



[Home](#) > [Joker](#); [Sam's Dream](#); [Arf and the Greedy Grabber](#); [Jack's Tree](#); [The Planet Machine](#); [Mr Potts, the Potty Teacher](#)

---

# **Joker; Sam's Dream; Arf and the Greedy Grabber; Jack's Tree; The Planet Machine; Mr Potts, the Potty Teacher**

Books Reviewed:

[Joker](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[Sam's Dream](#) [2]

Books Reviewed:

[Arf and the Greedy Grabber](#) [3]

Books Reviewed:

[Jack's Tree](#) [4]

Books Reviewed:

[The Planet Machine](#) [5]

Books Reviewed:

[Mr Potts, the Potty Teacher](#) [6]

Issue:

[128](#) [7]

Reviewer:

[Andrew Kidd](#) [8]

NewsChoice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

3

These titles form a set of six 'Comix' books where, the publishers claim, the stories move as fast as the pictures. Each book presents as a long comic strip, which will probably appeal to children for whom a lengthy text is rather off-putting.

Suitably bold black and white pictures for all but one book (the exception being **Jack's Tree**) work well with the stories.

**Jack's Tree**, about a boy trying to save a tree from being felled in the local park, is the least successful of the six, as the characters are too stereotyped even for a comic book, and the monochrome pen and wash illustrations sit uneasily in the comic strip format. **Sam's Dream**, by experienced sports fiction writer Michael Hardcastle, about a boy being invited to a big match by an international footballer and **The Planet Machine**, a sci-fi tale, particularly suit the comic style.

However, in both these titles, there is a confusing mix of speech bubbles and traditional speech marks which is irritating.

**Mr Potts, the Potty Teacher** is a humorous tale about a forgetful and bumbling teacher who tries to arrange a firework

display for the school fete but mistakenly hires the local demolition man, Dynamite Dave, to make the celebrations go with a bang! **Joker** tells of an escapologist who disappears in mysterious circumstances and **Arf and the Greedy Grabber** is about a practical joker who unexpectedly encounters a thief and becomes involved in a police inquiry.

Running Order:

38

---

**Source URL (retrieved on Dec '19):** <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/128/childrens-books/reviews/joker-sams-dream-arf-and-the-greedy-grabber-jacks-tree-the-planet>

**Links:**

- [1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/joker>
- [2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/sams-dream>
- [3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/arf-and-the-greedy-grabber>
- [4] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/jacks-tree>
- [5] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/the-planet-machine>
- [6] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/mr-potts-the-potty-teacher>
- [7] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/128>
- [8] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/andrew-kidd>