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Trick a Tracker

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~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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...or on their way to Michael Foreman, perhaps. He's not always the safest of bets for youngsters, but here he judges his audience perfectly: seven-year-olds, actual and honorary, who have an ear for a witty story-line and an eye for a stylish image. The front-cover says it all - a skateboarding elephant poised above a couple of slack-jawed paleolithic spear-carriers. No one can blame them for getting in a panic since, amongst other diversions, they've already been got at by kangaroos who sweep as they hop, giraffes who wear sneakers and pelicans who plonk down arrows pointing in the wrong direction. And that's just for starters. As the animals develop a taste for locomotion, they roller-coast their way through an alternative pre-history that takes account of Stonehenge, the pyramids, Aku-Aku and the Aztecs. Never has Michael Foreman been so outrageous or so funny. He's never drawn better either - his weirdly distinctive caricaturing sets off his droll text perfectly. By the time he brings us up-to-date with a final bitter-sweet joke, we swallow his environmentalist moral hardedge, soft-focus and all. If there's a better picture-book published this year, I'll eat a jumbo-size skateboard.

Running Order:

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