

Tumbleglass

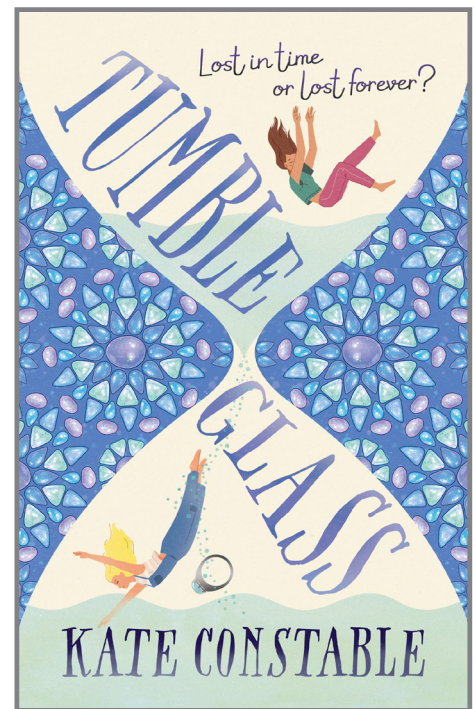
AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Upper Primary



SYNOPSIS

Thirteen-year-old Rowan is helping her older sister Ash paint her bedroom when she discovers a mysterious ring that transports them both back in time to 1999. To a party being held in the very same house!

While Ash dances, Rowan unwittingly disrupts the laws of time, and when she wakes up back in the present day, her sister is missing, and—even worse—everyone in their family seems to be forgetting she ever existed.

With the help of her magical neighbour Verity, Rowan must find the courage to travel back through the history of the house. But can she find everything she needs to rescue Ash before her sister disappears forever?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kate Constable was born in Melbourne but spent much of her childhood in Papua New Guinea, without television but within reach of a library where she 'inhaled' stories. She studied Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne before working for a record company while she began her life as a writer. Kate had stories published in *Meanjin*, *Island* and other literary magazines before realising she was actually a children's and YA author. Kate has written eleven novels for young people, including the internationally-published Chanters of Tremaris series and the CBCA award-winning *Crow Country*. Kate lives in a northern suburb of Melbourne with her family, a bearded dragon and a dog.

STUDY NOTES

- Sisters, Tansy, Ash and Rowan, are three very different people. In your own words describe each character's strengths and weaknesses, using examples from the book to illustrate your point.
- What does Rowan learn from her travels to different points in Australian history? The points in history below:
 - Attending the party in 1999
 - Taking part in a Land Rights march in 1972
 - Meeting Ernie and Jack in 1940
 - Eating lunch with Edith and Flora Whitecross in 1900
- Sometimes a simple trait can help define a character. Take for instance Laurel and her mangled sayings. What did they suggest about her character? Make a list of her mangled sayings in the novel and the correct version of each. Can you think of any other traits that make a character in the story stand out?
- What do the terms time-slip and magical realism mean? What incident or incidents in the story could be described as

an example of one or both of them? Why do you think the author decided to use time-slip and magical realism in her story? Did they make the novel more interesting for you?

- Retell the story from Verity's POV (point of view). How might her description of Rowan and her adventures in time differ from Rowan's POV.
- ' "Your house is built on . . . Let's call it a crack, a crack in time, a vulnerable place, where the boundaries of time are thin. We call it die Schwäche." ' (p 57) In your own words explain the idea of 'die Schwäche' and why it sent Rowan back to 1999, 1972, 1940 and 1900.
- ' "It doesn't have to be perfect. That isn't the point. The point isn't what you end up with. The point is the making" . . .' (p 275) What do you think Verity means here? What 'point' might Rowan discover painting the mural on her house?
- Why do you think the book is called *Tumbleglass*? Other than the ring, what other objects in the story relate to the title?
- What do you think is the significance of the tiny folding knife that Rowan finds on her bedside table at the end of the story? What do you think might happen to her after she becomes 'the guardian' of the house?
- What period in time would you choose to visit in Australia's history? Who would you most want to meet in all of history (it doesn't have to be an Australian)? Explain your reasoning for your choice
- Many of the most famous stories in books and film share a common structure. One popular structure is called the Hero's Journey and is based on a theory by Joseph Campbell. Another is called Pixar's Story Spine. Map the major events of *Tumbleglass* against both methods. Do the events fit either? Is one better than the other? Explain your reasoning.
- After finishing the novel design your own cover for *Tumbleglass*. Carefully consider the image you would like to use, as well as the colours that would be appropriate and the best font for the title. After completion, write a short paragraph explaining your choices.