

Example Text: Review of Written Text

RODDA, Emily
The Key to Rondo
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Have you ever broken the rules? Leo never thought he would. He was always the sensible one in the family – he never took any risks. That was why his Aunt Bethany left him the old wooden music box when she died.

But Leo's calm and ordered life changes forever when his young cousin Mimi comes to visit. She turns his world upside down with her wilful and unpredictable ways.

When Leo's parents leave the two children alone in the house, Mimi snatches the music box from Leo and ignoring the age old rule of only turning the key three times, Mimi adds an extra turn. What follows next is beyond the children's wildest dreams. The music box is not what it seems. It is in fact its own little world, a real world, where amazing and magical things happen, but not all of them are good. The land of Rondo is ruled by the evil Blue Queen who wants the key and nothing will stand in her way.

As Leo and Mimi travel through Rondo, they learn of its many secrets, and we learn more about our two main characters and their hidden fears and wishes. It seems as though there is much more to Mimi than meets the eye, and her abrupt personality hides a lonely young girl.

The Key to Rondo is unlike Emily Rodda's previous Deltora Quest series, and some of her fans may be disappointed with this book and its lack of atmosphere. But children of all ages are sure to enjoy the many fairytale and nursery rhyme characters that pop up regularly throughout the story. And many older readers will take pleasure in following Leo and Mimi's quest through Rondo and their battle with the evil Blue Queen. It's a pleasant read, but not one you can't put down. I'll give it 6 out of 10.

