



## ***The Prankster and the Ghost* by R.L. Stedman**

**Publisher: Waverley Productions**

**RRP \$21.99 paperback +  
available as an e-book**

It's not surprising this entertaining ghost story was shortlisted for the prestigious 2012 Storylines Tom Fitzgibbon Award. The novel is an absorbing, imaginative tale for mid-primary school readers through to intermediate age.

There's plenty to laugh at with the two main characters keen on practical jokes that often end with the perpetrators running for cover. Yet, there's also a thought-provoking side to the story. Tayla had been with his parents when they were involved in a car accident. The devastating results have left Tayla in hospital in a coma. However, he's still aware of what's going on around him and decides to leave his painful body and go exploring. This leads to some strange experiences that take him further than anticipated.

A highlight of the interaction between the characters is their realistic, humorous dialogue. The storyline is carried along by their conversations which reveal so much about each individual. This includes the ghost children who struggle to be heard and Jamie, recently arrived from Scotland, who finds it difficult to make himself understood because of his Scottish accent.

The tetchy relationships between brother and sisters are also convincing with Jamie regularly playing pranks on his annoying older sisters. He needs to be fleet-footed to escape their ire. All the characters are well-portrayed with their quirks and idiosyncrasies revealed as the story unfolds. The satisfying ending wraps up this well-told tale with style.

Visit the author's website for details on how to purchase *The Prankster and the Ghost* in either the paperback or e-book version.

**Author's website:**

[www.rlstedman.com](http://www.rlstedman.com)

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett**

