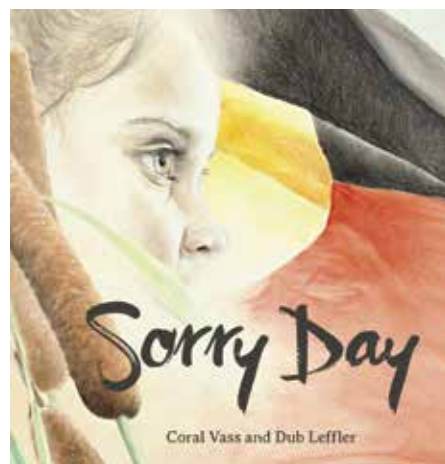
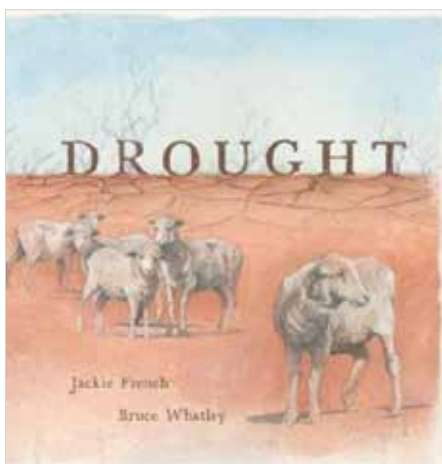
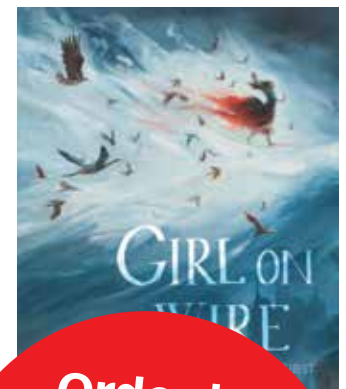
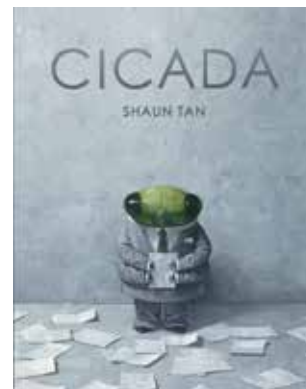
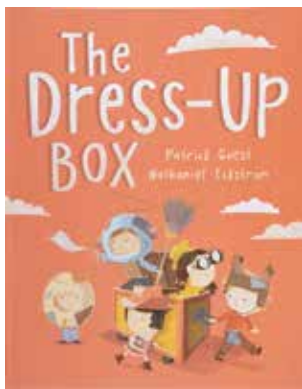
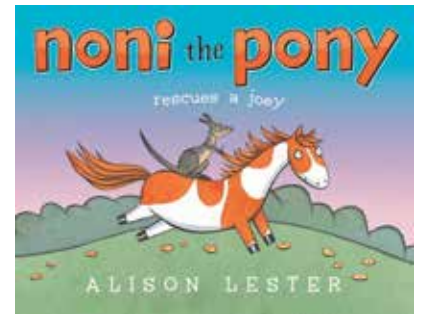
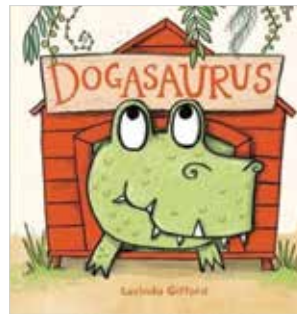
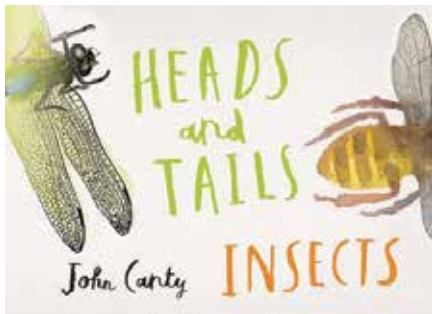


THE Book Curator

THE LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO BOOKS FOR KIDS & TEENS



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VOLUME 1 OF 2

THE CBCA AWARDS 2019 SHORT LIST & NOTABLES

APR 2019
ISSN 2204-5708
Vol 1 of 2

Detailed reviews on the latest
fiction to help you choose

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

The Book Curator is an Australian magazine and membership service jointly owned by two families who share a passion for books and a determination to provide outstanding service to our members.

We help schools all over the country by providing them with access to helpful information, detailed reviews and the latest fiction titles for their libraries.

Our goal is to provide the resources librarians need to choose the best books for their school library across a wide range of genres, age groups and formats. We provide a wide range of services to help support our members so they can get the best return for their time and their budget.

This magazine (previously called Review) and our service have developed based on what our members want. We invite your ideas, suggestions, feedback and constructive criticism to help us provide solutions to the challenges you face as you work to build an outstanding library for your school community.

In addition to library titles, we source and supply a wide range of interesting and effective resources to help teachers, counsellors and chaplains work with and support their students. We also help equip teachers and school leaders with professional development resources.

For more information about our services or to provide feedback please contact us.

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The Book Curator

ISSN 2204-5708

WELCOME

EDITORIAL



This special CBCA Awards edition of The Book Curator comes as a two-volume set. In this first volume you'll find Early Childhood, Picture Books, the Award for New Illustrators and the Eve Pownall Award for Information Book, while Volume 2 features Younger Readers and Older Readers.

Both volumes feature detailed reviews to help you explore all the CBCA titles (not just the short lists) and make informed decisions about what to buy for your library collection.

The reviews are also designed to help you match readers to books they will love, in the hope that each one will contribute to their lifelong enjoyment of our wonderful Australian stories.

As a bonus, when you choose to buy your CBCA Awards titles from The Book Curator, you'll receive a complimentary copy of Book Week Ideas & Activities 2019 [RRP 39.95] when you spend over \$275 [at our specially discounted prices].

It's our way of saying thank you for helping support our service.

Dive in, enjoy and we will see you on the other side!

ROWENA BERESFORD

PS. If you have any comments on The Book Curator or suggestions on what we could improve or include in future issues, please call 07 3167 6518 or email your feedback to editor@bookcurator.com.au.

Disclaimer: The reviews contained in this magazine are based on each individual reviewer's opinion only. While we do our best to pick up every potential concern in fiction titles, we cannot guarantee that to be the case. Should you purchase a book based on our reviews and then discover an issue of serious concern to you that was not included in our review, please contact us.

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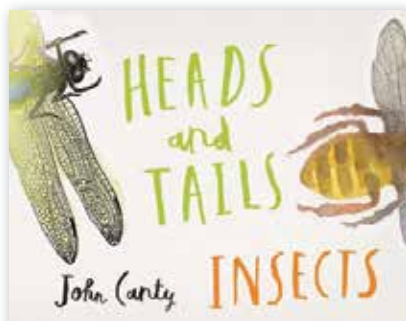
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Cristy Burne

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EARLY CHILDHOOD
SHORT LIST

Heads and Tails: Insects

Author/Illustrator: John Canty

ISBN: 978-0994384164

Published: 1/8/18

Publisher: Berbay Publishing

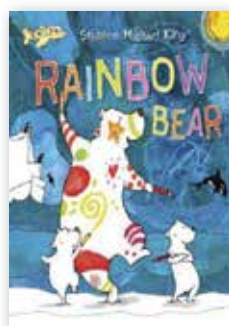
>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

You can only see my tail, what insect am I? *Heads and Tails: Insects* is a playful follow up book to the highly successful *Heads and Tails*. At first we can only see their tails. Some clear, simple clues add detail as we learn more about each one. Now, can you guess the insect that each tail belongs to?

>> OUR REVIEW

Beautiful watercolour insects crawl through this book, with each page presenting the tail of an insect and a set of clues as to which insect it belongs to. The clues encourage children to interact with each page and, from the information provided, discern what the insect could be. The book also weaves in educational facts about insects, some amusing, to keep young readers engaged and learning. An aesthetically gorgeous, simplistic and informative resource with high educational and entertainment value.

Recommended Age: 2 to 5 years



Rainbow Bear

Author/Illustrator: Stephen

Michael King

ISBN: 978-1742997698

Published: 1/11/18

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Bear likes to dive into the deep blue ocean, blowing bubbles and turning somersaults. He wakes with the sun and sleeps with the moon. One morning, Bear is shocked to discover that his coat has changed. Is Bear dreaming? Or are two cheeky polar bear cubs responsible?

>> OUR REVIEW

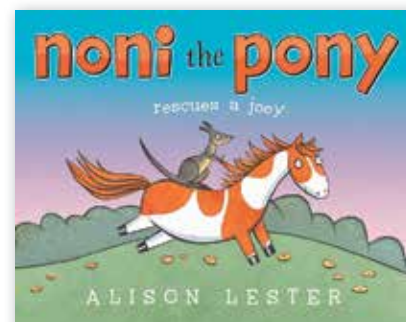
This heart-warming and slightly mischievous story about a polar bear and his family, inspires creativity and encourages the appreciation of art. After returning home from the city with gifts of art supplies for his cubs, Bear falls asleep as a white bear, but wakes up as a rainbow bear. Puzzled and curious, he goes swimming and comes up white again... only to be rainbow once more the next morning.

This pattern continues until Bear uncovers the culprits—his own cubs. He lets them draw on him for the rest of the day, but that night, Bear gets up to his own mischief. Once morning comes, his whole family are rainbow bears. Bear and his family spend the day playing and colouring each other, and when the day is over, they all go swimming. Bear's

family decides that next time he goes travelling, they want to go.

Full of colour and curiosity, the illustrations are sure to delight and inspire young readers.

Recommended Age: 4 year +



Noni the Pony Rescues a Joey

Author/Illustrator: Alison Lester

ISBN: 978-1760293123

Published: 24/10/18

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

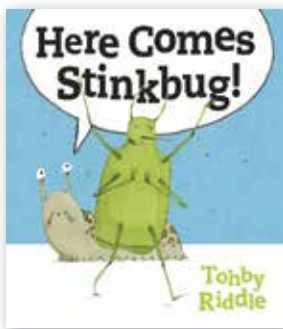
Noni the Pony heads out for the day, to roam the green hills behind Waratah Bay. As she and her friends wander down a green trail, they meet someone small with a very long tail. Can they help the lost baby wallaby find the way home?

>> OUR REVIEW

Noni the Pony and two of her friends, finds a lost wallaby in need of help. As the story progresses, the animals encounter an assortment of native Australian wildlife on their journey to find joey's mob. While the simple sentences rhyme seamlessly, it's Alison Lester's signature illustrations that really bring this story to life. The bold colour and texture draw you into this Australian rescue adventure.

A lovely book with themes of friendship and helping others in need.

Recommended Age: 1 to 4 years



Here Comes Stinkbug!

Author/Illustrator: Tohby Riddle
ISBN: 978-1760523527
Published: 26/9/18
Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Stinkbug can really stink. But when it starts bugging his friends, Stinkbug wonders if it's time to stop doing what stink bugs do best ...

The hilarious story about a smelly bug whose unique talent saves the day.

>> OUR REVIEW

None of the other insects want to spend time around Stinkbug because of his odour. Feeling uncomfortable in his own skin, Stinkbug starts to suffer from a lack of self-confidence. Perhaps he needs to change in order to keep his friends? When he tries to stink less, he befriends a charming spider. But then he gets the unusual feeling that the spider is trying to eat him - and Stinkbug learns that his unique smell is more useful than anyone realised.

A sweet, humorous tale about friendship and being true to yourself instead of changing to fit in.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years



The Dress-Up Box

Author: Patrick Guest
Illustrator: Nathaniel Eckstrom
ISBN: 978-1760124922
Published: 1/5/18
Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

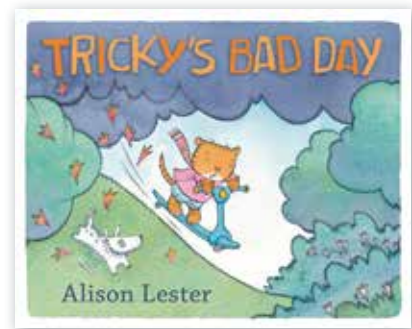
The Frolleys have to move from their beloved house at 32 Sunshine Avenue to a place with dripping taps, stinky carpets and ants. But they have brought something with them that can turn any house into a home. *The Dress-Up Box* is a story about childhood, belonging and the power of imagination.

>> OUR REVIEW

When the Frolleys have to move house, they are less than pleased. They say goodbye to their neighbours, the Choongs, their haunted house, bamboo forest, animals, and dress up games that they play with their friends after school. Their new home is nothing like their old one, but the Frolley children discover their old dress-up box, teddies and toys and that's what makes it home.

Combining delightful illustrations and a meaningful message, this is a lovely story about a family who realises that home can be made anywhere as long as you are with the people you love.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years



Tricky's Bad Day

Author/Illustrator: Alison Lester
ISBN: 978-1925712513
Published: 30/10/18
Publisher: Affirm Press

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Poor Tricky! Nothing is going right for him. Milk spills, pyjama buttons won't work, his little sister wrecks their game, and when he tries to help out, everything gets worse. Tricky's having a very bad day! Then Dad has an idea. Outside it's wild, but there's a lot to explore... From Australia's favourite picture-book creator comes a warm and funny story about the very recognisable mess, muddle and love that is the life of a young family - and the freedom of an outside adventure.

>> OUR REVIEW

After making a mess and hurting himself, Tricky's day is going from bad to worse. Nothing is going right and it takes some quiet contemplation and a relaxing moment with Dad before this terrible day turns around.

With a fun rhyming scheme that works well with the beautiful and colourful illustrations, *Tricky's Bad Day* is a great picture book that encapsulates the feeling of days that just aren't going the way you'd like them to.

Recommended Age: 0 to 3 years

EARLY CHILDHOOD NOTABLES



A Boat of Stars

Editor: Margaret Connolly & Natalie Jane Prior

Illustrator: Various

ISBN: 978-0733337932

Published: 19/2/18

Publisher: Harper Collins

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

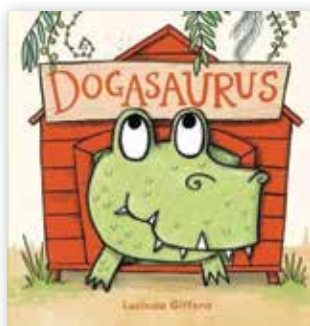
A boat of stars came down tonight and sailed around my bed - it sprinkled stardust on my eyes, put dreams inside my head.

Open worlds of imagination and explore the magic of everyday life with this enchanting new collection of poetry from some of Australia's most-loved writers and illustrators. Perfect for the classroom and the home, *A Boat of Stars* will bring a love of language, rhythm and rhyme to every child.

>> OUR REVIEW

A Boat of Stars is a breathtaking anthology that reflects the magical magnificence of the worlds in which children live. It is filled with enchanting words and artworks of brilliant Australian authors and illustrators. This collection is jam-packed with rhyming words that can be sung, making every poem even more enjoyable. Each poem is distinctive, inspirational and bound to be bedtime favourites.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



Dogasaurus

Author/Illustrator: Lucinda Gifford

ISBN: 978-1743810712

Published: 1/5/18

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Imagine if you found a strange egg in a mysterious forest, and then you brought it home... And when it hatched, out popped a baby DINOSAUR! Maybe you'd adopt it as your pet? You could play and do chores together and have lots of fun. But what would you do when it grows ... and GROWS ... and GROWS? Find out what Molly does, in this funny tale about a special friendship.

>> OUR REVIEW

As Molly was walking through the Mysterious Ancient Forest she came across a Mysterious Thing. She couldn't help herself. She picked it up and took it home. When it hatched, out popped a green, scaly creature that said, "Ruff!". Rex, as Molly called her new pet dogasaurus, just kept getting bigger and bigger until all the other animals on the farm were scared of him. One day, Molly found Rex staring longingly towards the forest and knew that she had to take him home ...

Dogasaurus is a funny story about friendship and adventure depicted through bright and animated illustrations that capture the chaos caused by Rex's presence on the farm.

While it exudes humour and joy, there is also an ever-so-subtle environmental plea: appreciate and enjoy natural wonders, but leave them intact.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years



All the Ways to be Smart

Author: Davina Bell

Illustrator: Allison Colpoys

ISBN: 978-1925713435

Published: 15/10/18

Publisher: Other

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

From the award-winning creators of *The Underwater Fancy-dress Parade* and *Under the Love Umbrella* comes this joyful ode to all the unique and wonderful qualities that make children who they are.

>> OUR REVIEW

There are so many different ways to be smart. From creating stories, to learning times tables, to drawing masterpieces, or showing kindness.

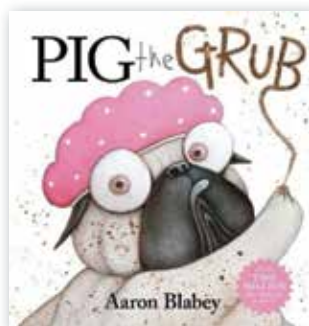
This gorgeous picture book celebrates individuality and creativity, and reminds children that there are more aspects to intelligence than knowing maths and science.

A great book for younger children struggling to perform in the school system & a great reminder for adults that every child shows intellect in a different way.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years



* This title is also featured in the New Illustrators short list. The review can be found on page A19.



Pig the Grub

Author/Illustrator: Aaron Blabey
ISBN: 978-1742769691
Published: 1/9/18
Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Eww! What a stinker! Pig isn't just the world's greediest Pug, he's the DIRTIEST too. It's high time he had a bath! But try telling Pig that...

>> OUR REVIEW

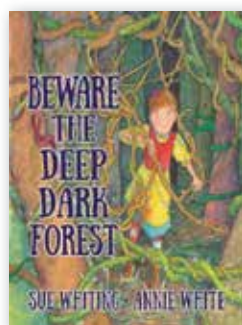
Pig the pug is just a bit of a grub. And try as they might to keep him nice and clean, his owners often have a hard time catching him as he ducks and weaves around the house.

There is mischief and mayhem as this grotty pug tries to avoid being bathed, but as is often the case with Pug, things don't quite go the way he'd hoped

Filled with rhyming phrases and

humorous illustrations, this is another funny tale of Pig the Pug's dubious behaviour.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years



Beware the Deep Dark Forest

Author: Sue Whiting
Illustrator: Annie White
ISBN: 978-1742032344
Published: 1/10/18
Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Beware the deep, dark forest! You should never, ever go in there...

Rosie has always followed this rule until the day her pup Tinky goes missing in the woods. So Rosie decides to trek into this dangerous, muddy place. But there are many obstacles along the way - including a huge grey wolf, a ravine of lava and a ferocious troll! Can Rosie find the courage to overcome these dangers and save Tinky?

>> OUR REVIEW

This alliterative tale follows Rosie, a very brave little girl who goes into the deep dark forest filled with carnivorous plants, venomous snakes and other scary creatures, in search of her puppy Tinky. The illustrations by are reminiscent of classic fairy tales, which brings a timeless aesthetic to a picture book about heroic courage and overcoming obstacles for friends in need.

Recommended Age: 4 years +



Collecting Sunshine

Author: Rachel Flynn
Illustrator: Tamsin Ainslie
ISBN: 978-0143785187
Published: 3/9/18
Publisher: Penguin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Mabel and Robert love to collect things on their walks - leaves and stones and seeds and berries. But when they are caught in the rain and can't take their collection home they have an even better idea... A book for those magical days when a walk to the park is nothing short of an adventure.

>> OUR REVIEW

Mabel and Robert spend a day collecting things. When their collections slip away, they decide to take in their surroundings and enjoy the magic of life. *Collecting Sunshine* beautifully depicts the simple pleasures of childhood and teaches us to appreciate what is around us. In this era of technology and multimedia, this is a great story for showing kids that real life can be found outside the four walls.

Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years



Rhyme Cordial

Author/Illust: Antonia Pesenti

ISBN: 978-1925322149

Published: 30/4/18

Publisher: Scribe Publications

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

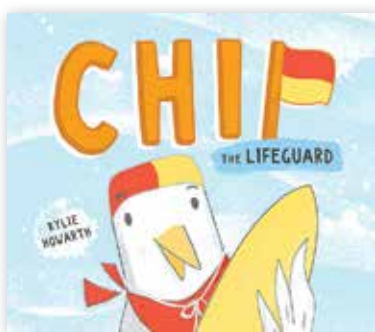
From Alarm Croc to Cheepy Head, you'll enjoy Rhyme Cordial all day long! A fun, new take on wordplay from bestselling illustrator Antonia Pesenti. Open the pages to reveal unexpected rhymes and bold, bright illustrations.

>> OUR REVIEW

This clever book features rhymes and wordplay that turn every day items and phrases on their head to create new, unexpected and somewhat silly images. The word-switches are simple but creative, encouraging children to come up with new rhymes of their own.

Though designed for the baby market as a board-book, the eye-catching illustration and surprising, creative outcomes makes it equally as appealing for an older audience.

Recommended Age: 0 to 3 years



Chip the Lifeguard

Author/Illustrator: Kylie Howarth

ISBN: 978-1760682316

Published: 1/12/18

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Chip is back! His mission: to become a lifeguard. But his dreams soon go soggy when he's

chased off the beach. So Chip and his friends fashion a plan to sneak him into to the surf club. Will their stunt earn Chip a place between the red and yellow flags?

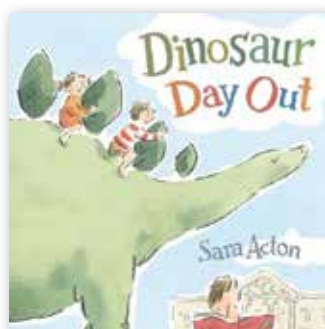
>> OUR REVIEW

All Chip wants to do is become a lifeguard, but there are no gulls allowed! So Chip disguises himself for the surf lifesavers open day, so he can show them he's got what it takes.

Just as he's paddling out to sea, Nugget, the dog, spots him and chases Chip away. It's only when Chip helps to save Nugget from a strong rip, that Chip is congratulated and is allowed to join the lifeguard team.

A great story to help children see that sometimes even the smallest among us can be the greatest heroes, and that you should never give up on your dreams.

Recommended Age: 2 to 6 years



Dinosaur Day Out

Author/Illustrator: Sara Acton

ISBN: 978-1760650049

Published: 1/9/18

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

A breakout book from Crichton award-winning author/illustrator Sara Acton, with every-kid appeal and DINOSAURS. Sally and Max love dinosaurs. They can't wait to see them at the museum, but today the dinosaur exhibition is closed. Where will the dinosaurs

go on their day off? A whimsical story with humour and heart.

>> OUR REVIEW

When dinosaurs take a day off from the museum what do they do?

Sally and Max go to a museum only to find that the dinosaur exhibit is closed so Dad reads a book about them instead.

A humorous book containing lots of dino-facts with pre-historic creatures hidden in its pages.

Sara Acton has created a fun world where the facts are intriguing and the dinosaurs are fantastically friendly.

Recommended Age: 2 to 6 years



It's a Long Way to the Shop

Author/Illustrator: Heidi McKinnon

ISBN: 978-1742998855

Published: 1/11/18

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

They can't run, swim, fly or jump... so how will these two little rocks get to the shop? Find out in this hilarious tale of adventure and persistence, to reach a snack that's totally worth it.

>> OUR REVIEW

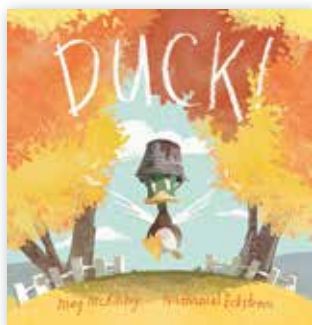
Two rocks really want to make it to the shop... but it's such a long way! How will they ever get there?

At each crossroad, the rocks find help and finally make it to the

shop for a hot sausage roll. Just as they are about to tuck into it a crow flies by and snatches the roll away from them... bother!

This is a funny play on the song we all used to sing as kids: 'it's a long way to the shop if you want a sausage roll' (sorry AC/DC!). An enjoyably funny tale with quirky illustrations.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



Duck!

Author: Meg McKinlay
Illustrator: Nathaniel Eckstrom
ISBN: 978-1925381535
Published: 1/7/18
Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

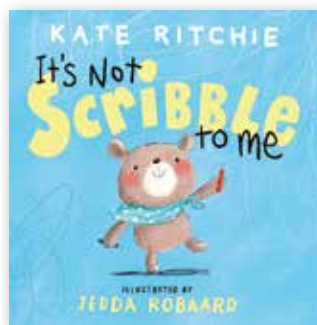
A delightfully duckish picture book of farmyard disaster. Duck can see that something is falling from the sky. He tries to warn the other farmyard animals by telling them to 'Duck!' but they won't listen. A hilarious picture book of farmyard disaster.

>> OUR REVIEW

Duck! It's a quiet day on the farm when suddenly a young duckling starts calling his name. The other animals are astonished and confused. Why would a duck be calling 'duck'? But perhaps Duck isn't calling his own name after all. As the animals continue to reason with him, the sky turns black and the wind starts to whirl. Duck runs away while the other animals are hit by the storm ... they really should have listened to him! This

hilariously duckish and beautifully illustrated tale is a story kids will surely get a quack out of!

Recommended Age: 4 years +



It's Not Scribble to Me

Author: Kate Ritchie
Illustrator: Jedda Robaard
ISBN: 978-0143790136
Published: 29/10/18
Publisher: Penguin

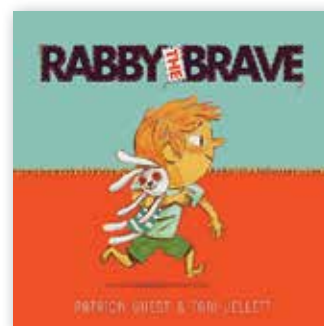
>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Have you ever had so many wonderful, wild and beautiful ideas that paper isn't enough to hold them all? Bear has. Upstairs and downstairs, outside and in, the whole house is covered in Bear's colourful art - even Bear's little sister. Can Bear convince her parents that she's creating more than just 'scribbles'? All families will relate to this funny story of toddler cheekiness and charm,

>> OUR REVIEW

Bear is obsessed with drawing and longs for her parents to recognise that her art is more than just scribbles. What they might think is just a message of blue is *actually the sea that she has fun in too*. Likewise, the *splotch of green that looks like a mistake is actually the frog Bear loves to create*. This charming and delightful rhyming picture book embraces creativity and shows that children need ways to express their imagination.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



Rabby the Brave

Author: Patrick Guest
Illustrator: Tom Jellett
ISBN: 978-1760127534
Published: 1/3/18
Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

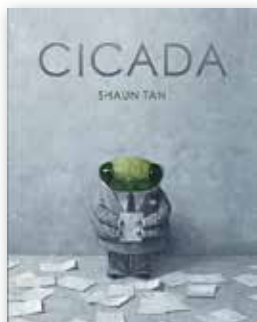
Leon and Lily do everything with their best pals Rabby and Snuggles, until one night the unimaginable happens and Snuggles is left outside. Faced with sadness, the others must find a way to save Snuggles from a frightful end. Heart-warming and playful, compassionate and true-to-life, *Rabby the Brave* is a story about close bonds and sibling love.

>> OUR REVIEW

Leon and Lily each have a favourite toy, Rabby and Snuggles, that they take everywhere with them. One day Snuggles is left out for the night and becomes a little worse for wear. Lily can't sleep at all, so Leon decides he's going to make things right and stitches parts of Rabby onto Snuggles to make him brand new. Leon's actions show that people will do anything for the ones they love, and that the pure innocence and imagination of a child can be so powerful. A beautifully heartwarming story of sibling love and friendship.

Recommended Age: 2 to 6 years

PICTURE BOOK SHORT LIST



Cicada

Author/Illustrator: Shaun Tan

ISBN: 978-0734418630

Published: 26/6/18

Publisher: Hachette

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

*Cicada work in tall building.
Data entry clerk. Seventeen year.
No sick day. No mistake.
Tok Tok Tok!*

Cicada works in an office, dutifully toiling day after day for unappreciative bosses and being bullied by his coworkers. But one day, cicada goes to the roof of the building, and something truly extraordinary happens ...

A story for anyone who has ever felt unappreciated, overlooked or overworked, from Australia's most acclaimed picture book creator.

>> OUR REVIEW

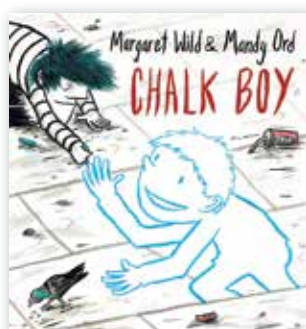
This captivating book plays with multiple layers, allowing each reader to draw from it the things that speak to them the most. The many interpretations invite you to go further than exploring the 'unappreciated, overlooked or overworked'.

Cicada's live the vast majority of their life underground, feeding in solitude. One American species has a 17 year life cycle, like the character in this book. An ode to

those sick of long work hours that leave many tired, isolated and longing for retirement so they can finally spread their wings and enjoy life.

The artwork is phenomenal, drawn predominantly in monotone black and grey with cicada the only source of colour.

Recommended Age: 6 years to adult



Chalk Boy

Author: Margaret Wild

Illustrator: Mandy Ord

ISBN: 978-1760630683

Published: 27/6/18

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Barnaby is a pavement artist. This morning he started drawing me. I have a head that can think, eyes that can see, ears that can hear and legs that can run. Best of all, I have a heart that can feel. Thank you, Barnaby. Award-winning writer Margaret Wild compresses epic themes into a poetic, poignant story, vividly brought to life by Ord's distinctive, dynamic art.

>> OUR REVIEW

Barnaby, a pavement artist, draws a chalk boy who comes to life. Able to hear and smell the city around him, he's thankful for the chance to experience life. However, as he's made of chalk, his time is short lived, especially with a storm approaching.

Barnaby covers him with plastic to prolong his stay. The next

morning, rather than leave him alone to fade away, Barnaby draws a picture of himself holding the boy's hand.

An endearing tale with graphic novel illustrations of life and friendship, and the people who walk alongside us on our journey.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



Girl on Wire

Author: Lucy Estela

Illustrator: Elise Hurst

ISBN: 978-0143787167

Published: 2/7/18

Publisher: Penguin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Girl on Wire is a simple yet brilliantly uplifting allegory of a young girl struggling to build her self-esteem and overcome the anxiety that many children feel as they grow - she walks the tightrope, afraid she will fall, but with the support of those she loves, her toes grip the wire and she walks forward, on her own, with a new confidence.

>> OUR REVIEW

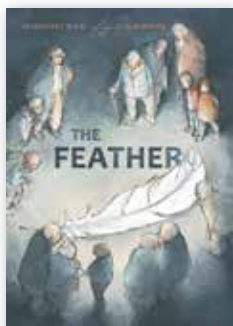
As the girl crosses the wire, the storm clouds begin to rear their heads and she fears she will not make it. But with a guiding voice in her ear and a strong mind, the girl makes it across the wire and into the sunshine.

This beautifully artistic story deals with anxiety and acceptance. It depicts the journey of a young girl and her struggles in growing

up and searching for her own confidence. But, as she continues to put one foot in front of the other she finds that it is easier to move forward.

The stunning illustrations beautifully reveal the emotions and depths of the characters.

Recommended Age: 6 to 9 years



The Feather

Author: Margaret Wild

Illustrator: Freya Blackwood

ISBN: 978-1760124212

Published: 1/2/18

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

This is a story about hope, kindness and redemption set in a grey dystopian world. When a great feather drifts from the leaden sky, two children recognise its extraordinariness and take it to the village for its protection. The villagers, however, want to encase it, upon which the feather loses its radiance. The children take it home and care for it through the night. In the morning it is again radiant, and when they set it free it leaves behind the first signs of blue sky and colour. The ambiguous ending invites multiple interpretations about the effects of selflessness and kindness.

>> OUR REVIEW

A beautiful feather drifts down beside Maria and Nico's house. It is as light as air and as soft as silk. But when the town members

try to lock the feather away for safe keeping, the feather begins to turn muddy brown and brick heavy. Maria and Nico take it back to their house, and the feather becomes clean once more, prompting the two children set it free.

This story shows that people can be dampened in their individuality when others try to control them and that it is important to accept others for who they are and to let them be free to live as they wish.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



The All New Must Have Orange 430

Author/Illustrator:

Michael Speechley

ISBN: 978-0143788973

Published: 28/5/18

Publisher: Penguin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

A cheeky picture book for anyone who's bought a thingy or whasit... and doesn't quite know why. In his debut picture book, Michael Speechley explores our obsession with stuff in a fun and edifying way.

>> OUR REVIEW

Harvey has to have the latest and greatest—and the latest is the Orange 430. He scrounges up some money and rushes to the shop to buy it, but when he gets home he realises he doesn't even know what it does. Harvey tries everything: he kicks it, he floats it, he even tries to wear it as a

hat, but the Orange 430 does not seem to have any sort of purpose! When Harvey tries to return it, he discovers that no receipt = no return. Lesson learned, Harvey decides that in future, he won't buy things just because they're flashy and new—he'll only buy things that are useful!

With fun and quirky illustrations, this story carries a great message about the value of objects, reminding us that what is fashionable is not always worth having.

Recommended Age: 7 years +



The Mediterranean

Author/Illustrator: Armin Greder

ISBN: 978-1760630959

Published: 24/1/18

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Precarious boats navigate the waters of the sea, from south to north. And more often than not, it is not only hope that drowns. A devastating indictment of our society's treatment of refugees by the creator of *The Island*.

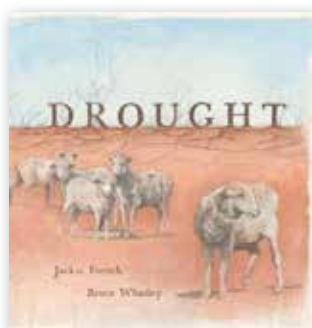
>> OUR REVIEW

Twenty years ago, a small boat sank off the Sicilian Coast, and 300 Pakistani and Sri Lankan migrants died. This almost entirely wordless picture book illustrates this sad tale through dark and vivid drawings. It attempts to bring life back into those lost bodies at sea, by drawing connections between

the fish we eat, and those who undoubtedly fed on the bodies scattered around the European coast. A picture book aimed at older readers, this tale is used to raise awareness on the migration issue and the lack of empathy and compassion that often surround this contentious topic.

Recommended Age: 12 to 18 years

PICTURE BOOK NOTABLES



Drought

Author: Jackie French

Illustrator: Bruce Whatley

ISBN: 978-1743817599

Published: 1/4/18

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

*I remember when rain stopped,
When day by day the water
dropped, All across a sun-
bleached land, Drought spread its
withered, deadly hand.*

From the award-winning creators of *Flood*, *Fire* and *Cyclone* comes *Drought*, a moving story about the devastating effects drought has on many Australians and their farms.

>> OUR REVIEW

This latest offering in the Australian 'climatic conditions' series is as evocative as its predecessors, depicting drought from its unseen beginnings to its devastating hold on rural Australia.

A farming family's resilience is sorely tested as crops wither and stock die or are sold off. Even the native animals and plants suffer. After a long wait, the rains eventually come and the greatest joy is a long bath.

Beautifully written, the carefully chosen words conjure up all aspects of drought's challenging effects, with the stunning illustrations setting the scene. A wonderful work from a proven and unsurpassable author/illustrator collaboration.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



Go Go and the Silver Shoes

Author: Jane Godwin

Illustrator: Anna Walker

ISBN: 978-0143785521

Published: 26/2/18

Publisher: Penguin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

When Go Go is allowed to buy the most beautiful shoes ever, she decides she will wear them EVERYWHERE! Even to the creek, where she and her brothers go adventuring. But - Oh no, Go Go! - that's when a terrible thing happens ...

>> OUR REVIEW

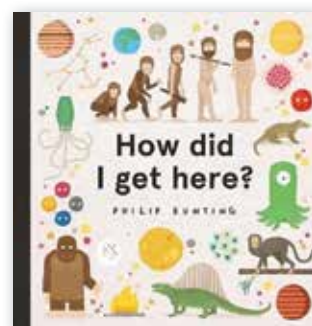
Go Go has three brothers and never has new clothes, but that doesn't stop her from finding ways to dress up her outfits. When Go Go loses one of her new shoes, and new school girl Ellie finds it, they become instant best

friends, and take turns wearing the shoes.

This is a beautifully illustrated story about friendship, acceptance and individuality. It sheds some light on the experiences of children from financially disadvantaged families and the difficulty they may have fitting into social circles at school.

Go Go's confidence and her relationship with Ellie are a reminder for young readers that you shouldn't stop being who you are, and that there will always be someone who will accept you.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



How Did I Get Here?

Author/Illustrator: Philip Bunting

ISBN: 978-1742769684

Published: 1/8/18

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

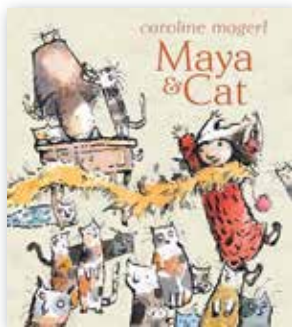
The [unauthorised] biography of you, and the story of all of us. Charting from the Big Bang to birth, Philip Bunting takes us on a journey back to the start of time [in about the time it takes to eat your breakfast!] A hilarious, and beautifully illustrated book, designed to raise more questions than it answers.

>> OUR REVIEW

Go on a journey through the creation of our solar system, the age of the dinosaurs and the evolution of monkeys. With a range of colourful pictures and

simple, engaging and educational language, this book looks at everything from the big bang to recent times.

Recommended Age: 6 to 10 years



Maya and Cat

Author/Illustrator:

Caroline Magerl

ISBN: 978-1921977282

Published: 1/8/18

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

On a roof, as wet as a seal, as grey as a puddle, Cat was rumbling, a rumble purr. What does Cat want most? Feather boas? Pretty pink shoelaces? A boatful of fish under a tiny tin sail – or perhaps something much more valuable? Affectionate and evocative, *Maya and Cat* follows a child's kindly impulse to an unexpected conclusion.

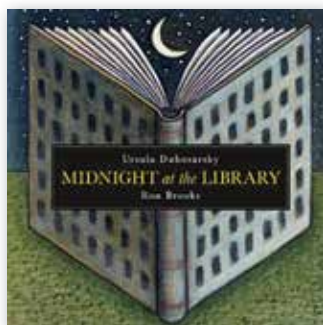
>> OUR REVIEW

When Maya tries to lure a cat out of the rain and into the safety of her home, she senses that the cat wants to be reunited with its owner.

Maya embarks on a mission to find the cat's loved ones, finally finding them living in a boat on the dock. In a bittersweet moment, Maya realises she will miss the companionship of the cat. But perhaps the cat feels the same way and recognises the kindness of Maya's heart, because she gifts Maya with someone very special to take back with her...

This is a story full of heart, about caring for others and appreciating their company.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years



Midnight at the Library

Author: Ursula Dubosarsky

Illustrator: Ron Brooks

ISBN: 978-0642279316

Published: 1/11/18

Publisher: National Library Aust.

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

In *Midnight at the Library*, critically-acclaimed author, Ursula Dubosarsky, and award-winning illustrator, Ron Brooks, traverse space and time, telling the story of a book throughout history.

Dubosarsky and Brooks piece together the story of a book that was opened and loved, given and taken, closed and lost, found and forgotten before being discovered, uncovered and preserved at the library. Beautifully written and splendidly illustrated, this is a story about the inception, creation and preservation of books and culture.

This enchanting children's book has vast educational potential and is sure to captivate the hearts of book-lovers across the nation, encouraging them to find their own book of wonder. Brilliantly evocative and exceptionally engaging, there is something undeniably magical about Dubosarsky and Brooks' timeless and ageless story, *Midnight at the Library*.

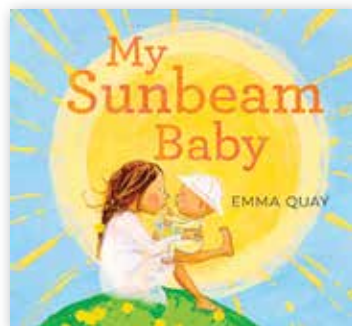
>> OUR REVIEW

This story follows a little gold book that traverses across history and continents until it reaches a library where two children read it by moonlight, at midnight.

Midnight at the Library contains few words but each one is chosen with absolute precision to create a whimsical rhythm that runs throughout the story.

Accompanying Ursula Dubosarsky's poetic words are Ron Brooks's magical illustrations. Together they create a wonderfully thought-provoking picture book about the journey books take from an author's hand and into a reader's imagination.

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years



My Sunbeam Baby

Author/Illustrator: Emma Quay

ISBN: 978-0733333552

Published: 22/10/18

Publisher: Harper Collins

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

See my bouncing baby, jiggling on my knee. Then snuggling for a story, just baby, book and me. A gorgeous new picture book about how much we love our babies, from Emma Quay, creator of the bestselling and award-winning *Rudie Nudie*.

>> OUR REVIEW

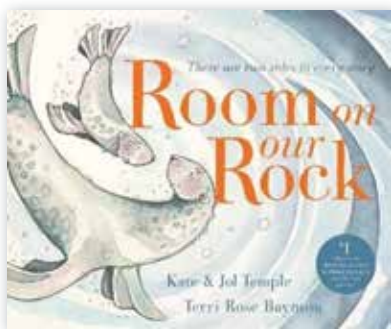
My Sunbeam Baby is a happy and joyful book, that beautifully depicts a mother's unconditional love for her child. From sunrises

to lollipops, and party lights to cuddly toys, the narrator compares her baby to a range of images to highlight that she would choose them every time.

Through lyrical and rhyming phrases, the book has a humorous and loving tone complicated by fabulous illustrations.

As the book progresses, we see that so does the journey of the sun, until it finally sets upon the last page.

Recommended Age: 0 to 3 years



Room on our Rock

Author: Kate & Jol Temple

Illustrator: Terri Rose Baynton

ISBN: 978-1742764108

Published: 1/2/18

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

The most powerful allegory of refugees to date. Cleverly written and beautifully illustrated, this picture book has one story that can be read two different ways.

When read from front to back, the seals believe there is definitely no room on their rock for others. But when the book is read from back to front, the seals welcome others to shelter on their rock.

This heartwarming story is the perfect way to teach compassion to children of all ages.

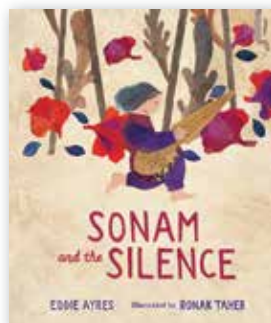
>> OUR REVIEW

This allegorical tale tells the story of overwhelmed seals seeking

refuge from the tumultuous sea. It delivers a powerful and emotionally complex message about rejection and acceptance, despair and hope, fear and encouragement.

The cleverly-written verse allows for the book to be read from front-to-back or back-to-front, presenting two different versions of the one story in accompaniment with beautiful watercolour illustrations.

Recommended Age: 4 years +



Sonam and the Silence

Author: Eddie Ayres

Illustrator: Ronak Taher

ISBN: 978-1760293666

Published: 25/7/18

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

In Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, Sonam's world is dark and silent. Then one day, she follows a magical melodious sound to a walled garden, and her world is silent no more. The sound is music, and it lifts her up amongst the stars and takes her deeper than the tree roots in the earth. How can she hold on to this feeling in a world where music is forbidden? A lyrical fable-like story by the well-known musician, author and broadcaster Eddie Ayres, about the irrepressible power of music.

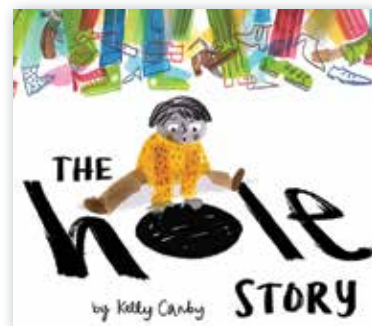
>> OUR REVIEW

This stunningly illustrated picture

book depicts the life of a Muslim girl in war-torn Kabul. At the age of seven, Sonam is sent to work in the markets. She runs to escape the frantic hustle and bustle of the city, when she encounters an old man playing beautiful but forbidden music. Sonam withers when her music is replaced with the sounds of gunfire and fear. But with the old man's help, she learns that the music is always within her and this ultimately helps her heart to heal.

This book's beautiful prose, coupled with evocative illustrations, reminds us that no matter how traumatic our circumstances, we can always find peace within.

Recommended Age: 6 to 9 years



The Hole Story

Author/Illustrator: Kelly Canby

ISBN: 978-1925591125

Published: 26/2/18

Publisher: Fremantle Press

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

He picks it up and pops it in his pocket. But it doesn't take Charlie long to realise that a hole in your pocket is not a good thing to have...

>> OUR REVIEW

An interesting and unique read about a young boy named Charlie, who finds a hole in the ground. After realising that a hole in his backpack or pocket wasn't a great thing to have, Charlie walks around town trying to find the

hole a home, but nobody wants it.

Disappointed, Charlie takes the hole back to where he found it and leaves it behind. As he walks away a bunny buries himself in the hole and falls asleep. The story is a small reminder that what we don't value may be just what someone else needs.

Recommended Age: 6 years +



The Incredible Freedom Machines

Author: Kirli Saunders

Illustrator: Matt Ottley

ISBN: 978-1760275228

Published: 1/5/18

Publisher: Scholastic

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

She was small when she heard about them ... the incredible freedom machines. In this sumptuous story of exploration and breaking boundaries, a young girl uncovers her very own freedom machine; a vehicle that carries her to all kinds of wondrous places.

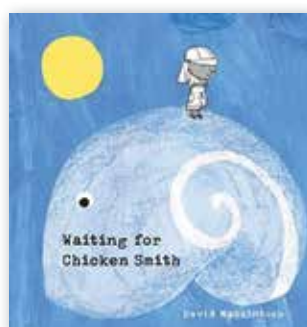
>> OUR REVIEW

Told through sparse and subtle language, this story follows a young girl who wants to break free of the boundaries that exist in her world and explore the great beyond. She does so by hunting down a freedom machine that transports her to extraordinary, untouched places. Aboard this wondrous vehicle, the little girl goes on exciting adventures and returns with a greater understanding of

herself and others.

The minimalist writing style is juxtaposed with stunningly vivid and vibrant illustrations, which immerse the reader into this personal journey. The final illustration shows another kind of incredible freedom machine that offers countless adventures and opportunities for self-discovery: a book.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



Waiting for Chicken Smith

Author/Illustrator: David

Mackintosh

ISBN: 978-1760501761

Published: 1/9/18

Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Every year, I stay in the same cabin at the beach with my family, and every year Chicken Smith's here too, with his Dad and his dog, Jelly. But this year, something's different.

As we hang on the words of the narrator, we learn of the legendary Chicken Smith and the beachside town that has been the backdrop to their school-holiday adventures for years.

But will Chicken Smith turn up this year? Or will a friendship of a different kind blossom.

A story about childhood friendship, the inevitability of change and the magic of anticipation.

>> OUR REVIEW

A young boy holidays by the beach with his family every year, and each year he spends his holiday with his friend Chicken Smith. This year, however, is different. Chicken Smith doesn't seem to be coming ...

The young boy waits for Chicken Smith, all the while missing out on the fun of the beach and spending time with his sister. After missing out on days of beach adventures, his sister finally manages to pull him away from his diligent waiting. After spending an amazing afternoon watching whales in the sea with his sister, the young boy realises that spending time with her isn't actually so bad ...

Simple black and white illustrations with an occasional pop of colour add unique personality to the simplicity of this book. Underlying this story is the important message that sometimes you need to pay attention to other things and other people around you to realise their worth.

Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years old



The Last Peach

Author/Illustrator: Gus Gordon

ISBN: 978-0670078912

Published: 2/4/18

Publisher: Penguin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

One fine summer's day two bugs discover the most beautiful peach

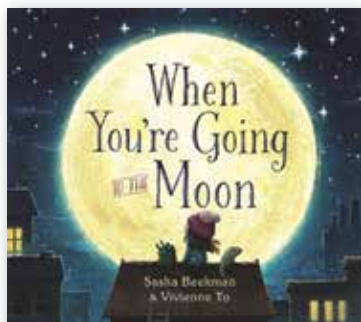
of the season and are faced with a dilemma ... Who should eat it?

>> OUR REVIEW

Who should eat the last peach? That is the question two bugs must answer when they come face to face with the most delicious looking peach. The antics of the two bugs continue as their friends try and convince them not to eat the peach. They go back and forth, and back and forth until finally they decide they must leave it where it is. As they walk away, we see that the peach is, in fact, the sun.

A unique recycled art style is incorporated into the illustrations, completing this enjoyable, fun read.

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years



When You're Going to the Moon

Author: Sasha Beekman

Illustrator: Vivienne To

ISBN: 978-1925584936

Published: 9/10/18

Publisher: Affirm Press

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Your pet iguana, tap-dancing shoes, an inflatable moose... What else might you need when you're going to the moon? From an exciting new duo comes a heartfelt story about dreaming your biggest dream and taking it to the stars.

>> OUR REVIEW

This charmingly illustrated and

well-written story offers heartfelt joy and determination in the form of one little girl as she prepares for her journey to the moon.

Everything she needs goes into her trusty little green bag, like a favourite blanket, a glittery yo-yo, and an inflatable moose. With her pet iguana in tow, and a few false starts, she makes her ascent to the moon one step at a time, resolute in the knowledge that she'll be home before dessert.

This is very much a tale about following your dreams, and a reassurance to readers of all ages. No matter how big your ambitions or how much planning it takes, there is always a way to achieve your goals, and no limit to what you can do.

Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years



Why I Love Summer

Author: Tom Jellett

Illustrator: Michael Wagner

ISBN: 978-0143783749

Published: 1/10/18

Publisher: Penguin

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Sunny days, weekends at the pool, games in the backyard, daylight until late and long, lovely holidays ... that's summer, the best season ever. The perfect follow up to the much-loved *Why I Love Footy* (Notables list, Picture Book of the Year category, CBCA 2016). An ode to a uniquely Australian experience and the joy of family and friends.

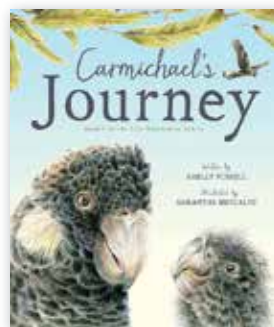
>> OUR REVIEW

Summer's the best time of the year! Especially if you're a kid! From backyard cricket, to playing in the pool with your mates, to dinner with the family, to camping at the beach, this book depicts exactly why kids love summer in Australia.

A colourful, fun and enjoyable read that is sure to generate ideas and anticipation for the summer months ahead.

Recommended Age: 3 years +

NEW ILLUSTRATORS SHORT LIST



Carmichael's Journey

Author: Shelly Fussell

Illustrator: Samantha Metcalfe

ISBN: 978-1925545692

Published: 1/4/18

Publisher: Little Steps Publishing

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Carmichael the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo has made his first flight out of the nest and joined his parents on the long journey to their coastal feeding grounds. But when they return, they find out their home has been destroyed. What will they do? And, more importantly, what can we all do to help?

» OUR REVIEW

Following the life of Carmichael, a Carnaby's black cockatoo, this beautifully illustrated story is a call to action for wildlife conservation.

Carmichael is born amidst a decline in Carnaby's black cockatoos, and when he and his family return from their traditional feeding grounds to find their home destroyed, it further cements the endangered nature of the bird. Though they eventually find a new home, their family has been broken and their homelands lost.

Carmichael's life and family becomes a backdrop for education about the Carnaby's black cockatoo and their decline, and the measures people can take to combat deforestation and further loss of the species.

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years



Dingo

Author: Claire Saxby

Illustrator: Tannya Harricks

ISBN: 978-1925381283

Published: 1/4/18

Publisher: Walker Books

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Can you see her? There – deep in the stretching shadows – a dingo. Her pointed ears twitch. Her tawny eyes flash in the low-slung sun. Dingo listens. Dusk is a busy time. Dusk is the time for hunting.

This lyrical non-fiction picture

book is written by award-winning author Claire Saxby and stunningly illustrated by fine artist Tannya Harricks. An exciting new addition to the narrative non-fiction series *Nature Storybooks*.

» OUR REVIEW

This educational and visually-stunning book follows a dingo as she sets off on her nightly hunting routine in order to feed her hungry pups.

The pages are interspersed with relevant dingo facts, and include interactive questions to further engage readers with the story and the illustrations.

The stunning fine art illustrations, painted in oils, add depth and texture to the dingo and her environment.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



Grandma Z

Author/Illustrator: Daniel Gray-Barnett

ISBN: 978-1925322156

Published: 26/2/18

Publisher: Other

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

On an ordinary day, in an even more ordinary town, it was Albert's birthday.

When Grandma Z roars into town on her motorcycle, Albert is swept up in a very extraordinary adventure.

This glorious debut from Daniel Gray-Barnett is filled with wonder, imagination, and a wild, magical

spirit that will thrill young and old.

» OUR REVIEW

Albert doesn't want his birthday to feel like an ordinary day, so when he makes a wish on an imaginary slice of chocolate-cherry-ripple cake someone extraordinary comes to visit.

Grandma Z arrives on her motorcycle, bringing joy, love and outrageous adventures into Albert's birthday-day. The fabulous world she brings with her is filled with exotic plants, a curiosity shop, dragons, and Icelandic horses that dance the can-can.

Daniel Gray-Barnett does an excellent job of juxtaposing the dreary black and white illustrations of Albert's day-to-day life, with unique, orange and blue mixed-media artworks that bleed across every page. Grandma Z is a wonderful story about turning ordinary into extraordinary, encouraging readers to celebrate everyday for whatever it brings.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years



The Singing Seal

Author: Merv Lamington

Illustrator: Allison Langton

ISBN: 978-1925584868

Published: 29/5/18

Publisher: Affirm Press

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Meet Florence, a flamboyant fur seal who lives on the steps of the Sydney Opera House. Unlike

the other seals, Florence has plans. Big plans. She's going to be a world-famous singer. But does Florence have what it takes to become a real SEALPRANO? Based on a true story, *The Singing Seal* is for anyone who has ever felt small but dreamt BIG!

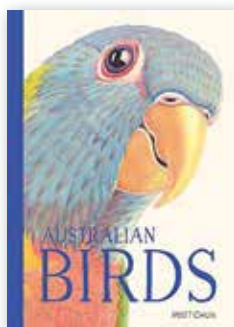
» OUR REVIEW

This delightful tale of a seal who lives on the steps of the Sydney Opera House was inspired by a real life seal.

In this fictional tale, Florence the seal longs to be a singer. Having practiced for months she's ready for her debut concert, but things don't go quite to plan and there are a few initial setbacks. Eventually she has a lucky break, when she replaces an injured performer to much acclaim.

A fun and quirky story with some lovely illustrations.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



Australian Birds

Author/Illustrator: Matt Chun
ISBN: 978-1760502003
Published: 1/10/18
Publisher: Hardie Grant Egmont

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

It took millions of years of isolation and a diverse range of habitats for Australian birds to evolve the way they did. The result is many of the world's most striking and beautiful birds, including some that are stranger than fiction.

In *Australian Birds*, acclaimed artist Matt Chun showcases 16 remarkable species that have captured the imagination of the world. From the iconic cockatoo, to the endangered Cassowary, *Australian Birds* has been carefully curated to inform and entrance readers of all ages.

» OUR REVIEW

A visual guide to the birds of Australia, this exquisitely illustrated book tells you everything you may need to know—what these birds look like, where they make their habitats, what they eat, what they sound like and even what their families might look like.

The pages are neatly arranged, with factual, informative passages, and vivid, colourful and life-like illustrations.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



Red House, Blue House, Green House, Tree House!

Author: Jane Godwin
Illustrator: Jane Reiseger
ISBN: 978-1925584691
Published: 24/4/18
Publisher: Affirm Press

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

From a dynamic author-illustrator team comes this fresh, fun and rhythmic exploration of colour. Bold and bright, it's the perfect book for reading aloud and sharing with young children as they learn to identify the colours

of their world.

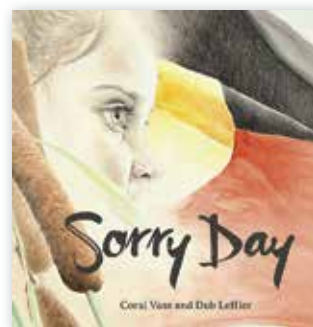
» OUR REVIEW

A fun and bright book that explores colours in everyday life, with examples ranging from houses, to birds, to ice cream and more.

With unique illustrations, this simple yet creative book will give children an understanding of colour in their world in a fun and relatable way. A little black and white mouse on each page adds some extra fun.

Recommended Age: 3 to 6 years

EVE POWNALL AWARD INFORMATION BOOKS SHORT LIST



Sorry Day

Author: Coral Vass
Illustrator: Dub Leffler
ISBN: 978-0642279033
Published: 1/5/18
Publisher: National Library Aust.

» PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Two stories entwine in this captivating retelling of the momentous day when the then Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, acknowledged the sorrows of past and said 'Sorry' to the generation of children who were taken from their homes. The book includes a foreword from Lee Joachim; Chair of Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative and Director of Research and Development for Yorta Yorta

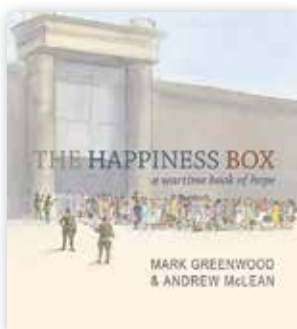
Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

>> OUR REVIEW

This important and informative picture book reflects on the Stolen Generation in an easily digestible manner. Featuring two stories simultaneously, this expertly highlights both the pain and hope of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders of the Stolen Generations throughout Australian history.

One narrative follows the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being taken in the early to mid 1900s. The other follows a young Aboriginal girl and her mother witnessing the 2008 speech by Kevin Rudd, who offered a public apology for the actions of the Australian Government during those years.

Recommended Age: 7 years +



The Happiness Box: A Wartime Book of Hope

Author: Mark Greenwood

Illustrator: Andrew McLean

ISBN: 978-1925081381

Published: 1/8/18

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

An inspiring narrative non-fiction picture book by award winners Mark Greenwood and Andrew McLean. In 1942, Sergeant Griffin was a prisoner of war.

With Christmas approaching, he decided to make a book for the

children cooped up in nearby Changi Prison. The book was said to contain the secrets to happiness. But the enemy was suspicious.

With this picture book, award winners Mark Greenwood and Andrew McLean bring to life the inspirational true story of a book that became a National Treasure.

>> OUR REVIEW

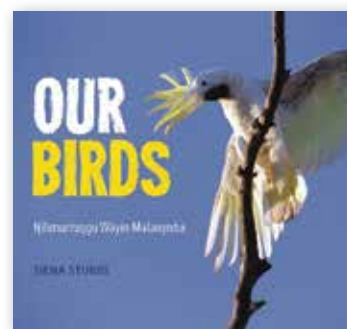
Ultimately a story of hope and perseverance, this non-fiction picture book tells the true story surrounding *The Happiness Book*, a story written by Australian POW Sergeant "Griff" Griffin while interned near Changi in 1942. After being captured with other allied soldiers after the invasion of Singapore, Griff found escape in the form of books while living in the worsening conditions of the military camps.

This inspired Griff to write his own book to send to the children at Changi as a Christmas gift—*The Happiness Book*. Illustrated by a fellow soldier, it told the story of three friends who discover a box containing the secrets to happiness. The book never reaches Changi due to suspicion from the enemy, and the order is given that it is to be destroyed.

However, after the liberation, *The Happiness Book* is dug up from the barrack gardens and taken back to Australia, where it became a national treasure.

Wonderfully illustrated, this simplified but evocative recount of this important historical artefact shows the importance of kindness—and books.

Recommended Age: 7 years +



Our Birds: Njilimurrungu Wäyin Malanyinha

Author: Siena Stubbs

ISBN: 978-1925360981

Published: 1/4/18

Publisher: Magabala Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

A delightful gift book of birds from around Yirrkala, which is Siena's home in North East Arnhem Land.

This beautiful little book includes the English and Yol'u names of the birds and their Yol'u moiety.

In Yol'u culture, everything is divided into two moieties: Yirritja and Dhuwa, and as a result all things are classified, from a body of water to a specific type of tree and all our birds. Birds give themselves their Yol'u name by the sounds they make.

When Siena was 12 years old, she took up photography on her iPad, but was gifted a camera from her aunty. In a short period of time, Siena was an avid photographer and had published her own book of birds. This book is the result of that inspiration.

>> OUR REVIEW

Combining colourful photography with personal account, this is a lovingly-crafted and personal guide to the birds of Yirrkala. Every bird is represented with a photo taken by Stubbs' when she was 12-years-old, named in both English and Yol[ng]u Matha,

and accompanied by a passage describing the bird in some way. Sometimes, it will be a story about how the photo was taken, her favourite thing about the bird or a memory of the bird, often intertwined with memories of her life growing up.

This book is both an insight to the birds and their habits, and to the culture and knowledge surrounding Stubbs as a member of the Yol[ng]u people. The colourful photos will entice readers, and encourage dialogue around aspects of Indigenous culture.

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years



Make Believe: M.C. Escher for Kids

Author: Kate Ryan

Illustrator: M.C. Escher

ISBN: 978-1925432558

Published: 1/12/18

Publisher: National Gallery Vict.

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

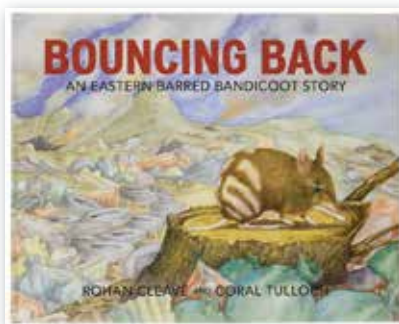
Stars, mirrors, eye tricks and the impossible! These are just a few of the things that inspired artist M. C. Escher [Maurits] to create some of the most fascinating images of the twentieth century. In this book, read about the artist's life, his travels, and his passion for creating optical illusions that play tricks with our minds. Along the way, learn about the anatomy of the eye and test your wits with riddles and quizzes.

>> OUR REVIEW

Set against a short biography of Dutch artist M.C. Escher, this delightful read uses some of Escher's well-known works to contextualise and inspire learning about the world around us.

Using riddles, activities, questions, and fun facts, this book explores topics such as Escher's artistic techniques, the anatomy of the human eye, what space is like and much more. An excellent choice for any curious mind, and sure to amaze with Escher's beautiful and, at times, mind-boggling illustrations.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



Bouncing Back

Author: Rohan Cleave

Illustrator: Coral Tulloch

ISBN: 978-1486308279

Published: 1/4/18

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

The Eastern Barred Bandicoot is one of Australia's most threatened species. When their existence came under extreme threat from habitat loss, predators and human development, Eastern Barred Bandicoots found refuge in the most unlikely of places – a rubbish tip. This captivating true story details the plight these small, nocturnal marsupials faced, and the outstanding efforts that ensured their survival.

Bouncing Back shows that even

on the brink of extinction, there is hope for the protection of our most vulnerable species.

>> OUR REVIEW

A rare good-news story of animal conservation in Australia, told from the point of view of an Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

Children are spoken to directly by the marsupial narrator about the history and present circumstances of their life, home and family. This non-fiction book covers many informative topics, such as bandicoot biology, diet, mating, habitat, predators and threats to survival, before outlining the conservation programs being undertaken in Tasmania and Victoria.

This resource reminds children that they can make a difference in the recovery efforts of endangered species and includes a summary and glossary of terms.

Recommended Age: 5 to 9 years



Waves

Author: Donna Rawlins

Illustrator: Mark Jackson & Heather Potter

ISBN: 978-1925381641

Published: 1/6/18

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Waves is about the waves of migration that have taken place over the centuries. It is made up of 14 first person narratives that describe the motivation and the

journey. Every journey is perilous, every situation heartbreaking. Every refugee is a person forced by famine or war or fear to leave their home, their families, their friends and all they know.

Children have travelled on the waves of migration to the shores of Australia for tens of thousands of years. This book tells some of their stories.

>> OUR REVIEW

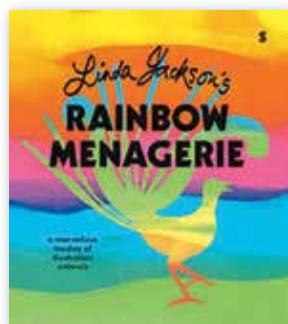
A collection of stories based on real-world history and events, this picture book consists of 14 stories from the point of view of migrant and refugee children coming to Australia from all over the world.

The stories include narratives around traders from Timor, British convicts, Chinese immigrants, and Jewish World War II refugees.

Informative and reflective, it highlights the migrant history of non-Indigenous Australians and their families, and the challenges faced by so many who leave their homelands, whatever the reason.

Recommended Age: 7 years +

EVE POWNALL AWARD
INFORMATION BOOKS
NOTABLES



Linda Jackson's Rainbow Menagerie

Author/Illustrator: Linda Jackson

ISBN: 978-1925322132

Published: 1/11/18

Publisher: Other

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

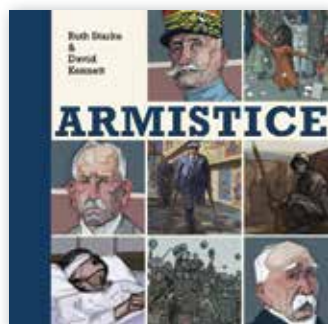
This book is a vibrant introduction to native Australian animals and a celebration of the rainbow inspired by Linda Jackson's vibrant colours and bold patterns. We are so excited to be bringing this iconic designer's spectacular colour and form to a new generation.

>> OUR REVIEW

From Koalas to Kangaroos, and Wombats to Emus, there is an abundance of colourful information displayed creatively throughout the pages of *Linda Jackson's Rainbow Menagerie*.

Owing to its vibrant drawings, simplistic and charming descriptions, and engaging questions, this book is a great way to educate children on Australian wildlife.

Recommended Age: 1 to 6 years



Armistice

Author: Ruth Starke

Illustrator: David Kennett

ISBN: 978-1921504914

Published: 19/2/18

Publisher: Harper Collins

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

On 11 November 1918, after four years of fighting, the Allied powers signed an agreement with Germany to end the Great War and to begin peace negotiations.

The armistice, as it was known, took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the

eleventh month. But it would take more than seven months before peace would finally be declared at Versailles on 28 June 1919.

The Great War was over. But the world as it had been known was changed forever.

In this companion to the award-winning *My Gallipoli*, many voices will recall the day the Great War ended and the months that followed before peace rang out around the world. *Armistice* brings these stories to life and is published to commemorate the 100th anniversary since the fighting stopped.

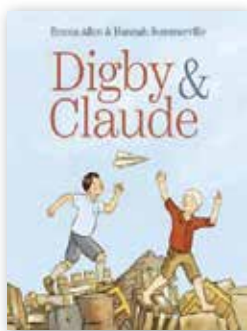
>> OUR REVIEW

Armistice commemorates 100 years since the official end of World War 1. With excerpts and first-hand accounts from those who lived through it, this book gives an amazing insight into what 'The Great War' was really like. Each page contains these first-hand accounts from the time of the Armistice in 1918 to the Treaty of Versailles being signed in 1919 to the beginning of World War 2 in 1939.

This powerful picture book makes an impact with accounts from both ordinary civilians whose homes were destroyed and/or family members killed, through to historical figures such as Adolf Hitler and other major political leaders of the time.

A stunning and moving book that gives a significant insight into an important part of our history.

Recommended Age: 10 years +



Digby & Claude

Author: Emma Allen

Illustrator: Hannah Sommerville

ISBN: 978-0642279279

Published: 1/9/18

Publisher: National Library Aust.

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Digby's street is soon going to look different – old houses are going to be demolished and new apartments will be built. Digby loves Main Street but he isn't sure he wants it to change. With plans of his own and Claude, his new friend, Digby explores what it really means to belong.

Together, Claude and Digby create their own world – a hideout where they can think and play. Day by day, as their cubby house grows, so too does their friendship. As the boys build and make their hideaway, they realise that the best places of all are places where you belong.

From award-winning author Emma Allen and talented illustrator Hannah Sommerville comes a thought-provoking story about building and creating a sense of home in an environment of change.

>> OUR REVIEW

Digby's neighbourhood is changing, and while new plans are exciting, he's also sad to see the old buildings go. He decides to build something of his own and finds the perfect hideout in an old bathtub next to a tree. He then meets Claude and they create

secret plans for the best cubby in the world; a place to belong.

As trucks arrive and new buildings go up, the boys' cubby gets bigger and more elaborate, until one day Claude's father declares it unsafe and he can no longer play. But new homes bring lots of kids to the neighbourhood and Digby shares his world with them all.

This charming picture book celebrates the imagination and ingenuity of children, and also includes a pictorial timeline of Australian homes through the ages.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



The Flying Optometrist

Author: Joanne Anderton

Illustrator: Karen Erasmus

ISBN: 978-0642279132

Published: 2/4/18

Publisher: National Library Aust.

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

The Flying Optometrist travels in his little red aeroplane from his practice in the city to a remote outback town.

Lots of people are waiting for him! Auntie can't see well enough to carve her emu eggs and Bill the plumber has a splinter in his eye. Young Stephanie can't wait for him to arrive as she has broken her glasses and can't join in games of cricket and have fun with her friends – she can't see the ball! Hurry up Flying Optometrist! Where is he? Is he lost?

The townsfolk wait with bated breath until finally the Flying Optometrist's little red plane appears, having only just missed a bad storm. A big meal waits for him in the local hotel. Then he gets to work checking eyesight. The Flying Optometrist doesn't have long, but he helps as many people as he can. He returns to the city, but Stephanie has to wait a little longer for an exciting package to come – her own new glasses!

This whimsically fun picture book features lively non-fiction sections about the 'real' flying optometrist and the history of aerial rural services in Australia, including the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

>> OUR REVIEW

The flying optometrist arrives just in time to help Stephanie, Auntie, Bill the plumber and Reg the stockman who all need to have their eyes checked. Just missing a big storm, the optometrist treats them all and in return is treated to a delicious feast.

This book is beautifully written and illustrated and brings awareness to the medical needs in remote communities throughout Australia.

It also includes a non-fiction section in the back of the book that tells the story of the 'real' flying optometrist and the heroic services of the Royal Flying Doctors.

Adelightful way to learn more about remote areas of Australia and the amazing service the Royal Flying Doctors provide.

Recommended Age: 4 years +



Marvellous Miss May: Queen of the Circus

Author/Illustrator: Stephanie Owen Reeder

ISBN: 978-0642279156

Published: 1/2/18

Publisher: National Library Aust.

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

In 1901, aged just seven, tiny contortionist May Zinga was given away to Wirth Brothers Circus by her desperate mother.

Imagine Miss May's horror when the first thing the Wirths did was cut off all her long hair. Poor May had lost both her family and her crowning glory!

But this feisty, talented and determined little girl did not give up. Despite many setbacks, including a horrific accident, she kept fighting to fulfil her dream of becoming the best bareback rider in the world, performing the same dangerous acrobatic feats as male riders - only better!

This fourth title in Stephanie Owen Reeder's award-winning *Heritage Heroes* series retells the remarkable true story of equestrienne May Wirth, while providing historical insights into life in an Australian circus at the beginning of the twentieth century.

>> OUR REVIEW

Marvellous Miss May is the true-

story of an Australian circus equestrienne from Bundaberg who was adopted into the circus when her mother could no longer care for her.

This book retells key moments of May's life through an exciting narrative, which is broken up with fact pages, circus illustrations and photographs from the early twentieth century. This mix of fiction and fact provides a deep historical insight into the life of Australian circus performers of the era.

Recommended Age: 7 years +



Under the Southern Cross

Author/Illustrator: Francé Lessac

ISBN: 978-1925381016

Published: 1/10/18

Publisher: Walker Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Night-time in Australia, animals are waking, people are exploring, discoveries are being made - under the Southern Cross.

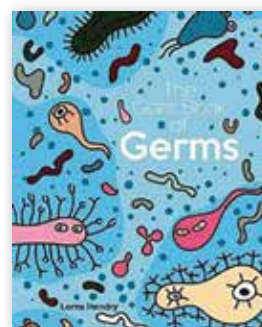
What makes ribbons of colour swirl in the sky? What are the spooky balls of light that bounce across the outback? What animal lays eggs that look like squishy ping-pong balls? Where can you watch a movie with bats circling overhead? Discover the answers to these questions and more in this *factastic* picture book tour of Australia after dark.

>> OUR REVIEW

This informative picture book looks at the many exciting activities and phenomena that take place after dark in Australia. It is also a wonderful exploration of the Australian landscape, exposing readers to both the rural outback and cityscapes.

Containing facts about Australia's wildlife, natural nighttime phenomena, and important dates in the Australian calendar, this book offers an enjoyable and vividly illustrated learning experience.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



The Giant Book of Germs

Author/Illustrator: Lorna Hendry

ISBN: 978-1742034850

Published: 1/10/18

Publisher: Wild Dog Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

How many germs live on your hand? How do germs make you sick? Do the germs in your gut really keep you healthy? Discover many more surprising facts in *The Giant Book of Germs*!

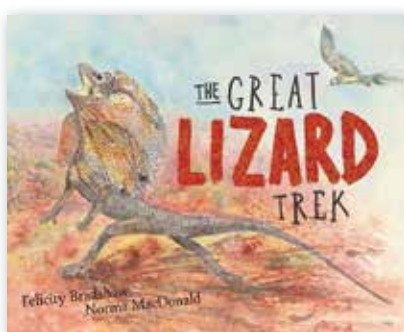
>> OUR REVIEW

This book is filled with interesting facts about all sorts of germs like bacteria, fungus, viruses and protozoa. Each page includes interesting snippets of information about these microscopic organisms and how they can either carry sickness or

help our bodies fight it.

To help you understand more about germs, this book includes fun activities, quizzes and facts, which are sure to stimulate discussion. The layout of each page is easy to follow and interesting to look at, with lots of germ shapes and colour throughout. A fun way to learn more about the world of these microscopic creatures.

Recommended Age: 6 years +



The Great Lizard Trek

Author: Felicity Bradshaw

Illustrator: Norma MacDonald

ISBN: 978-1486308828

Published: 1/8/18

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Rocky, an ornate dragon, lives on the granite rocks in the southwest of Australia. His ancestors have lived in this hot environment for around 10 million years, and for more than 60,000 years, they have lived alongside Indigenous Australians. Rocky's habitat is under threat, and his desert relatives in the north are facing challenges due to rising temperatures. Using his knowledge of Indigenous culture and language, along with Western science, *The Great Lizard Trek* follows Rocky in his journey to see what the future may bring.

>> OUR REVIEW

Rocky the ornate dragon lives in

Noongar country. He introduces, through direct storytelling to the reader, his cousins and family (a large range of other lizards including a frilled neck-lizard, a Moloch, a netted dragon and goannas). As he introduces them he includes a range of interesting facts to help set the environment.

When the heat causes the lizards' eggs to hatch only females, they must move their hatching grounds. Without males, the species will die out, so Goanna leads the lizards to Rocky's land where the conditions are more favourable to their existence.

The story is told from Rocky's point of view with a heavy amount of indigenous input, science and amazingly accurate drawings combined with traditional indigenous drawings.

Recommended Age: 4 to 10 years



Watch This!

Author: Jane Godwin

Illustrator: Beci Orpin

ISBN: 978-1925322774

Published: 1/10/18

Publisher: Scribe Publications

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Can you make a circle with your arms? Or a triangle with your fingers? If we work together, we can make a rectangle, or even a pyramid. We can make lots and lots of shapes - just watch this! A bold and playful celebration of movement, energy, pattern, colour and shape!

>> OUR REVIEW

This colourful, bright picture book encourages children to use their bodies to make shapes. Featuring photographs of children working together to make everything from pyramids to triangles to circles - this book is a unique and fun way to explore shapes and how to make them!

A great read that promotes exploration, education and creativity in children.

Recommended Age: 3 to 8 years



When Water Lost Her Way

Author/Illustrator: Meg Humphrys

ISBN: 978-0648228707

Published: 1/1/18

Publisher: Circles Publishing

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

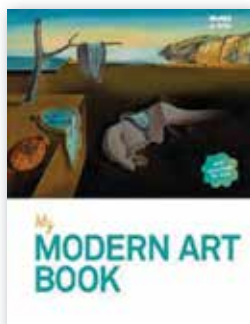
Lost in her ever-changing forms, 'Water' questions who she is after an encounter with a creature in an underground cave. Water seeks all parts of her cycle for answers, which makes her feel overwhelmed and confused. However, an 'old tree' helps her to understand her place in the world and her many interconnections with all living and non-living things. From the unique perspective of Water, the story explores the water cycle drawing out the many interconnections Water has with all living and non-living things.

>> OUR REVIEW

Water loses her way and starts to wonder where she comes from. As she journeys through rivers, lakes, pipes and up through trees, she learns her importance to the land and those who reside in it.

This beautifully illustrated picture book cleverly depicts water's cycle and how, without it, every life form would struggle to survive. A perfect way to help young children connect with nature and understand the importance of the circle of life.

Recommended Age: 3 years +



My Modern Art Book

Author: Kate Ryan

Illustrator: Cally Bennett

ISBN: 978-1925432510

Published: 1/7/18

Publisher: National Gallery Vict.

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Coinciding with the 2018 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition MoMA at NGV: 130 Years of Modern and Contemporary Art, *My Modern Art Book* explores a selection of exhibited works of art and design, and their creators. Meet the artists and designers, and learn about their works, experimental approaches and big ideas. There are also creative activities for you to try!

My Modern Art Book features twenty-three artists and

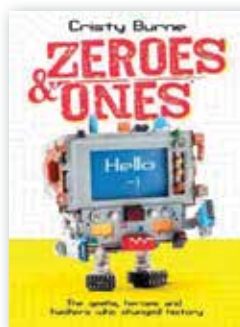
designers from the collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York including: Frida Kahlo, Vincent van Gogh, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Rineke Dijkstra, Jackson Pollock, Joaquín Torres-García, Simone Forti, Andy Warhol, René Magritte, and many more.tiv

>> OUR REVIEW

This informative and enjoyable book offers a wide range of modern artist's work for children to explore, as well as some great art-related activities. With information on each piece of artwork and its artist, this book includes behind-the-scenes information on the likes of Picasso, Van Gogh, Jason Pollock, Andy Warhol and many more.

Celebrating 130 years of modern art, this beautifully informative book will help quench the thirst of young lovers of modern art.

Recommended Age: 5 years +



Zeroes & Ones

Author: Cristy Burne

ISBN: 978-1925589399

Published: 1/8/18

Publisher: Brio Books

>> PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION

Fuelled by pizza, late nights and unparalleled geekery, this is the history of some of the world's most important milestones in the development of technology – from the earliest computers made of light bulbs and an old tin to Wikileaks and

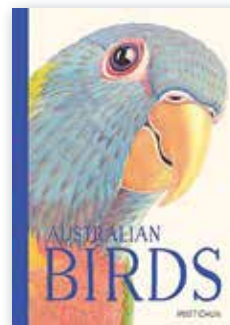
smartphones. Packed with weird facts, astonishing tidbits and extraordinary anecdotes, travel around the world and meet the people who made the world we live in today.

>> OUR REVIEW

A quirky and informative book, *Zeroes and Ones* is a comprehensive look at the technological milestones from around the world that helped bring us the world we live in today.

Spanning a timeline from as early as the 1800's all the way to 2010 and beyond, it makes the technology and history easy to understand and amusing to read. Combined with comical footnotes, unusual facts, extraordinary anecdotes, and an eye-catching [and occasionally punny] visual style, it's an excellent introduction to the history of technology and its greatest minds, perfect for the innovators of tomorrow.

Recommended Age: 10 to 13 years



Australian Birds

*** This title also features in the New Illustrators Short list. The review can be found on page A19.**

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