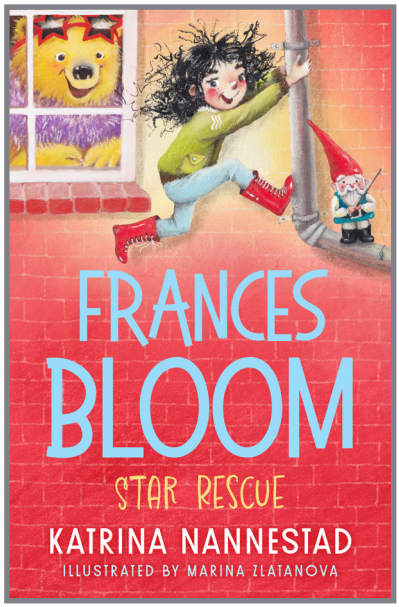
Star Resue (Frances Bloom #3)



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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katrina Nannestad is a multi-award-winning Australian author. Her books include the CBCA-shortlisted *We Are Wolves, The Girl Who Brought Mischief, The Travelling Bookshop* series, *The Girl, the Dog and the Writer* series, the *Frances Bloom* series, the *Olive of Groves* series, the *Red Dirt Diaries* series, the *Lottie Perkins* series, *The Story Writer's Handbook: Adventures in Creative Writing*, the historical novels *Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief*, *Waiting for the Storks*, *Silver Linings* and *All the Beautiful Things*, and the picture book *A Song for the King.*

Katrina grew up in country New South Wales in a neighbourhood stuffed full of happy children. Her adult years have been spent raising boys, teaching, daydreaming and pursuing her love of stories. Katrina celebrates family, friendship and belonging in her writing. She also loves creating stories that bring joy or hope to other people's lives.

Katrina now lives on a hillside in central Victoria with her husband, a silly whippet called Olive and a mob of kangaroos.

THEMES

- Community: Frances has a strong community around her, particularly her classmates and teachers. They are all able to share when it's required, as well as working together when they need to; they don't let anyone face a difficult problem alone, whether it's a broken wooden leg or rescuing Grandma Maude.
- Resilience: Frances faces challenges head on, with the confidence that she will be able to overcome them. However, she also understands that sometimes she needs help and will ask those around her for their support.
- Family: Grandma Maude, Grandpa Harold and Frances are not related by blood, but together they form a family. Caring about each other is what really makes a family, and Frances has many people who love her.

STUDY NOTES

- For breakfast Frances and Grandma Maude have floor French toast with ice cream and maple syrup, five tins of sardines and a very large watermelon. Create a menu for this unusual combination, including descriptions that make the food sound delicious and illustrations to tempt the eater.
  - Create a menu for three courses of a breakfast you would love to eat.
- Part of the reason Frances enjoys going to school is that she is taught by a pirate and a musician. If you could be taught by people from any two professions, what would they be and why? For example, "I would like to be taught by

a circus acrobat because I would learn a lot about human anatomy, strength and physics."

- Draw a map of all of the locations mentioned in *Star Rescue*. Start with Apple Cottage, Frances' home, and use the information given in the novel to create a map of the town.
- From quite early on in *Star Rescue*, there are clues that someone is trying to break up Frances's family and have her sent to Bleak Island Home for Unwanted Children and Dogs. List as many clues as you can think of.
- While Frances is very brave throughout the novel, she also has friends who help her to be brave. Who helps Frances and in what ways do they help her?
- In Chapter 13, when Frances, Roger Rowboat and some of the students in Year 3 are trying to rescue Grandma Maude and Grandpa Harold, sea shanties are sung. Do you know what a sea shanty is? If you don't, research:
    - What is a sea shanty?
    - Why were they sung?
    - What distinguishes a sea shanty from other types of song?
    - An example of a sea shanty for the class to learn and perform.
  - Extension: Try writing a sea shanty of your own, using the distinctive elements of this kind of song.
- Katrina Nannestad uses highly descriptive Tier 2 language throughout the text. For example, the weather is described as "filthy" and "raging" rather than just "bad." This creating humour and a richer image in the mind of the reader. Find some descriptive Tier 2 alternatives to the following words in *Star Rescue*:
  - Said or say
  - Ran
  - Took
  - Shone
- This is the last book in the Frances Bloom series (for the moment anyway!). Imagine you are working with Katrina Nannestad on another book for the series; what adventure would you like to see Frances tackles in this story?
  - Outline the plot
  - Decide the title
  - Write the opening chapter
  - Design and illustrate a cover

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