

11 Ruby Road: 1900

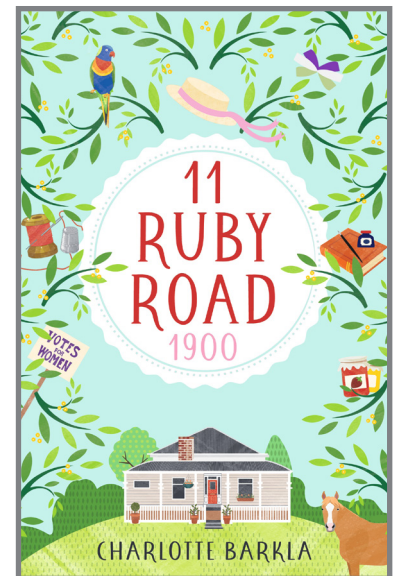
AUTHOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

It is 1900 and Dorothy and her family have just moved to a new house at 11 Ruby Road. Ruby Road is a busy street, bustling with activity—families and children, noisy carts and animals. The house is close enough to see the city and very different from the rural life Dorothy has known. Best of all it has a secret writing room that only she knows about!

Dorothy has big plans for her new neighbourhood—she wants to put on a play and write it herself! But there are other reasons for her family's move to the city and, as Dorothy starts to learn about her new house, she discovers more about the period of time she's growing up in.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charlotte Barkla is a Brisbane-based writer who worked as a civil engineer and physics teacher before rediscovering her love for children's literature. As well as writing for children, Charlotte writes feature articles for publications including the CSIRO's *Double Helix*, *Beanz* magazine and *Kookie* magazine. She regularly visits schools for creative writing workshops, sharing her passion for science, creativity and stories with children of all ages. Charlotte's books include *All Bodies are Good Bodies*, the *Edie's Experiments* series and *From My Head to My Toes*, *What I Say Goes*.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author/illustrator
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the title only, what do you think this story is about? Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? Did your ideas change after seeing the cover? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.
- Look at the front cover, read the blurb on the back to gather clues and use any prior knowledge you may have to

predict some events that might happen in this story.

AFTER READING

- Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?
- Is the book an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? How can you tell?
- Literary techniques allow a writer to convey a deeper meaning in their text. What techniques can you find in this story? eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification.
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?
- What did you think life in Australia in 1900 would be before you read this story. What do you think now?
- Notice the descriptive words and language used throughout the text. List some of the descriptive words and phrases. How do they make you feel? Why do you think the author used those words in the book?
- Women gained the vote in 1894 in South Australia, 1899 in Western Australia, 1902 in New South Wales, 1903 in Tasmania, 1905 in Queensland and 1908 in Victoria. First Nations women didn't receive the vote until 1962. Even today, not all women in the world have access to vote. Why is voting in a democracy important?
- Research what your local area was like in 1900. You might like to visit a museum or pioneer village in your local area to find out what life was like at the turn of the 20th century. You might like to research details such as:
 - What were schools like? (What subjects did students study, and what did they use for writing?)
 - How did people dress?
 - What were homes and meals like in 1900?