



## **Hooey Higgins and the Tremendous Trousers**

*Steve Voake , Emma Dodson (Illustrations)*

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**Hooey Higgins and friends are back for another hilarious madcap adventure — this time, their dubious inventive skills are put to the test.**

Have you ever found yourself in a slightly risky situation and thought, *What I really need is a pair of super-protective trousers to keep me safe from crocodiles, flying toffee apples, and log-flume malfunctions?* Head for Shrimpton-on-Sea, where Hooey, Will, and Twig are working on an ingenious contraption sure to make the world a safer place: the all-new Tremendous Trousers, aka TremTrows! All you do is slip on a pair of yellow sweatpants, stuff them full of bubble wrap, add some soda bottles topped with balloons, and inflate them with gas from a bunch of mints dropped into the soda. What could possibly go wrong? It's a brilliant invention guaranteed to win the class prize — tickets to the carnival! *Shweet!*

## Hooey Higgins and the Tremendous Trousers Details

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Author : Steve Voake , Emma Dodson (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review Hooey Higgins and the Tremendous Trousers for online ebook

## Tom Weir says

READ THIS BOOK NOW !!!

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## Pop Bop says

Sly, Clever Good-Hearted Fun

This book touches all of the bases for middle grade humor - engaging characters, an actual plot with diverting sub-plots, snappy dialogue, a sly anti-authoritarian streak, some subtle inside jokes, a bit of silliness and a big-hearted generous sense of humor.

As with all great comedy teams we get the big three - Will is the brains, Twig is the slightly dense goof ball, and Hooey, our narrator, is the faceman with the bright ideas. There are lots of ways to do such characters, and I think the author has chosen well for each. Will may be brainy, but he's brainy in the Jeeves style not the insufferable twit style. Hooey may be a bit of a manic idea man, but he is generally grounded, sensible and aware of what's going on. As a result his narration is engaging and inclusive, not off-putting. And Twig is the lovable loser, but he gets some funny lines and bits of his own, so he isn't a sad-sack fall guy all of the time. These three wear very well, and everything else is sort of incidental.

But, there is more. The book has one long story arc, (they need an invention for a school competition), and a few short bits, (at the carnival, the staring contest that feels like Wodehouse's "The Purity of the Turf", and so on). So, there's always something going on and the book isn't just one long set up for one payoff at the end. It helps that a lot of the secondary characters have individual personalities and a few laugh lines of their own; even the bully is played mostly for yucks.

All of this is buoyed up by some funny dialogue, some jokes, some throw-away single laugh lines, and a few inane conversations, which all serve to add variety to the mix. Some laughs are subtle and some are obvious, (though never easy shots like farts/boogers, or cheap shots), which means there's a bit of something for readers of varying skills and reading levels.

The illustrations are actually helpful and amusing, and help keep the book's momentum going, (and would probably help a younger reader follow the action). While the drawing style is fairly simple there is a lot of expression to the characters and a cheerful appeal to the simple lines that helps to support the general feel of the book.

Overall it seems that this book would be fun to read; I'd be happy to read it with a kid and it does lend itself to a bit of exaggeration and acting out in the reading, which is nice. All in all, a nice find.

Please note that I received a free advance ecopy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

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### **Maggi Rohde says**

Although it is somewhat disjointed, this story does have its moments (the staring contest). It suffers from too many characters and not enough distinguishing characteristics between them. The pacing is slow and it didn't really keep my attention.

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### **RiverinaRegional Library says**

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### **Zayneea says**

Another great story from the Hooey Higgins series. I had been waiting ages to read this as there were no copies in my library and after reserving took absolutely forever to get in but found it was so worth the wait as I couldn't stop laughing at what they get up to in this.

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### **Barbara says**

Anyone looking for a laugh will find it in this book and this series. Hooey Higgins and his sidekicks always something going. In this one, they decide to invent TremTrows, pants that will, they hope, win them first prize in a school contest. While Twig agrees reluctantly to wear the pants under a dress, Hooey and Will provide him with the necessary ingredients for blasting off--soda bottles and mints. The results of that mixture are, dare we say, quite explosive and yes, hilarious. The book is filled with middle grade humor and likeable characters with whom most readers will be able to relate.

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### **Katie Fitzgerald says**

When their classroom teacher assigns a health and safety project with a promise to award free tickets to the fair to the best idea, Hooey and his best friend Twig get to work on an invention they call Tremendous Trousers. Nicknamed TremTrows for branding purposes, these pants are designed to keep their wearer safe from ant hills, crocodiles, and log flumes, using a combination of soda bottles, mints, and bubble wrap. With the help of Hooey's science-minded brother, Will, it seems like the boys can't possibly fail... until Twig's demonstration of their new invention blows up in front of the whole school!

In late 2012, I was thrilled to discover Hooey Higgins and the Shark. It stood out as unique among the other chapter books nominated for CYBILS, and it had a sense of humor and style of illustration I hadn't really seen in a chapter book before. Though this book didn't grab me in the same way, its unique approach to storytelling is equally strong, and I had a great time revisiting this particular fictional universe.

The best feature of this book is the realistic dialogue. Steve Voake has a true ear for how kids - and especially boys - talk to one another, and he understands the way in which a crazy idea can become reality when a few kids' imaginations come together. The humor in the story is definitely juvenile, and probably not the sort of thing most adults will find funny, but I think that is the beauty of the book. It speaks to kids on their maturity level and celebrates the fun of creating something new with a group of enthusiastic buddies. Whether the reader is more likely to make trouble or to watch trouble being made from the sidelines, he or she will laugh out loud at the antics of Hooey and his friends, and eagerly anticipate how they will get out of trouble this time.

Like Eliza Boom: My Explosive Diary, Hooey Higgins and the Tremendous Trousers is another great book to recommend during the upcoming Fizz Boom Read summer reading program. The fun, light-hearted storyline will engage even the least science-minded reader, and the combination of carbonation and candy that inflates the trousers just begs to be turned into a library program focusing on messy science experiments. Share Hooey Higgins and the Tremendous Trousers with fans of Jerry Spinelli's Third Grade Angels, Fourth Grade Rats, and Dump Days, and with readers who have enjoyed the Frannie K. Stein, Secrets of a Lab Rat, and Calvin Coconut series.

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