

they raise their eyebrows half way up their foreheads in expressions of delighted nastiness. Grandma stands strong and proud on the book's front cover, rolling pin raised in salute.

One can appreciate the effort that has gone into making this book appear so effortless.

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Kids for sail. Pamela and Sam Bendall. Orca Book Publishers, 1990. 119 pp., \$9.95 paper. ISBN 0-920501-49-4.

The authors, Pamela and Sam Bendall, are mother and son. Sam, his younger brother Charlie, and their parents sailed around the Pacific Ocean, Victoria to New Zealand, and *Kids for sail* is an account of their adventures.

It is a fine idea for a book, and there are occasional moments when the book works. The writing is a bit forced, though. In the midst of one of many storms, for example, Sam's Mom shouts "This is the greatest endurance test I have ever had." The line is somewhat typical of the writing style.

Kids for sail is also weak in story development. It tends to be a narration of events which uses few literary devices, such as foreshadowing, to mold the adventure into an emotional story. It also has its share of instructional moments when navigation and trade winds are taught to the reader.

Kids for sail is not a bad book. It is earnest and sincere but far from exciting.

Ken Roberts, currently Chief Librarian of the Whitby Public Library, is the author of several children's novels, including *Pop bottles and Hiccups* champion of the world (both Groundwood).