

## Children's Peace Literature Award 2005



### Winner

*The King of Whatever* by Kirsten Murphy, Penguin Books Young Adult Fiction

Intrapersonal— and interpersonal—conflicts are resolved in a variety of peaceful ways as interactions between the characters drive the story about finding your own worth in your family and friendship groups. Their humanity, sense of humour and warmth draw you into their world for the duration of the book and beyond.

17-year old Joe King is a master of under-achievement in all areas of his life despite the fact that he is talented. Feeling overshadowed at home by his older brother studying medicine and at school by his best friend and school captain, has not helped his self image. Nevertheless when faced with challenging situations, Joe shows understanding, finds he is able to lead in a crisis, and learns that he is in fact admired by some of his peers. Helped by his friends and his own quick, self-deprecating wit Joe is finally able to come face-to-face with his demons, demonstrating his inner personal strengths. *The King of Whatever* is most suited to older teenagers and young adults.

### Shortlisted Books

*Being Bindy* by Alyssa Brugman, Allen & Unwin

This story keeps you turning the pages to find out how the situations are resolved. Bindy has just started high school. She needs to find how to cope with the break-up from her best friend, who then makes life very difficult for her at school, her parents' separation, and coming to terms with her new family relationships. Bindy develops understanding for others and importantly, awareness that she needs to value herself.

*Catland* by Ruth Starke, A Puffin Book

A delightful and very realistic account of a girl's first holiday with her dad's new partner and her family which forms one part of the conflict resolution. Rose helps resolve some neighbourhood conflict: she gets to know their next door neighbour and brings her stepmother to a better understanding of other people. The story is well suited to young readers in mid— to upper— primary.

*The Ballad of Cauldron Bay* by Elizabeth Honey, Allen & Unwin

This family holiday story features believable characters and relationships. Henni, a 13-year-old girl becoming adolescent, and her family and friends are in a holiday house at the beach. They are asked to have Tara, who they don't know, to come and stay. She changes the dynamics of the happy group. Conflict smoulders between Henni and Tara and is resolved through their own efforts. Both poetry and illustrations create atmosphere.

*The Spare Room* by Kathryn Lomer, UQP Young Adult Fiction

This tender, haunting tale takes the reader on a journey of discovery into two cultures. Akira has been sent by his family in Japan to learn English in Hobart, a journey into a new world. His homestay family is not what he was expecting. It is a journey into belonging, understanding and empowerment of people whose lives are connected by grief and uncertainty but who have hope in common. The device of writing in the first person, allows Australian customs to be depicted

21 November 2005

through fresh eyes. Akira becomes a catalyst after finding a new sense of freedom for himself and an understanding of his own grief and that of his homestay family.

**Previous Winners**

1987: Gillian Rubinstein *Space Demons*, Omnibus Books (South Australia)

1989: Victor Kelleher *The Makers*, Puffin

1991: Libby Gleeson *Dodger*, Puffin

1993: awarded jointly to Isobelle Carmody for *The Gathering*, Puffin and  
Bob Graham for *Rose Meets Mr Wintergarten*, Penguin Books

1995: Brian Caswell *Deucalion*, University of Queensland Press

1997: James Moloney *A Bridge to Wiseman's Cove*, University of Queensland Press

1999: Phillip Gwynne *Deadly Unna?* Penguin Books

2001: James Moloney *Touch Me*, University of Queensland Press

Highly Commended: Steven Herrick *The Simple Gift*, University of Queensland Press

2003: Irini Savvides *Sky Legs*, Hodder Headline Australia

**Awarded by Psychologists for Peace  
an Interest Group of the  
Australian Psychological Society  
ABN: 23 000 543 788**

For further information about the Children's Peace Literature Award contact:

Liz Alpers

**Psychologists for Peace (South Australia)**

**Tel: (08) 8379 4493**