**THE TROUBLES OF JACK BARRRELBOTTOM**

**By Christopher Lewis**

**Focus Group Questionnaire**

1. What did you like best about this book?

2. What did you like least about this book?

3. Did this book entertain you?

Did you find any parts boring?

4. Which characters in the book did you like best?

Why?

5. Which characters did you like least?

Why?

6. Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?

7. Is it age appropriate for eight- to twelve-year-old children?

If not, what incidents in the story are too mature?

8. What feelings did this book evoke for you?

Curiosity?

Exhilaration?

Fear?

Laughter?

Sentimentality?

Sadness?

Confusion?

9. What did you think of the book’s length?

If it’s too long, what would you cut?

If too short, what would you add?

10. Which was your favorite adventure?

Are the adventures too long?

Too short?

Were there too many adventures?

11. Which places in the book would you most like to visit?

The Mansion?

The treehouse?

Fumblebee’s shop?

Mount Olwegwasi?

Lake Penacook?

Africa?

The carnival?

The Sahara Desert?

The Temple?

Australia?

12. What do you think the author’s purpose was in writing this book?

To portray adventure?

Coming of age?

Historical fiction?

The importance of friendship and familial relationships?

13. Was the book successful in any of these portrayal(s)?

14. How original and unique was this book?

15. How well do you think the author built the worlds in the book?

16. Did the characters seem believable to you?

Were you able to suspend disbelief in some or all?

18. Was the pacing — beginning, middle, and end— done well?

19. Were there parts of the storyline you found confusing?

20. Did the characters’ motives seem reasonable or a little far-fetched?

Again, were you able to suspend disbelief?

21. Sometimes books start off strong but have endings that fall a little flat. Then there are books that are a little hard to get into at first but are enjoyable after a while. How did you find this one?

22. Was there symbolism present?

If so, what did you think of the messages the author was trying to convey?

23 General comments: