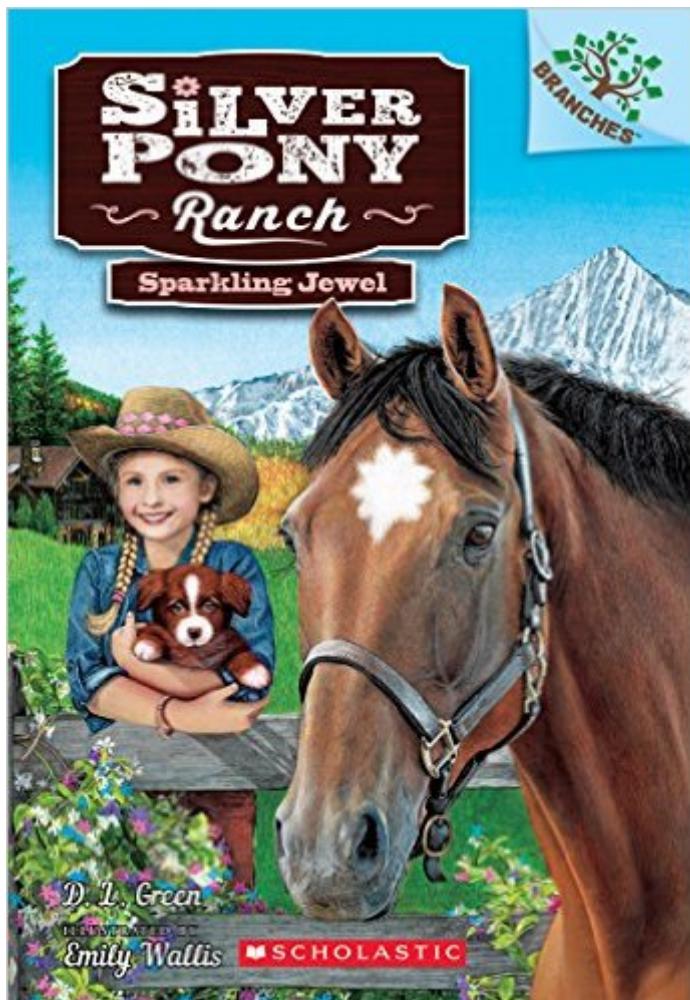


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# Sparkling Jewel: A Branches Book (Silver Pony Ranch #1)



## **Synopsis**

Silver Pony Ranch is full of ponies, puppies, and adventure! This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line called Branches, which is aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina. Branches books help readers grow! Tori is super-excited to spend the summer at Gran's ranch--where there are lots of beautiful ponies! But she is NOT excited to share a room with her younger sister, Miranda. Miranda likes everything pink, and she loves puppies. Tori does not like pink, and she loves ponies. Tori soon falls in love with a rowdy pony named Jewel and she wants to ride her. But Gran says that Jewel is TOO rowdy. Will Tori and Jewel ever get to ride together? And when one of the ranch's puppies goes missing, can Miranda and Tori find the puppy and bring him back home?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 400 (What's this?)

Series: Silver Pony Ranch (Book 1)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc. (August 25, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545797659

ISBN-13: 978-0545797658

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (80 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #22,203 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life #39 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses #193 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

While I may be an adult male, I can still appreciate a decent book written for kids, and this IS one. This book is very easy to read and has very short chapters, which makes it a good choice for beginning readers. Also, the illustrations (which are throughout the book on nearly every page) are very well done. All of the illustrations are realistic drawings that accurately portray the scenes being

described in the pages of the book. Several of the pictures are educational sketches that explain just what the words in the story mean (such as the parts of a horse saddle). The illustrations, in my opinion, make this book much better than it would be without them. They are definitely a highlight of the book. Just as many young boys seem to develop an affection for and a fascination about trains, many young girls seem to develop an affection for and fascination about horses. I don't know exactly why this. I guess it's just part of the way we were created differently. Regardless, this book is an excellent story for young girls who are beginning to read, as it is a story about two young girls (sisters) who spend a summer at their grandmother's ranch. At the ranch, the two girls get to spend time with the animals they each love most - horses and dogs. Each of the two sisters further develop their skills at caring for these animals as they foster them over the summer. (So if you are an animal lover and also want to encourage a love for animals in your children, this book will move them in that direction, too!) Overall, a pretty good little book that I have no trouble recommending!

I was once one of those little girls who was absolutely crazy about horses. I guess I still am, because I couldn't resist getting this book as a complementary copy from for review purposes. *Silver Pony Ranch: Sparkling Jewel*, by D. L Green, has a delightful and fast moving plot. It's a story about two sisters who get to spend the summer at their grandmother's ranch. It's a special place with a stable, a paddock, and a riding ring. The grandmother has a business in which she instructs local children how to ride horses and navigate trail rides safely. She has a number of well-behaved ponies, each with its own special personality. The two sisters, Tori and Miranda, have known all of these ponies as far back as they can remember. But this summer, they're excited because their grandmother has a new horse. She's a gorgeous bay mare with a white star on her forehead. She's named Jewel. At one time, the mare used to be wild, so Grandmother Silver is very cautious about letting the girls get too near her. Of course, Miranda instantly falls in love with Jewel. She is determined to get the spirited new animal to trust her. She's also determined to convince her grandmother to let her ride the new pony as soon as possible. In addition to the new pony, the girls are thrilled to find that their grandmother's dog, Lady, has a litter of three adorable and rambunctious boy puppies. One of the puppies is particularly keen on making friends with Jewel. There are a lot of fun things to do while the girls are at their grandmother's home and there's a bit of mischief they can get into, as well. This is a very special type of book, designed explicitly to bridge the gap between First Readers and Chapter Book. It's rated for children ages 6-8. It's a book with the perfect blend of text and illustrations. There is a lovely black-and-white

illustration on every page and each is designed to contain context clues to will help young readers figure out difficult new words. The book is split up into sixteen short chapters. Finishing each chapter gives readers a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. In addition, each chapter is designed to pull them into the next one. There is a strong story arch and the bit of suspense. Readers will definitely want to find out what happens to these characters and will be begging for time to finish the novel. The book is definitely a young girl's adventure book. There is lots of emphasis on traditional girls' activities, like braiding hair (human and animal), making bows, and loving pink. The book explores various problem-solving situations. Children and parents may want to discuss these situations during the reading process or once the book is completed. There are more activities that parents and children can engage in while reading these books outlined in the Parent's Guide available on the Scholastic Branches website. The book teaches children about how they might go about gaining the trust of animals, about the importance of obeying rules, and about the joy that can be come from sisterly cooperation. This is the perfect type of book to help naturally grow independent young readers.

I got this book for my 8 year old daughter who just made it to grade level in reading at the end of the school year (STEP 9). I want her to be reading more chapter books but she often falls back onto reading picture books. I first saw Branches books about a year ago and was intrigued but most of them were too low a level for her. I saw this book, I knew she liked horse, and there were a lot more words in this book than the other Branches books I had seen, so I went for it. She had gotten to a point this summer where she wouldn't read and said she hated reading, but this book arrived and I handed it to her and she read it until it was over and loved it and said she wants to get more Silver Pony Ranch books. This is what she had to say about the book verbatim. Well, the book is really nice because it shows friendship and loneliness combined together, the horse is lonely at first until she runs away and gets caught and pretty soon after that like in a few days the girl gets to ride the new wild pony who has this like star shaped white part on her head and they want to keep riding every single day together because they became great friends. I liked the pictures and I liked all the words that really described the story. I think this would be a really good book for someone with really good imagination and I think this book would be good for people like that because this book has really good imagination in it and I think it's kind of funny when the horse gets loose the first time.

I got this for my 6 year old daughter, yesterday. She was asleep when I got home so I have it to her this morning. Before she left for school she had already decided the first chapter. After getting home

from school today she blew through the rest. She is a strong reader, but this is the first novel she has finished in a day. She lives it, and can't wait for the second one in January.

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