



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION Queensland Branch

Judges' Notes

Natalie Sprite, *Watersong*

The thrill and the suspense of live musical performance dominate this story, a deeply layered account of a young performer's launch to fame. Chord by chord, her hopes build and then recede, but then note by note they're regained – all the while over the memory of a mother, tragically lost but not forgotten. Like a good song, *Watersong* takes its reader through the highs and lows of both the audition and life itself. The reader is swept into anticipation: will they make it or not?