

## THE HERO'S JOURNEY – BOOKS 1-5

Kate Lyon, with Meri Johnson and John Lyon

### THE SPECIAL PLACE

Kate and John Lyon

ABA Books ([www.ababooks.co.nz](http://www.ababooks.co.nz))

Hamilton, NZ, 2007

This is a series of five charming and well written work books for children and young people, based on the idea of a child's journey through life. The accompanying story book, *The Special Place*, further illustrates the work book themes – identity, making choices, friendships, family relationships, anger, fear, kindness, responsibility and courage.

At the outset, the author states, 'This is the first in a series of five books. And they are written for heroes everywhere. They are about your journey through life. Because YOU are the hero. And it is YOUR life'. This sets the tone for the series.

These books are written by a New Zealand author and are steeped in Maori legends, proverbs, celebrations and words. While the content is excellent, it would therefore be difficult for a child from a non-New Zealand background to easily make sense of some of it. However, if revised, the ideas and themes would be appropriate for children of any culture.

**Book One**, *Who am I?*, starts with the statement 'If you aren't the star ... you're in the wrong story'. This book is about exploring identity.

**Book Two** covers skills and choices about using skills.

**Book Three** covers the journey of life, changes and loss.

**Book Four** is essentially about relationships – those which are positive and those which are less positive (but which are nevertheless ultimately positive in terms of learning about life and people).

**Book Five** is about overcoming problems in life – fear, anger and other 'monsters'.

These books are filled with creative and affirming concepts and ideas, making them a valuable resource for adults working with children who want to explore their lives and hopes for the future. They would also be suited to older children with good reading skills. The books would be particularly useful for children in home based care or those who have experienced previous disruptions in relationships.

This series is highly recommended – with the proviso that the books would need to be revised for the Australian context.

Reviewed by members of the Post Placement Support Service (Vic) Inc ([www.ppss.org.au](http://www.ppss.org.au)):

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## *National Foster Care Conference 2007*

### *'Fostering change'*

Friday 5 October - Sunday 7 October 2007

Telstra Dome, Melbourne, Victoria

The aim of the conference is to provide a creative, constructive and enjoyable learning forum where all involved in, or with, the foster, permanent, relative and kinship care sector can share experiences and learning both formally and informally. There will be a focus on achieving positive outcomes and enhancing practice, and presentations will explore the issues challenging the sector now and in the next five years.

For further information and registration: <[www.dbconferences.com.au](http://www.dbconferences.com.au)>