *Judy Moody Gets Famous!*, *Judy Moody Saves the World!*, *Judy Moody Predicts the Future*, *Judy Moody, MD: The Doctor is In!*, and *Judy Moody Declares Independence*. 2007, Candlewick Press, \$35.94. Ages 8 to 12.

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