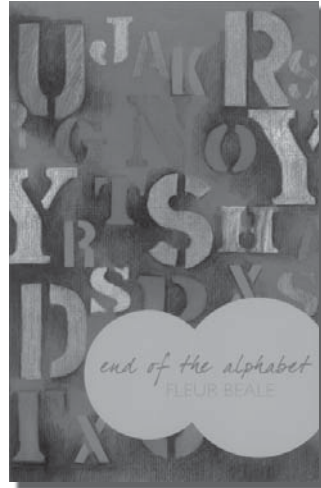




**2010
FINALISTS**



YOUNG ADULT FICTION



End of the Alphabet

Fleur Beale

Random House New Zealand

ISBN 978-1-86979-070-7 pb RRP \$19.99

Target age 12+

Ruby Yarrow is 14 and she's a good girl. She cooks, she looks after the little ones and she helps her mum. That's okay with Ruby until her best friend, Tia, accuses her of being a doormat. That gets to Ruby. But how do you get some backbone and start standing up for yourself? Tia has made her start thinking - and things will never be the same again for Ruby or her family.



Fleur Beale is also the author of *Juno of Taris* among many other award-winning books - she has now had more than 30 books published in NZ, with some of them also being published in the US and England. Fleur won the 2007 Storylines Gaelyn Gordon Award for a Much-Loved Book with *Slide the Corner* and the 2009 LIANZA Esther Glen Award for *Juno of Taris*, which was also a finalist in the 2009 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards.

Great Activity and Event Ideas

1. Invite an expert on effective communication or assertiveness to run a workshop.
2. Write a collaborative 'How to Improve Your Confidence/Assertiveness Guide' for teens.
3. There are lots of scenes of conflict in *End of the Alphabet*. Choose some to role play and then discuss options for how those situations might be resolved.
4. Discuss how you manage conflict in your family. Share your best tips for conflict resolution.
5. Ruby has real problems with reading so she is often shut out from the world, eg. in restaurants, in unfamiliar places. Run a group exercise where the instructions are in a language only one or two people in the class understand. Discuss how everyone coped, what strategies they used and how it felt to not know what the instructions were saying.



New Zealand Post
**CHILDREN'S
BOOK AWARDS**

**2010
FINALISTS**



YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Activity

Ruby shows real bravery in the book when she is confronted by challenges. Create an inspirational wall chart or web page entitled **Be Brave! Top Tips for Teens**. Include a mix of fun and serious suggestions.