



How to Be Topp

Geoffrey Willans , Ronald Searle (Illustrator)

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All skools make some sort at teaching the pupils things and the headmaster pin up a huge timetable of lessons ect. which make the heart sink when you look at it.

Nigel Molesworth is back, this time taking the tinies in hand and showing that they can survive the first term - as long as you avoid the prefects and show all due respect to Molesworth 1. Back to Skool might be particularly hard on Mater and Pater, but think of those poor new bugs, forced to be their best at Latin, English, foopball and French (Armand in his striped shirt and feeble questions). Just follow his timeless advice, however, and you too could be Topp.

How to Be Topp Details

Date : Published September 3rd 1992 by Chrysalis Children's Books (first published 1954)

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Author : Geoffrey Willans , Ronald Searle (Illustrator)

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Cthulwho says

Entertaining, but not as much as down with skool.

Rae says

The humor in this is a bit obscure and beyond my American comprehension, but I really enjoyed the silly thing. It is illustrated by Richard Searle.

Rhys says

The second book in the 'Molesworth' sequence, this is perhaps even funnier than *Down With Skool*. The humour has become even more offbeat and condensed. Nigel Molesworth here presents his guide on how to succeed in every subject in the school curriculum, though it is almost always safer to completely avoid his advice... Many of the sly jokes are designed to go over the heads of young readers and appeal to adults. Extraordinary stuff.

Ruth Bonetti says

I read and reread this many times in my younger days, laughing just as hard, and many quotes have stayed in usage. Love Fortheringham Thomas, who's a 'bit of a wet' and the descriptions of the old school piano; this note goes plunk, this note do not play at all since - was it Molesworth 2? - put his chewing gum under it. Ronald Searle's line drawings are equally witty.

It's a classic, perhaps timeless for some. Yar boo sucks!

Fond memories.

When did I finish the book? Which time?

Norkie says

down with skool

Hyarrowen says

Every ten years or so, I re-read this, and the older I am the funnier it gets. This is the kind of humour that makes Monty Python look conventional. Nigel Molesworth, who as any fule kno is the curse of st custards,

fights a non-stop battle against mad maths masters, combative maters, his younger brother and the vagaries of the skool curriculum (I admit that I am still no more convinced of the importance of Latin than Sir N. Molesworth, QC.) And for a bonus: the first use of the name 'Hogwarts' in education that I know. That's a mystery that I would love to have explained, and alas, I'll probably never get to the bottom of it.

One of the all-time classics.

Graeme says

"This is a book for everyone over nine who wants to laugh, and knows how to spell."

Simon says

Lots of chortles (chiz, chiz) the best saved for the last with big belly laugh for Christmas. Think I may have started reading this in Miss Kitchen's class (1966) which could make it the longest I've ever taken over a book. Probably would have enjoyed it then but would have laughed at different jokes.

•Karen• says

Yar boo sucks to new bugs and BEST EVER: Ronald Searle's illustrations of the Private Life of the Gerund.

Social snobbery. A gerund 'cuts' a gerundive

Sarah Tipper says

This is the second book in the Molesworth tetralogy and it's as wonderful as the first. As well as more insights into the world of St Custard's school we get amusing tales of Christmas at the Molesworth residence. Molesworth opines that Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" isn't anywhere near as good as stories about space. The fascination with space is a lovely feature of these books, highlighting that they were written in the nineteen-fifties. Nowadays Molesworth's tips for success in lessons would be called life hacks and he'd be a youtube vlogger. Searle's wonderful illustrations complement the book splendidly. I enjoyed this book so much that I began reading the third Molesworth book straight after. I hope his amusingly bad spelling doesn't rub off on me.

junajuna says

Just a fun romp. Be prepared to laugh out loud.

Mohammad Sabbir Shaikh says

I want to be Nigel Molesworth.

Robby says

I have never laughed so hard while reading a book.

Stephen Adams says

a book im reading again even though my tastes have changed over the years this is still funny

Harry says

In which Nigel Molesworth and his chums Pearson, Gillibrand, Grabber, Molesworth 2 and of course Fotherington-Tomas, gives his tips on surviving and thriving lessons, teachers, parents and Christmas. Plus a fascinating look into the habits of the Gerund, hem, hem.
