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Lizzie Nonsense

Lara M. Ackerman

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Ormerod, Jan. *Lizzie Nonsense*. Illustrated by Jan Ormerod. Clarion, 2005. ISBN 061857493X. \$15.00.
32 p.

Reviewer: Lara M. Ackerman

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Picture Book;

Subject: Imagination--Juvenile fiction; Australia--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

When Papa goes into town, Lizzie, Mama and Baby are left alone in their little house in the Australian bush. To brighten the difficulties of pioneer life, Lizzie puts her imagination to work. For dinner, Lizzie imagines "peaches and cream and little sweet cakes," instead of "turnips, as usual." Imagining a dress, "with lots of frills and lace and bows," helps dull the tedium of mending everyday work clothes. Mama matter-of-factly refers to her daughter's imagination as "Lizzie nonsense." However, the loneliness of the Australian bush country affects people in different ways. Mama's pretending occurs on Sunday when the family puts on their best clothing and walks through the woods as if they were going to church.

Evocative and sincere, Ormerod's skillful watercolors bring to life the stark beauty of the pioneer experience, emphasizing the importance of courage and family. This poignant title would be a welcome addition to any library.