



## **Rabbit - Margaret Beames (author) & Ian McNee (illustrator)**

**Published by Scholastic, RRP \$19.50**

This story, with its talking rabbit and relatively simple plot, nevertheless focusses on some big issues.

The first half deals with school bullying as encountered by 10 year old friends Jack and Nick. With a little help from Henry the rabbit, these boys work through their problems and show up the bullies.

The second half is more about animal rights. Experiments using animals can be justified but is still questioned and again, Jack and Nick triumph - with Jack's rabbit at least. The tension of these final chapters is well worked.

Adults in the story are realistic but very much in the background. They're shown leaving for work, looking after younger siblings, busy people who are nevertheless concerned about their sons.

Jason, the unemployed 19 year old, after the quick dollar, is also seen to have a good side to him, putting his younger sister ahead of a quick sale. And Rosie, the seven year old, shows guts when she realizes it is she who has put Henry in danger.

Of course Henry is the star, delightfully realistic and super intelligent - as a talking rabbit would be! The basis of the humour in this tale is in Henry's comments.

The line drawings by Ian McNee add to the detail of the storyline and to the humour.

**Reviewed by Bookrapt Committee Member  
Chris Wright**

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