

With themes of 'holding out hope', 'searching for redemption' and 'the strength of friendship'/'whakawhanaungatanga', ***A Place of Stone and Darkness*** by Chris Mousdale is an dark enchanting read. It takes you to a new world, with a new language; so tantalisingly close to our own.

I would highly recommend this book for use with gifted and talented year 7/8's and above. The confronting scenes of violence in the beginning, in the Clinic and Blue's ultimate fate, place this book firmly in the young adult section.

They also provide, from the Strigg's perspective, an outsiders view of the world we live in.

Laid bare with a gritty realism that forces the reader to compare and contrast our current world with this not-too distant, possible future. ***A Place of Stone and Darkness*** carries the reader along effortlessly with fast paced action and well developed characters with whom you quickly build a rapport.

This book would be ideal for use in a Novel Study, or a Read Aloud to an intermediate class.