Friday Barnes: Big Trouble

R.A. SPRATT RANDOM HOUSE

FROM the creator of Nanny Piggins comes a new series starring an 11-year-old girl from a family of high level theoretical physicists. Counting her adult siblings and Nobel Prize-winning mother there are six Doctors Barnes in Friday’s family. Her own speciality, however, is solving mysteries at her upper crust polo-playing boarding school with the help of best friend Melanie and arch enemy/love interest Ian Wainscott. Friday solves a minor mystery a day in this fast-paced and often funny third in the series before she turns the tables on a compulsive thief and unmask a royal impostor.

KATHARINE ENGLAND

The Australian Schoolkids’ Guide To Debating And Public Speaking

CLAIRE DUFFY NEW SOUTH

ALTHOUGH the title might suggest otherwise this is actually a fun read for any youngster contemplating getting involved with their school debating team. Parents and teachers of debaters would be well advised to have a read as well. Claire Duffy is director of debating and public speaking at The Scots College and while her approach is humorous and engaging her wealth of experience shines through this guide to becoming a successful debater, from preparation and rebuttal tips to speakers’ roles and team table manners. And anyone who can take the nerves out of public speaking is helping set up a child for life.

CECILY RYAN