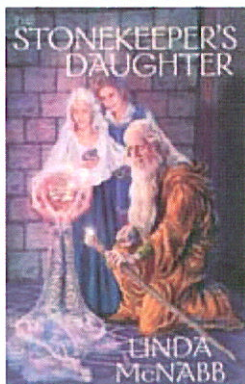


# New junior fiction releases



## *The Stonekeeper's Daughter* by Linda McNabb. RRP \$14.99

The Stonekeeper's Daughter will delight all students aged 9-13 who love fantasy sprinkled with a little magic, adventure, courage and good triumphing over evil. Linda McNabb fans will immediately recognise that this exciting tale is set in the same mystical world as *The Dragon's Apprentice* and *The Puppetmaster*. The story is set in a small enclosed village where there is little contact with the outside world. The father of Nakita (the 12-year-old central character) jealously guards some mysterious whispering stones for Wizard Kobain who sometimes visits the village. Nakita's curiosity gets the better of her and she touches one of the forbidden stones. Suddenly her life is changed and as she is cast out by her family and the people of the village and forced to flee to the outside world. In the valley below, Nakita discovers that the stones promote good but are being used for evil purposes. Nakita discovers new powers which she uses wisely to overcome the evil ambitions of Wizard Kobain.

### Teaching and Learnig Ideas

- Introduce the story by reading chapter one to the class. Have them speculate on the purposes of the stones. Why are they being guarded so carefully? What could they be whispering about? List responses for later discussion.
- From the written description of the stones, have students create their own stone grotto in the classroom.
- Talk about the distinction between good and evil characters. As the story progresses, list characters in the appropriate category. Identify the devices the author uses to give the reader clues as to the category, **eg**
  - *what they say*    - *how they act*    - *how they look*
- Develop the idea that books are often the basis of films and plays. Why do they think that a book such as this, which contains many elements of magic, makes an exciting film or play? Have groups select exciting magical incidents from the story. Challenge them to re-create the incident as a stage drama. How will they incorporate the magic?
- Discuss why it is often easier to re-create magic in a film format and as a radio play. Which genre requires the most imagination on the part of the audience? Why?
- Speculate on the changes to the world and Eagle Rock now the stones have been returned to their rightful owners.