

Australian Heroines: Stories Of Courage And Survival Baby Bear (C
 A Boat For Bridget Bread Brown Bread And Honey Bungalow
 ent Sort Of Real: The Diary Of Charlotte McKenzie, Melbourne 1918-19
 Tales The Dons Eddy And The Demon Bowler Yoss
 ur Lunch Fergus McPhail Find me A River
 annah's Winter
 ats The House Of Narcissus Have Courage, Hazel Green!
 Hunters And Warriors In My Backyard Jamil's Shadow
 McKenzie "Let's Get A Pup!" Market Blues
 n In The Life Of Class 5b Moondyne Kate
 ant Noodles An Ordinary Day Vegetables
 rm Millie Starts School Muster Me A Song
 nose And The Tomb Robbers Sky Boy Ned Kelly
 e Sarindi And The Lucky Bird Zara's Zoo
 The True Story Of Jim Martin
 ot Over Possum Vigil
 ack Leftovers Unknown Whistle Man
 ands Together Thursday's Child



Notable Australian Children's Books 2003

The Children's Book Council of Australia



from Pole To Pole
 os XI
 The Baby
 lec Water Colours
 cket Dogs
 at Is It?



BATESON, Catherine
**RAIN MAY AND
CAPTAIN DANIEL**
University of Queensland Press
ISBN 0 7022 3337 4
138 pages

There is a strength and warmth in this multi-layered exploration of a child forming new relationships after her parents' marriage breakdown. Rain and her mother make a new life in a country town next door to Daniel, the clever neighbour who keeps a Star Trek diary and is marginalised at school because of his eccentricities. Rain's acerbic comments on life, divorce, stepmothers and estranged fathers enliven a clever story on the nature of friendship. Whilst the e e cummings quotations require correction, this is a jewel of a book with beautifully rounded characters portrayed with insight and gentle humour.

Shortlisted, Book of the Year: Younger Readers 2003

CIDDOR, Anna
RUNESTONE
Allen & Unwin
ISBN 1 86508 689 4
192 pages

Runestone is an entertaining fantasy, with young protagonists and an interesting setting. Thora, the spellworker's daughter, and Oddo, the farmer's son, were swapped at birth, so that each has skills inappropriate to their family trades. The magical runestone discovered by Oddo seems to hold answers to solving problems, but the stone is more mystical and powerful than imagined. Thora and Oddo are a competent, feisty pair who learn through cooperation to deal with the many difficulties they encounter. Rune messages enliven the story, enticing the reader to work out their coded meanings.

CLARK, Sherryl
UP A TREE
Penguin Books Australia (Puffin)
ISBN 0 14 33023 7
104 pages

This simple, well-constructed story celebrates differences. Molly and Simon prove that you should fight for what you believe in, when they tackle the terrifying flying fox and rescue an 'endangered' possum. Fast-paced and believable, this story has just the right balance of excitement, emotion and peer group relationships.

FIENBERG, Anna
HORRENDO'S CURSE
Illustrated by Kim GAMBLE
Allen & Unwin
ISBN 1 86508 603 7
156 pages

Horrendo, a reviled misfit, 'cursed' never to say or do an unkind word or deed, lives where parents raise their sons to be rude and horrible. During his traditional two-year apprenticeship as a pirate, he causes unrest with his niceness and gourmet cooking skills. Slapstick humour with affirmations of friendship and teamwork dilute the violence and cruelty of the pirates' behaviour. Although right overcomes rottenness, Fienberg retains some traces of piratical villainy: the Captain is rotten to the end. The language is lively, full of colourful epithets, imagery and challenging vocabulary. Kim Gamble's illustrations capture the whimsy of the plot and the grottness of the pirates.

Shortlisted, Book of the Year: Younger Readers 2003

FORRESTAL, Elaine
WINNING
Penguin Books Australia (Puffin)
ISBN 0 14 131378 1
97 pages

Winning is a blend of two themes: friendship threatened by sporting rivalry and parent pressure to win at all costs. Forrestal has created a believable interplay between Pearce and Yosef, close friends only while Pearce is the winner. The dynamics change when Yosef beats Pearce, who is ungracious in defeat. Pearce's popularity suffers, and he finds himself under pressure from his father. Allegiances shift from Pearce to