

NICE TO READ

"A Prayer for Blue Delaney" -
A novel by Kirsty Murray, 2005



Suitable from Year 9 onward

The novel takes us back to the 1950s. In those days a group of orphan boys is shipped from Northern Ireland to Australia, the "land of plenty", which is said to be a marvellous place. The boys are promised to be taken up by caring families, but they are actually sent to a monks' orphanage where life turns out to be hell ...

"... Every evening, after dinner, was punishment time. Colm wondered if the Brothers chose that time so the boys would forget their hunger. They were always hungry. There was never much food on the table at breakfast, lunch or dinner.

When a boy was called up to be punished, Colm would fold his hands and concentrate extra hard, trying to think of anything other than what was going on around him.

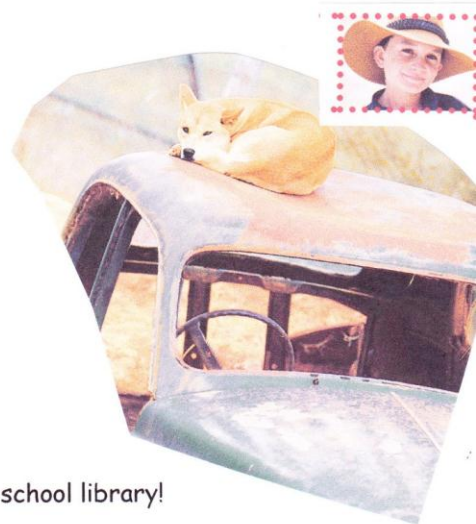
The boys were seldom sure why they were being punished. They only knew it was 'for their own good'.

One night, both Colm and Dibs were called up. Everyone was assembled in the big dining hall to watch.

Brother Brophy stood at the front of the hall, strap in hand ... "

Here are some students' comments on the book:

"A really exciting story. You always want to know how it goes on."
"At the beginning the story is very sad, but I like the happy ending."
"Easy to read and not like the typical books you read at school."
"Sometimes a bit unrealistic but full of suspense."



Interested? Then go and get the book from the school library!