

# 11 Ruby Road: 1950

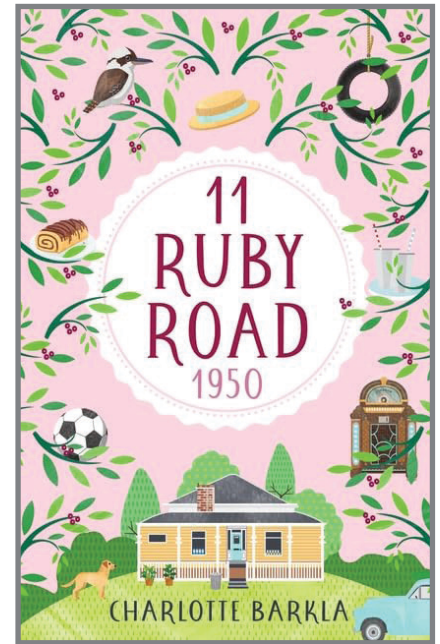
AUTHOR

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**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Since Patsy's baby sister was born, things at home have felt different. So when her mother goes to spend some time in the countryside, Patsy stays with her uncle and aunt, at Number 11 Ruby Road. There are so many new people to meet, especially when she begins to help out in Uncle Alex's bright and busy milk bar.

Patsy and her new friend Jolanta soon bond over their shared love for sketching. Jolanta's family are 'new Australians' from Poland, but Patsy discovers that not everyone is as welcoming to the people who came all the way from Europe after the war.

Inspired by the stories of the old Jazz, Cricket and Pastry Club that used to take part in 11 Ruby Road's undercroft, Patsy has an idea to bring together all the wonderful inhabitants of Ruby Road ... wherever they come from!

## 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* (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing, 2020), the *Edie's Experiments* series (Penguin Random House, 2020) and *From My Head to My Toes, What I Say Goes* (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing, 2022).

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. 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.

- 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.
  - Write your own story using the title of the book.
- Before reading the book, discuss what you think life in Australia was like in 1950. How similar or different do you think it would be from today? After reading, come back to this question: what do you think now?

### WHILE 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 *11 Ruby Road: 1950*? Eg. metaphor, imagery, alliteration, personification, etc.
- What deeper meaning can you draw from the text?

### AFTER READING

- 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?
- World War II ended in 1945. That same year, Australia's first Minister for Immigration was appointed. Research what post-war immigration was like in Australia. How and why was it different from before the war? What were the experiences of migrants travelling from Europe, the USA and other countries? What post-war attitudes were held by the Australian population, particularly towards migrants?
- Research what your local area was like in 1950. You might like to visit a museum or community centre to find out what life was like in the mid-20th century. You could research details such as:
  - What were schools like?
  - What subjects did students study?
  - How did people dress?
  - What were homes and meals like?
  - What was transport like?