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***Violet Mackerel's Helpful Suggestion* by Anna Branford, illustrated by Sarah Davis**

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$24.99

Another treasure in the Violet Mackerel series to delight junior readers. Violet is a sensitive young soul who loves her family and her best friend, Rose, who lives next door. She always tries to be helpful to the people she cares about.

Violet is disconcerted when she learns that Rose is going away with her parents for six weeks. Perhaps Rose might forget the important things the two friends share. Violet wonders how she can devise a helpful suggestion to jog Rose's memory.

To add to Violet's worries her step-father, Vincent, has been given a trial for a job at a nuts and seeds store. But he is struggling to memorise an enormous list of names and prices for the various nuts and seeds. Violet would like to think of a helpful suggestion to make it easier for him to remember the products.

Black-and-white illustrations by Sarah Davis are the perfect complement to the warm-hearted stories. The homely characters are just like many folk you would meet walking around a neighbourhood. An anxious frown or a cheery grin displays their thoughts, while the interactions between the friends reflect many young girls who enjoy being together.

The Violet Mackerel books focus on an ordinary, loving family coping with the ups and downs of everyday life. Family and friends find realistic ways to solve problems before they become big issues. This award-winning series is published in quality hardback.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

Violet Mackerel's website:

www.violetmackerel.com

Author's website:

<http://annabranford.com/>

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<http://sarah-davis.org/>

