



A BOAT of STARS

New Australian Children's Poems

Edited by Margaret Connolly & Natalie Jane Prior

A Boat of Stars: New Poems to Inspire and Enchant

ed by Margaret Connolly & Natalie Jane Prior

ABC Books

Reviewed by Margaret Hamilton

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Apart from rhyming texts in picture books, poetry for children seems to be largely neglected, even though it is an active part of the Australian primary curriculum. So it is a pleasure to welcome this collection of new Australian children's poems, which is a companion to *The ABC Book of Australian Poetry*. The contents list is a catalogue of top Australian authors who have been responsible for some very popular picture books, and the list of illustrators includes many award-winning names. One of the main features of this book is the exploration and enjoyment of language, rhythm and rhyme. Whether children read the poems themselves or have it read to them, they will find something that appeals and favourites that will invite rereading. The full-colour illustrations add to the fun, and the variety in the design and typography heightens the enjoyment of the poems. A useful alphabetical list of the contributing authors and illustrators with their photographs and a short blurb is an added bonus. *A Boat of Stars* is highly recommended for children from preschool to upper primary.

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