



***Violet Mackerel's Natural Habitat* - Anna Branford**

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Violet is a thoughtful young girl who likes to be helpful. She has the best of intentions when she embarks on a 'Theory of Helping Small Things'.

For her first project she decides a tiny ladybird needs her help to keep out of the rain. Unfortunately, she doesn't understand the natural habitat of the small creature and her efforts lead to disaster. Even her attempt to help her grumpy sister with her homework goes awry.

Violet's usually sunny outlook takes a tumble when her good deeds meet with failure. Why is it so difficult to help others? However, it's not long before her natural optimism shines through and she realises life often has ups and downs.

Charming black and white illustrations by Sarah Davis enhance the storyline. Violet's personality shows in her sweet smile and wistful pixie face. Other characters are well-defined, particularly her scowling sister whose expression changes when she realises Violet needs help herself. The relationship between the two sisters is a special feature of this realistic story.

This is the third book in the hardback series about the delightful Violet Mackerel. Real treasure for young girls extending their reading skills with chapter books.

Reviewed by children's
book author

Jean Bennett

Author's website:

www.annabranford.com

Illustrator's website:

www.sarahdavisbooks.com

