

CBCA Notable Books 2022

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SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED: Tuesday 29th March 2022

CHILDREN'S BOOKWEEK: 20-26 August 2022

Bookweek Theme: Dreaming with Eyes Open

(Winners announced Friday 19th August 2022)

PLEASE NOTE: When a book has been recognized as notable in more than one category, we have listed the title on each occasion, but only given it a number once for ordering purposes.

Pegi Williams



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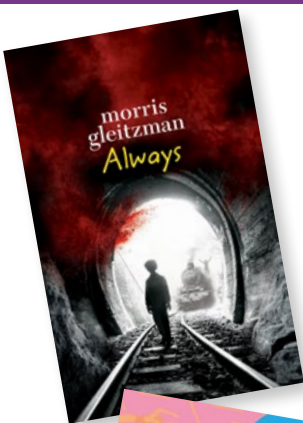
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CBC NOTABLE BOOKS: YOUNGER READERS (1-26)

(Intended for independent younger readers)

FREE
POSTAGE



1. Always (Morris Gleitzman)

(RRP) (School)
\$19.99 \$15.99

It's 15 years since readers were first introduced to Felix in Once and, across six celebrated books, our brave young hero has survived many unforgettable and emotional journeys. 2021 sees the publication of the seventh and final part of Felix's story, bringing to a powerful climax a series that countless young readers around the world will remember - Always. Late in life, Felix finds himself back where he started, living in an aged-care home that reminds him of his childhood orphanage. He's not happy. His body might be old, but his spirit is still youthful. When he learns that a dear friend from his early years is in terrible danger, Felix doesn't hesitate. He makes his second orphanage escape, goes back to Poland and throws himself into a daring and dangerous journey with a new young friend. Felix knows it might be the end of him, but he hopes it will allow him to do something first. Make a gift to the children of the world that will help them always. **Age 13+ Family-Racism-Persecution-Adversity-Resilience-World War 2**

2. Are You There, Buddha? (Pip Harry)

\$16.99 \$13.59

Bridget 'Bee' Ballentine is 12 and starting her first year of high school in the beach suburb Crescent Bay. Still reeling from the departure of her mother for an ashram in India, Bee talks to Buddha and begs for her first period not to arrive. She's not ready to become a woman yet, whatever that means. Although Bee's yet to find her tribe at school, her best friend forever is surfer Leon McKay, also known as the hottest boy in Year Eight. As long as Leon has her back, Bee can survive the mean girls, her meddling step-mum, Kath, and her swimming nemesis, The Piranha. Over one blistering summer, set against the backdrop of bushfires, smoke haze and water restrictions, Bee will grow up, show up, and make a name for herself. **Age 12+ Growing Up-Puberty-Bullying-Family-Identity-Friendship**

3. Cranky Chicken Graphic Novel (Katherine Battersby)

\$14.99 \$11.99

Everything about Chicken is cranky. Cranky eyes, cranky eyebrows, super-sharp cranky beak, even cranky scratchy feet. And everything makes Chicken cranky. The sun is too bright, the dirt is too dirty. What Cranky Chicken is not is lonely. Nope, nope, definitely not. But then along comes a very cheerful worm named Speedy, who just wants to be friends. **Age 6+ Graphic Novel-Friendship-Humour**

4. Cuckoo's Flight (Wendy Orr)

\$16.99 \$13.59

If she had stayed to load the kiln as she should have, she'd never have seen the ship. Mama said the ship still would have been there, so everything had to happen the way it did. But that's not true. Clio saw it, and the world changed. When a raiders' ship appears off the coast, the goddess demands an unthinkable price to save the town - and Clio's grandmother creates a sacred statue to save Clio's life. But Clio is torn between the demands of guarding the statue and caring for her beloved horses. Disabled in an accident, she must try to put aside her own grief at no longer being able to ride - and in the process, save a friend's life and stop a war. **Age 11+ War-Resilience-Determination**

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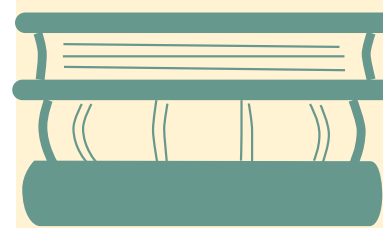
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5. Detective's Guide to Ocean Travel, The (Nicki Greenberg)

\$17.99 **\$14.39**

For as long as she can remember, Pepper Stark has wanted one thing: to join her father, the Captain, aboard the magnificent RMS Aquitania on a voyage to New York. She has never been allowed to set foot on her father's ship – until now. From the decadent food to the star-studded passenger list, travelling First Class on Aquitania is every bit as glamorous as Pepper had imagined. And most dazzling of all is American stage sensation Perdita West, wearing the world-famous Saffron Diamond around her neck. When the priceless jewel disappears mid-voyage, Pepper unexpectedly finds herself entangled in the crime. With the Captain's reputation at stake, Pepper and her new friends set out to solve the mystery. But finding a missing diamond isn't so easy on Aquitania, where everyone has something to hide ... **Age 9+** [Family-Aspirations-Problem Solving-Class Structure-Gender Roles](#)

6. Dragon Skin (Karen Foxlee)

\$19.99 **\$15.99**

Pip never wants to go home. She likes to sit at the waterhole at dusk and remember Mika, her best friend. At home her mother's not the same since her boyfriend moved in. They don't laugh anymore and Pip has to go to bed early, turn off her light and pretend she doesn't exist. When she finds a half-dead creature at the waterhole, everything changes. She knows she has to save this small dragon and return it to where it comes from. But how? **Age 10+** [Friendship-Relationships-Community-Magic-Death/Bereavement-Courage-Loyalty-Single Parent Family-Family Violence](#)

7. Edge of Thirteen, The (Nova Weetman)

\$16.99 **\$13.59**

Clem Timmins can't wait to see her best friends after being apart all summer holidays. But when they get back together, things have changed. Bridge is boy-crazy and acting like a different person. Ellie is wearing a bra and having a real-life romance. Clem feels left behind. When she makes friends with Tom, suddenly everyone's gossiping about whether they're going to be a couple. Clem's got no interest in having a boyfriend. Or does she? At school camp, Bridge crosses the line and Clem has to ask herself - can she keep growing up with her friends when they're growing apart? **Age 12+** [Friendship-Growing Up-Change-Puberty](#)

8. Eliza Vanda's Button Box (Emily Rodda)

\$22.99 **\$18.39**

No one saw Eliza Vanda arrive in Tidgy Bay that rainy winter afternoon. The sign advertising 'Cabins for Rent' was almost hidden by a pile of builder's rubble, but Eliza Vanda didn't seem at all put out by the mess. 'This is a nice little pocket,' she said. 'It should suit us very well.' Life hasn't been much fun for Milly Dynes lately. There seem to be problems everywhere she looks. She's always loved her home in Tidgy Bay, but at the moment she wishes she was somewhere - anywhere - else. Then Eliza Vanda turns up-and magic comes with her ... **Ahe 10+** [Mystery-Magic-Adventure](#)

9. Elsewhere Girls (Emily Gale and Nova Weetman)

\$16.99 **\$13.59**

It's midnight and I'm alone in the kitchen eating a cold potato scallop. Coach O'Call would say something like, 'That's not what I expect from a scholarship girl!' because I have to be up for squad training in five hours and I'm not supposed to go near potato scallops, and-oh, yeah-it's my fifth. Cat has recently started at a new school on a sports scholarship, and she's feeling the pressure of early morning training sessions and the need for total commitment. Fanny loves to swim and she lives for racing, but family chores and low expectations for girls make it very hard for her to fit in even the occasional training session. Cat and Fanny have never met. They both live in the same Sydney suburb, but in different worlds, or at least different times- Cat in current-day Sydney, and Fanny in 1908. But one day, time slips and they swap places. As each girl lives the other's life, with all the challenges and confusion it presents, she comes to appreciate and understand herself and the role of swimming in her own life. Narrated in alternating chapters by Cat and Fanny, Elsewhere Girls is a moving and funny story of two girls with a deep connection, one based on the Australian Olympic champion, Fanny Durack. It's a fresh and engaging exploration of the challenges and pressures for young women growing up in the past and today. **Age 10+** [Sport-Swimming-Time Travel-Pressure-Competition-Dedication](#)

10. Exit Through the Gift Shop (Maryam Master and Astred Hicks)

\$16.99 **\$13.59**

Anahita Rosalind Ghorban-Galaszcuk (yes, that really is her name but you can call her Ana) is discovering that life is absurd. As if dying of cancer at the age of 12.5 isn't bad enough, she still has to endure daily insults from her nemesis, Alyssa (Queen Mean) Anderson. Ana's on a wild rollercoaster of life and death, kindness and cruelty, ordinary and extraordinary. And she's got a few things to do before she exits. . . **Age 11+** [Family-Kindness-Humour-Death-Cancer-Bullying](#)

11. Footprints on the Moon (Lorraine Marwood)

\$16.99 **\$13.59**

Humans are about to leave footprints on the moon, but what sort of mark can one girl make here on earth? It's 1969 and life is changing fast. Sharnie Burley is starting high school and finding it tough to make new friends. As the world waits to see if humans will land on the moon, the Vietnam War rages overseas. While her little cousin, Lewis, makes pretend moon boots, young men are being called up to fight, sometimes without having any choice in the matter. Sometimes without ever coming home. Dad thinks serving your country in a war is honourable, but when Sharnie's older sister, Cas, meets a returned soldier and starts getting involved in anti-war protests, a rift in their family begins to show. Sharnie would usually turn to her grandma for support, but lately Gran's been forgetting things. Can she find her own way in this brave new world? **Age 12+** [Family Unit-Grief-Love-Activism-Bullying-School-Verse Novel-Historical-Vietnam War](#)



12. Fozia and the Quest of Prince Zal (Rosanne Hawke)

\$14.99 \$11.99

Fozia noticed smoke from the chimney curling to the sky. The brick kiln was working again but she didn't want to go there. She couldn't let the kiln owner see her. Twelve-year-old Fozia has survived the worst flood in Pakistan's history. But her life will never be the same. With her little sister gone and her parents missing, Fozia now lives with Jehan's family in a new village. As she slowly rebuilds her life, she fears everything might come crashing down again if her secret is uncovered . . . or if the brick-kiln owner finds her. To keep her own family alive in her heart, Fozia tells her friends a fairytale about Prince Zal. He rides a magic carpet on a quest to find his little sister, battling leopards and dangerous fairies along the way. But can Prince Zal succeed if the truth behind Fozia's story is revealed? [Age 9+](#) [Multicultural-Pakistan-Relationships-Natural Disasters-Flood](#)



13. Glasshouse of Stars, A (Shirley Marr)

\$16.99 \$13.59

Meixing Lim and her family have arrived at the New House in the New Land, inherited from First Uncle who died tragically and unexpectedly while picking oranges in the backyard. Everything is vast and unknown to Meixing and not in a good way, including the house she has dubbed Big Scary. She is embarrassed by the second-hand shoes given to her by the kind neighbours, has trouble understanding the language at school, and with fitting in and making new friends. Her solace is a glasshouse in the garden that inexplicably holds the sun and the moon and all the secrets of her memory and imagination. Her fragile universe is rocked when tragedy strikes and Ma Ma refuses to face the world outside. Meixing finds herself trapped within the shrinking walls of Big Scary. Her parents said this would be a better life for them all, but it feels like the worst and most heart-breaking experience of Meixing's entire existence. Surviving will take all the resilience and inner belief of this brave girl to turn their world around. [Age 10+](#) [Family-Home-Tragedy-Culture-Resilience-Migrants-Magical Realism](#)



14. Good Times of Pelican Rise: Save the Joeys (Samone Amba)

\$17.99 \$14.39

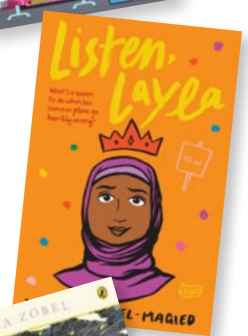
It's official: they've finally reached grade six, and Sunday Moon and her besties Ockie, Kirra and Lottie are Legends of the School! But no matter how legendary they are, as soon as the end of day bell rings they are MAROONED in after-school care at Club Koala. Day in, day out, with only the karaoke-loving grade twos and nit-infested preppies for company. After the worst summer of bushfires ever, Sunday is determined to ditch the headstand competitions and use her time at Club Koala to make a difference. Sunday's parents might say NO! to getting a pet, but that won't stop Sunday from saving as many joeys as she can - with the help of her friends, a radio station, a whole bunch of wool from the op shop, and a LOT of animal memes. [Age 10+](#) [Friendship-Growing Up-Activism](#)



15. Huda and Me (H. Hayek)

\$14.99 \$11.99

Huda's sitting in the airport lounge, fiddling with our tickets. I can tell she's excited because she has a little smile on her face and she keeps glancing at her pink digital watch. I can't believe we're doing this. I can't believe we're running away from home. Well, we're not really running away. We'll come back. We're running to our parents. On the other side of the world. When their parents have to travel to Beirut unexpectedly, twelve-year-old Akeal and his six siblings are horrified to be left behind in Melbourne with the dreaded Aunt Amel as their babysitter. Things do not go well, and Akeal's naughty little sister, Huda, hatches a bold plan to escape. After stealing Aunt Amel's credit card to buy plane tickets to Lebanon, Huda persuades her reluctant favourite brother to come with her. So begins Huda and Akeal's hair-raising and action-packed journey to reunite with their parents half a world away, in a city they've grown up dreaming about but have never seen. A fresh and funny story of sibling love, adventure and courage, Huda and Me is one of a kind. [Age 9+](#) [Adventure-Courage-Siblings](#)



16. Listen, Layla (Yassmin Abdel-Magied)

\$16.99 \$13.59

Layla has ended the school year on a high and can't wait to spend the holidays hanging out with her friends and designing a prize-winning Grand Designs Turismo invention. But Layla's plans are interrupted when her grandmother in Sudan falls ill and the family rush to be with her. The last time Layla went to Sudan she was only a young child. Now she feels torn between her Sudanese and Australian identities. As political tensions in Sudan erupt, so too do tensions between Layla and her family. Layla is determined not to lose her place in the invention team, but will she go against her parents' wishes? What would a Kandaka do? [Age 12+](#) [Racism-Migration-Identity-Bullying-Humour-Empathy-Own Voice](#)



17. Little Gem (Anna Zobel)

\$14.99 \$11.99

Sometimes getting a little lost can help you discover who you really are . . . When her spell at Witchcraft School goes wrong, Gem lands in an unfamiliar, empty cottage, outside a strange, colourful town. Everyone in Ellsworth Pining thinks Gem is their new village witch, even when Gem tries to correct them. And Gem's new friends do need her help. The Weather Worker is missing, and there are tales of a terrifying beast in the woods. Gem might know a spell that could work - if she can get it right. [Age 7+](#) [Witches-Magic](#)



18. Mim and the Baffling Bully (Katrina Nannestad and Cheryl Orsini)

\$14.99 \$11.99

Mim Cohen roams the world in a travelling bookshop, with her dad and brother and a horse called Flossy. Flossy leads them where she will, to the place where they're needed most ... the place where the perfect book will find its way home. Now Mim has arrived in a pretty Dutch village where she meets Willemina, a kind and gentle child, who is being bullied by a girl named Gerda. Mim knows they're here to help Willemina. To change her life. To make her strong and brave and happy. If only Dad would find her the right book. If only he would stop giving everyone else the wrong book! [Age 8+](#) [Friendship-Family Unit-Community-Bullying-Reading-Books-Magic](#)

19. Mina and the Whole Wide World (Sherryl Clark and Briony Stewart)\$14.99 ~~\$11.99~~

A powerful story about a young girl, Mina, and how she copes when her family take in a refugee boy and give away what was meant to be her first very-own bedroom. Mina wants her own bedroom more than anything else in the whole wide world. And it's almost ready! Just one more lick of sunny yellow paint and it's hers. But when Mina's parents take in an unexpected guest, they give her room away. At first, Mina is too upset to speak. She doesn't care that this new boy, Azzami, needs a place to stay. At school, the other kids call Azzami names, and Mina wishes he'd stand up for himself. Then she sees his drawings, and for the first time really thinks about the life of the quiet boy in front of her. Here is a story about finding friendship where you least expect it and making room for everyone across this big wide world. [Age 7+](#) [Verse Novel-Friendship-Kindness-Community-Refugees](#)

20. My Brother Ben (Peter Carnavas)\$14.99 ~~\$11.99~~

A timeless story of brothers, boats and birds, from an award-winning storyteller. Luke and his big brother Ben spend the summer on the banks of Cabbage Tree Creek. Quiet Luke sketches birds, while Ben leaps off the Jumping Tree. The boys couldn't be more different but they share the same dream- winning a boat so they can explore the creek properly. Then Ben starts high school and the boys drift apart. When Luke catches Ben sneaking out at night, he knows his brother's up to something, but what? A timeless story of birds and boats, and of brotherly love that is bigger than a wedge-tailed eagle, bigger than the sky. [Age 10+](#) [Family-Brothers-Kindness-Growing Up](#)

21. Night Ride into Danger (Jackie French)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

It's a dark and dangerous journey for the Cobb and Co night mail coach, but when his coach-driver father is injured, young Jem Donovan must take the reins. Surely a boy like Jem can't handle a team of four horses and guide the coach on a rough bush track through fog and untold dangers? But there are six passengers on the coach tonight, each with a secret. And if Jem can't get them all to their destination by morning, the seventh secret could be deadly ... [Age 8+](#) [Mystery-Adventure-Danger-Australian History](#)

22. Pawcasso Graphic Novel (Remy Lai)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Every Saturday, Pawcasso trots into town with a basket, a shopping list, and cash in paw to buy groceries for his family. One day, he passes by Jo's house, where she's peering out the window, bored and lonely. When Jo sets out to follow him, a group of kids from school mistake her for Pawcasso's owner and, excited to make new friends, she reluctantly hides the truth. But what starts as a Chihuahua-sized lie quickly grows into a Great Dane-sized problem when Pawcasso gets his own internet fan club ... Trapped in a web of lies, will Jo risk her new friendships by telling the truth? [Age 9+](#) [Graphic Novel-Friendship-Belonging-Honesty](#)

23. Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief (Katrina Nannestad)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

It's spring, 1942. The sky is blue, the air is warm and sweet with the scent of flowers. And then everything is gone. The flowers, the proud geese, the pretty wooden houses, the friendly neighbours. Only Sasha remains. But one small boy, alone in war-torn Russia, cannot survive. One small boy without a family cannot survive. One small boy without his home cannot survive. What that small boy needs is an army. [Age 10+](#) [War Stories-History-War-Russia-Friendship-Family-Loyalty](#)

24. Right Way to Rock, The (Nat Amooore)\$14.99 ~~\$11.99~~

Without music, the world is just blah. That's my take on life, anyway. Mum says rock is the only music worth listening to, but I think everyone should find their own beat. When I hear that Principal Keiren plans to cut all of the arts classes at Watterson Primary, there's no way me and my new mate Flynn are gonna let that happen. We're dragging our secret Broadway appreciation society into the spotlight. It's time for Watterson- The Musical! [Age 9+](#) [School-Music-Art-Individuality-Friendship](#)

25. Seven Wherewithal Way (Samantha-Ellen Bound)\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

Ferdinand fell out of the sky on the hottest day of the year, while Celeste and Esmerelda Barden were on the front porch eating ice-cream. Celeste is having the worst summer ever. Her parents are off on an adventure and she's stuck at Gran's house with her annoying little sister, Esme, and strict instructions to be responsible. Or, as Esme says, boring. So when their eccentric cousin Ferd crash-lands a flying bus in the yard, what choice does Celeste have but to follow Ferd back home to Seven Wherewithal Way? Wherewithal - Ferd's house, and the gateway to the many Realms unreachable from Earth - is bursting with magic and mystery and otherworldly creatures. It's Celeste's favourite place in any world. But when something tries to break in through the portal in the pantry - the door to the mystical Realm of Forests - Celeste learns that both Wherewithal and her beloved cousin are under threat. If Celeste wants to save her cousin, their home, its inhabitants and possibly even all the Realms, she is going to have to find her adventurous side. Fast. [Age 10+](#) [Magic-Mystery-Adventure](#)

26. Wednesday Weeks and the Tower of Shadows (Denis Knight and Cristy Burne)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Wednesday Weeks never wanted to be a sorcerer's apprentice. She'd rather study science than magic. But when her cloak-wearing, staff-wielding grandpa is captured by a power-hungry goblin king, Wednesday must find a way to embrace her magical heritage and rescue him from the dreaded Tower of Shadows. Luckily, she's not alone. Her best friend Alfie is a prime-number fan and robotics expert who's all-in on Wednesday's epic plan involving parallel universes, swords of power, and a wise-cracking talking skull. But it's going to take more than science, magic, and the world's cutest robot to take down this bad guy. Because the goblin king is playing for the ultimate prize - and Wednesday and Alfie just walked into his trap... [Age 9+](#) [Fantasy-Magic Realism-Friendship-Science-Robotics-Robots](#)

CBC NOTABLE BOOKS: : EARLY CHILDHOOD (27-48)

(Intended for children in the pre-reading to early reading stages)

(RRP) (School)

27. Amira's Suitcase (Vikki Conley and Nicky Johnston)

\$24.99 **\$19.99**

It begins with a tiny seed growing inside a suitcase. With Amira's care, the tiny seed starts to sprout. Find out what happens when kindness flourishes . . . Amira's Suitcase is a gentle, thought-provoking tale about friendship and hope. [Friendship-Belonging-Feelings/Emotions-Hope](#)

28. Big Love (Megan Jacobson and Beck Feiner)

\$25.99 **\$20.79**

How can you describe how big a parent's love is for their child? Is it as big as a house, as big as a city, as big as the world? This uplifting picture book helps young readers in finding an answer. This is the house. It's very big! But it's not as big as my love for you. No matter how different our families may be, the one thing we all have in common is love. The evocative text and vibrant artwork explore the boundless love of a parent, comparing the scope of the familiar and the great unknown to the love they have for their child. [Family-Love](#)

29. Florence and Fox (Zanni Louise and Anna Pignataro)

\$25.99 **\$20.79**

Florence can't share her toys with Fox today because today is not Sharing Day. In fact, Sharing Day is not for hundreds of days. Fox has never heard of Sharing Day and he has some questions, but luckily Florence has all the answers. [Friendship-Sharing](#)

30. Grumble Boats (Susannah McFarlane and Tamsin Ainslie)

\$24.99 **\$19.99**

Emma is very grumpy. Why should she have to visit Grandma while her brother goes to a pirate party? Harumph! Fortunately, Grandma knows exactly how to send Emma's bad mood away... Grumble Boats is a gorgeous reminder of the power of nature and the special magic of grandmas to make us feel better. [Feelings/Emotions-Anger-Moods-Grandparents-Problem Solving-Relationships-Family Unit](#)

31. Hello World (Leila Rudge and Lisa Shanahan)

\$19.99 **\$15.99**

See the world through the eyes of a toddler, with this perfect new picture book from much-loved pair Lisa Shanahan and Leila Rudge. The sun is up and so is one gorgeous munchkin, ready to welcome the world! With a delicious rhyming text and scrumptious illustrations, here is a joyous celebration of all the small wonders waiting to be discovered, in a single ordinary day. [Rhyming Text-Family Unit](#)

32. How to Make Friends: A Bear's Guide (Cat Rabbit)

\$25.99 **\$20.79**

Bear has lots of friends if you count her toys, but she's not sure how to make real friends. And she especially wants to be friends with Koala and Lamb. They both have fluffy ears and like green things. What's a timid bear to do? This is a story about making friends while keeping the qualities (and quirks!) that make you unique. [Friendship-Acceptance-Differences-Individuality](#)

33. Human for Kingsley, A (Gabriel Evans)

\$24.99 **\$19.99**

Kingsley had decided to own a human. This was not a decision to be taken lightly. After all, owning a human is a responsibility. But finding the right kind of human is much harder than Kingsley expected. Some are too bossy. Some are too busy. And some just don't seem to appreciate a dog the way they should. Will Kingsley ever find a human that is exactly right? [Pets-Dogs-Belonging-Home-Friendship-Companionship](#)

34. Jetty Jumping (Andrea Rowe and Hannah Sommerville)

\$24.99 **\$19.99**

While Milla's friends take big, brave jumps off the jetty, Milla stays on the blistering wood, scared of what lurks below. But when Milla accidentally falls off the edge, she discovers the beauty of the deep, dark sea - and her summer changes forever. [Courage-Summer-Friendship](#)

35. Jumping Joeys (Sarah Allen)

\$19.99 **\$15.99**

Journey through the night with some of Australia's most fascinating furry friends. Meet waddling wombats, bounding bilbies, peculiar possums and daring devils in this delightful introduction to our cute and quirky marsupials. [Australian Animals-Kangaroos-Marsupials-Wombats-Possums-Bilbies](#)

36. Little One (Jane Godwin and Gabriel Evans)

\$24.99 **\$19.99**

Pippi loves her special Little One: she's soft like mist and always warm, and she's there for Pippi through night and day. Together, they sit at the window and wonder at the world. But one day, Little One goes missing. Pippi feels lost too, but perhaps she can learn to wonder at the world without Little One by her side ... [Lost Toy-Security-Love-Loss-Resilience-Separation Anxiety](#)

37. March of the Ants, The (Ursula Dubosarsky and Tohby Riddle)

\$24.99 **\$19.99**

The ants are heading out on a very important expedition. What will they need to take with them? It's a wild journey! And in the end, it's the littlest ant who leads the others to discover the most important thing of all. A book about a very special book. [Books-Stories-Reading](#)

38. Pair of Pears and an Orange, A (Anna McGregor)

\$24.99 **\$19.99**

A pair of pears rocked on a seesaw. A pair of pears played ping-pong. A pair of pears rode their tandem bike. Until one day, someone new wanted to join their fun. Big Pear and Little Pear love playing together. But when Orange joins in, their games don't work and Big Pear feels left out. A relatable, hilarious, and kind-hearted tale about navigating friendship when three definitely starts to feel like a crowd! [Friendship-Problem Solving-Humour-Inclusion](#)

39. River, The (Sally Morgan and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

The River takes the reader on a journey of what their eyes can see and their ears can hear. See green ants crawling, hear frogs croaking, a goanna running, a fish splashing... Sally Morgan's beautiful words and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr's sensitive artwork combine to make this a unique, distinctive children's picture book with global appeal. [Aboriginal Studies-Ecosystems-Australian Animals-Senses](#)

40. Sea Country (Aunty Patsy Cameron and Lisa Kennedy)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Summer is the season for ripening wild cherries, tatas, wild currants, canyongong The canyongong fruits taste like salty strawberries. In this delightful children's picture book, Aunty Patsy Cameron generously shares the stories and traditions from her family's seasonal island life in Tasmania. With evocative text and stunning illustrations, Sea Country lets the reader know when to pick ripe wild cherries, when the moon (mutton) birds fly home and how the nautilus shells smell like the deepest oceans. [Aboriginal Studies-Culture-Identity](#)

41. Sharing (Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawson and Leanne Mulgo Watson)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

When we share, there is plenty for all. A tender, thoughtful story with a gentle reminder of all the ways sharing makes us stronger. Sharing is book three in the award-winning Our Place series (Respect 2020, Family 2020) that introduces children to First Nations philosophies that are dear to Aunty Fay's heart. Each book is a powerful educational tool, with exquisite illustrations. [Aboriginal Studies-First Nations-Culture-Sharing](#)

42. Tomorrow is a Brand-New Day (Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

I know your world is feeling gray but it won't always be this way. And everyone alive can say, they've felt the way you do today. We all have bad days, bad days do pass. From creative superstars Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys comes a message of hope that we can depend upon and live by: bad days pass, and no matter what happens, we are deserving of love. An uplifting and healing book that every family needs in an era of overwhelming change. [Feelings/Emotions-Emotional Intelligence-Friendship-Forgiveness-Compassion](#)

43. Train Party (Karen Blair)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

All aboard the train party! This delightful rhyming picture book captures all the fun of a preschooler's train-themed birthday party at a miniature railway park. This delightful rhyming picture book captures all the fun of a birthday at a miniature railway park. Red, blue and green, yellow and black. Here come the trains! Clickety-clack. All aboard the train party! [Rhyming Text-Trains-Adventure-Family Unit](#)

44. Walk of the Whales (Nick Bland)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

When all of the whales in the ocean leave their home to walk around on land, people don't quite know what to think. But soon shopkeepers go out of business, farms are flooded with water and salt, and people shout horrible, anti-whale words. That is, until, a smart little girl decides to ask the whales what everyone can do to help. [Rhyming Text-Environmental Issues-Pollution-Rubbish-Oceans](#)

45. What Do You Call Your Grandma? (Ashleigh Barton and Martina Heiduczek)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

An inclusive picture book for grandparents everywhere. In every country around the world are grandmas short and tall. Though they go by different names, we love them one and all. A charming and heart-warming book that celebrates the many different ways we say grandma. What Do You Call Your Grandma? is a love letter to grandmothers and families from every corner of the globe. [Multicultural-Grandparents-Grandmas](#)

46. When the Waterhole Dries Up (Kaye Baillie and Max Hamilton)\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

It's bath time in the outback, and a dusty boy is waiting, but so are some very dusty and very cheeky animals. Will this boy ever get clean? A rollicking tale about togetherness and fun! [Outback-Australian Animals-Humour](#)

47. Winston and the Indoor Cat (Leila Rudge)\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

Two very different cats: Winston, a free-spirited explorer; and The Indoor Cat, lover of leisure; form a friendship and show each other how different their lives could be. Can The Indoor Cat be enticed by outdoor adventure? Will Winston be tempted by a life of indoor luxury? [Cats-Friendship-Belonging](#)

48. Wonderful Shoes (Emma Bowd and Tania McCartney)\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

A timeless tale of tip-tapping click-clacking delight. Wonderful Shoes is a joyful celebration of everyday play, through the eyes of our tiniest humans, who know exactly where to find the best toys in the world! Delightful verse and vibrant illustrations shine a light on the timeless tip-tapping click-clacking fun to be had, when little feet find big shoes. [Imagination Play-Onomatopoeia](#)

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CBC NOTABLE BOOKS: PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR (49-73)

(Intended for an audience ranging from birth to 18 years)

(RRP) (School)

49. Bear and Rat (Stephen Michael King and Christopher Cheng)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Bear and Rat are the best of friends who do everything together, but Rat wonders if Bear will always be there to hold her hand, no matter what happens ... [Friendship-Love-Loss-Relationships-Lifecycle](#)

50. Blue Flower (Sonya Hartnett and Gabriel Evans)

\$24.99 \$19.99

A young child describes her qualms about going to school and how hard she finds asking the teacher for help, how she feels shy about making friends, not being funny or a fast runner. But through her love of art, a conversation with her mother and her observations about nature she comes to see that being different might not be a bad thing after all. [Difference-Acceptance-Individuality-School-Feelings/Emotions-Shyness-Worry-Resilience](#)

51. Boy and the Elephant, The (Freya Blackwood)

\$24.99 \$19.99

The boy lives in a city, where everything is fast and loud. But amidst the bustle and the noise, the boy has a secret ... In the overgrown lot next to his apartment building, deep within the green, he has a friend. But one day progress arrives, bringing with it plans for something new, and the boy must find a way to save his friend before it's too late ... [Wordless Picture Book-Environmental Issues-Change-Conservation](#)

52. Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name, The (Sandhya Parappukkaran and Michelle Pereira)

\$24.99 \$19.99

When Zimdalamashkermishkada starts a new school, he knows he's got to do something about his long name. When no amount of shrinking, folding or crumpling works, he simply settles for Zim - but deep down, it doesn't feel right. It's not until a new friend sees him for who he truly is that Zimdalamashkermishkada finds the confidence to step boldly into his long name. A warm and uplifting story that encourages young readers to celebrate their individuality, and shows how no-one should ever have to shrink themselves down to fit in. [Multicultural-India-Family-Identity](#)

53. Christmas Always Comes (Jackie French and Bruce Whatley)

\$24.99 \$19.99

It's Christmas Eve in 1932, and Joey, Ellie and their parents are driving cattle in the drought. How will Santa find them on the long and dusty road? And will there be pudding and presents and a tree in the morning? But Joey knows that Christmas always comes. From two of Australia's best-loved picture book creators comes a story about finding joy and beauty where you least expect it, and how kindness can create miracles. [Christmas-Kindness-Family](#)

54. Common Wealth (Gregg Dreise)

\$24.99 \$19.99

A slam poetry persuasive and powerful vision of unity from award-winning First Nations creator Gregg Dreise. Passionate, yet peaceful, Common Wealth is a compelling plea for a future of truth, togetherness and respect for our nation's deep history. [Age 10+ Aboriginal Studies-Culture-Identity-First Nations-Australian History-Harmony Day](#)

55. Day Break (Amy McQuire and Matt Chun)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Day Break is the story of a family making their way back to Country on January 26. We see the strength they draw from being together, and from sharing stories as they move through a shifting landscape. The story refocuses the narratives around 'Australia Day' on Indigenous survival and resistance, and in doing so honours the past while looking to the future. Confronting yet truthful, painful yet full of hope, Day Break is a crucial story that will open up a conversation on truth-telling for the next generation. [Aboriginal Studies-Family Unit-Reconciliation-Harmony Day](#)

56. Don't Forget (Jane Godwin and Anna Walker)

\$19.99 \$15.99

Don't forget to make your bed, and wear socks that fit your feet... Don't forget to care, to play, To run, to laugh... Sometimes, we need to remember all the things we can do to be part of the world. Small things, like offering a smile. And bigger things, like hoping, dreaming, imagining... [Mindfulness-Feelings/Emotions-Happiness](#)

57. Enough Love? (Maggie Hutchings and Evie Barrow)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Willa had one Dad, one Mum, one home and a bird. And that was enough. So when Willa's parents split up, she's pretty sad. But at least they are still all hers. Until Dad meets Kevin and Willa's family starts to grow ... and keeps on growing. When will enough be enough? Or is there always room for more love? [Family Unit-Separation-Belonging](#)

58. Flying Angel, The (Vicki Bennett and Tull Suwannakit)

\$24.99 \$19.99

World War II. 1945. A group of nurses is handpicked to rescue injured soldiers from the frontline in Papua New Guinea, and transport them safely back home to Australia. Known for their courage and compassion, the soldiers call them... the Flying Angels. This is a story inspired by the life of one remarkable nurse, Sister Marie Eileen Craig. [Australian History-War-World War 2-Nursing-Bravery-Compassion-Courage](#)

59. Frankie and the Fossil (Jess McGeachin)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Frankie knows everything there is to know about dinosaurs. But when she ignores a sign at the museum and is followed home by a friendly fossil, Frankie finds there's more to dinosaurs than she ever imagined. Frankie and the Fossil is an irresistible story about being heard ... and finding your herd. [Friendship-Connectivity-Dinosaurs-Museum-Adventure](#)

60. Happy Hoppy Home (Tull Suwannakit)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Papa Hare, Dot, Pip and Pat, and Baby Cottontail live together in a very small and crowded burrow. Then one day, Papa Hare comes up with a brilliant plan ... An enchanting and heartwarming story that celebrates the true joys of family and home. [Family-Home-Adaptability](#)

61. Iceberg (Claire Saxby and Jess Racklyeft)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

In the final freeze of an Antarctic winter, green tails wave across a star-full sky, as if to farewell endless nights. If this world looks empty, look closer ... Penguins trek across the ice to their winter homes. As the temperature warms, birds fly above on their long migrations. And with the advent of summer, beneath an iceberg, the sea is teeming with life. Ocean, sky, snow and ice - minute greens and giant blues - dance a delicate dance in this evocative portrayal of the life cycle of an iceberg. [Environmental Issues-Climate Change-Icebergs-Antarctica-Nature](#)

62. Imagineer, The (Lucia Masciullo and Christopher Cheng)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Penny has a massive imagination. She loves to draw up plans, gather her tools and turn sketches and scribbles into new creations. One day, she visits her grandpa's house and is amazed at his gadgets and gizmos. He has a telephone hanging on his wall, an organ with bellows to pump and a contraption with a handle to churn homemade butter. Then Penny discovers grandpa's garage ... Christopher Cheng's The Imagineer is a beautiful story about an inquisitive little girl whose imagination is sparked by the things around her. It also highlights the value in spending time with a grandparent and learning from their lived experience. [STEAM-Inventions-Technology-History-Past and Present-Grandparents](#)

63. Inheritance, The (Armin Greder)\$29.99 ~~\$23.99~~

These are the last words of the old industrialist before dying. While the three brothers discuss how to fulfil their father's wishes, the sister lists for them the disastrous consequences that would follow: disease; marine pollution; deforestation; the destruction of the landscape; pollution of skies and rivers...The Inheritance tells of the greed of those who hold economic power, and reminds us that silence and inaction amount to complicity. With minimal text, this powerful story is told primarily through Armin Greder's distinctive illustrations that challenge the reader to question the status quo and fight for the future. [Age 10+ Environmental Issues-Industrialisation-Pollution-Deforestation-Greed-Power](#)

64. Jacqueline, A Soldier's Daughter (Pierre-Jacques Ober and Jules Ober)\$34.99 ~~\$27.99~~

Jacqueline. An only child, Jacqueline always dreamt of having a sister. Amid the turmoil of a world at war when the adults have seemingly gone mad, she embarks on a perilous journey and ultimately finds a sister in a most unexpected way. [Age 10+ Historical-World War 2-Family-Morality](#)

65. Joe and the Stars (Phil Cummings and Connah Brecon)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

In the red dust, where the sky is wide, Joe loves watching the stars. He marvels at their mystery and wonder. But when his family moves to the city... the stars are hard to see. Will Joe find a way to make them shine again? A twinkling tale of resilience, family and friendship. [Moving House-Rural-Resilience-Loss-Separation-Acceptance-Community-Family Unit-Space](#)

66. Just One Bee (Margrete Lamond, Anthony Bertini and Christopher Nielsen)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

This is a story of hope, determination and never giving up: the story of One-bee and her dream to revert desolate wastes back to fields of flowers. But to change a desert to meadowland she needs to go it alone because when she comes across another bee, she discovers not only is he hoarding a single precious flower and a queen bee, but he refuses to believe positive change is possible. Other-bee does all he can to quash One-bee's dream. But One-bee's persistence, patience and optimism eventually prove Other-bee wrong, and she shows him how dreams can come true. [Bees-Sustainability-Persistence-Patience-Optimism](#)

67. Katha Chest, The (Radhiah Chowdhury and Lavanya Naidu)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Six-year-old Asiya loves to go to Nanu's house. Best among all of Nanu's treasures is the big old chest filled with quilts that tell the stories of the women in Asiya's family. A beautifully woven tale about the bonds of love, culture and memory. [Multicultural-Family Unit-Culture-Bangladesh-Memories](#)

68. Mo and Crow (Jo Kasch and Jonathan Bentley)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Mo lived alone and he liked it that way. He had a house to protect him. And a wall. Mo trusted his wall. It kept everything out he wanted kept out. A beautiful story about breaking down barriers and discovering the joys of friendship. [Isolation-Friendship-Acceptance-Loneliness](#)

69. Norton and the Borrowing Bear (Gabriel Evans)\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

Wouldn't it be fun to have a friend living right next door to you? Well, as Norton discovers, it can certainly pose some challenges when that friend wants to borrow all of your favourite things. This is a story about setting limits and learning to accept your friends, flaws and all. [Friendship-Sharing](#)

70. Salih (Anne Ryan Inda and Ahmad Zahri)\$24.95 ~~\$19.96~~

Like a turtle, Salih carries his home on his back. He must cross a raging sea in search of a safe home. Salih paints his happiest memories and sends them as messages in bottles. Will someone find them and understand? Will Salih find a new home? [Refugees and Migration-Hope](#)

71. Star of Anise (Jane Jolly and Di Wu)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

The hawker's wagon jingled and jangled as it came down the track ... Annie and Arthur have been eagerly awaiting Bhagwan Singh's next visit. What wondrous things will he have in his cart this time, among the silk and soap, spices and shirts? As the hawker makes his camp for the night, the children savour spun sugar and food from the Punjab, discovering the secret star anise. A gentle story about embracing different traditions, based on the stories of Sikh hawkers in Australia in the late 1800s. [Australian History-Migration-Multicultural-Trade-Culture](#)

72. Stellarphant (James Foley)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

A worthy and timely story about having the courage to follow your dreams and believing in yourself. Stella wants to be an astronaut. There is only one problem- Stella is an elephant. Every time she applies to Space Command, they come with a new reason she can't join. But where there's a will, there's a way and Stella is determined to reach for the stars. [Determination-Persistence-Discrimination](#)

73. We Found a Cat (Heidi McKinnon)\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

Look! We found a cat. It has whiskers and a long tail, it has to be a cat... doesn't it? [Cats-Big Cats-Pets-Humour](#)

CBC NOTABLE BOOKS: EVE POWNALL AWARD FOR INFORMATION BOOKS (74-94)

(some of these books are intended for Secondary School aged readers, please consider the age recommendations when ordering)

74. Amazing Meals of Martha Maloney, The (Margaret Wild, Dan Wild and Donna Rawlins)\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

On a school trip to the Museum of Famous People, Martha Maloney wanders off and enjoys the culinary delights of important figures through time, much to the dismay of her teacher. Readers can experience history through the dining tables of King Henry VIII, Princess Marie Antoinette, Queen Nefertiti and more, with heaped servings of information about each time period and their culinary customs. This unique picture book weaves together fiction and non-fiction to create a delicious read for inquisitive young minds. [History-Famous People-Food-Imagination](#)

75. Book of Curious Birds (Jennifer Cossins)\$26.99 ~~\$21.59~~

In this book you'll find colourful feathers alongside peculiar beaks, beady eyes and funny-coloured feet. You'll read of dangerous birds, clever birds, fast birds, awkward birds, silly birds, massive birds and tiny birds. You'll laugh at their odd hairdos, marvel at their remarkable hunting skills and admire their wild mating dances. Most of all, you'll learn that birds are awesome and deserve our love, care and respect. [Birds](#)

76. Bush Birds, The (Bridget Farmer)\$29.95 ~~\$23.96~~

Written and illustrated by Bridget Farmer, this little gem of a book depicts 12 of our Australian native birds. Each bird has a little riddle to give you a clue as to what it may be. Children can lift the flap to learn the name of each one. The back of the book includes a snapshot of each bird—a lovely way to introduce children to our native birdlife—perfect for a bushwalk. The illustrations are created from dry point etchings which have been hand coloured with watercolour paints.

77. First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First Peoples, The (Blak Douglas and Corey Tutt)\$29.99 ~~\$23.99~~

Have you ever wondered what the stars can tell us? Did you know the seasons can be predicted just by looking at subtle changes in nature? Maybe you have wondered about the origins of glue or if forensic science is possible without a crime scene investigation. Australia's First peoples have the longest continuing culture on Earth and their innovation will amaze you as you leaf through the pages of this book, learning fascinating facts and discovering the answers to life's questions. In consultation with communities, Corey tells us of many deadly feats – from bush medicine to bush trackers – that are today considered 'science', and introduces us to many amazing scientists, both past and present. The breadth of 'sciences' is incredible with six main chapters covering astronomy, engineering, forensic science, chemistry, land management and ecology. The first scientists passed on the lessons of the land, sea and sky to the future scientists of today through stories, song and dance, and many of these lessons are now shared in this book. [Aboriginal Studies-Science-Technology-History-Culture](#)

78. Gentle Genius of Trees, The (Philip Bunting)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

What could we clever humans ever learn from trees? Take an unashamedly anthropomorphic wander through the woods to learn a few life lessons from our foliaged friends. [Photosynthesis-Symbiosis-Trees](#)

79. Heroes, Rebels and Innovators (Karen Wyld and Jaelyn Biunaiwai)\$26.99 ~~\$21.59~~

Be inspired and amazed by these incredible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander icons! With colourful artwork and evocative writing, this book tells stories every Australian should know. Powerful and exciting: here are seven inspiring stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from history. Each colourful spread in this illustrated book tells a compelling story. [Aboriginal Studies-Culture-Identity-First Nations-Australian History-Harmony Day-Biography](#)

(*Number 61 in Picture Book of the Year Category)

Iceberg (Claire Saxby and Jess Racklyeft)

\$24.99 \$19.99

In the final freeze of an Antarctic winter, green tails wave across a star-full sky, as if to farewell endless nights. If this world looks empty, look closer ... Penguins trek across the ice to their winter homes. As the temperature warms, birds fly above on their long migrations. And with the advent of summer, beneath an iceberg, the sea is teeming with life. Ocean, sky, snow and ice - minute greens and giant blues - dance a delicate dance in this evocative portrayal of the life cycle of an iceberg. [Environmental Issues-Climate Change-Icebergs-Antarctica-Nature](#)

80. Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature, The (Sami Bayly)

\$32.99 \$26.39

Discover 60 of the most peculiar pairs in nature and learn how plant and animal species rely on each other for their survival. Whether it be a rare tick living in the fur of a pygmy possum, a stick insect feasting and hiding out amongst the Melaleuca or a handfish laying its eggs on a sea tulip, incredible natural relationships deserve to be explored and celebrated. Investigating all types of relationships, from symbiotic to parasitic, this is an eye-opening guide to the natural world. Many species steer clear of those who are different, but the animals and plants in this book have evolved to form relationships with some of the most unlikely partners, and they couldn't live without them. [STEM-Science-Nature-Symbiotic Relationships-Animals](#)

81. Kunyi (Kunyi June Anne McInerney)

\$27.99 \$22.39

These are my stories from a dry remote place, where growing up was very different for what children know today. Kunyi June Anne McInerney was just four years old when she and three of her siblings were taken from their family to the Oodnadatta Children's Home in South Australia in the 1960s. Through an extraordinary collection of over 60 paintings, accompanied by stories, Kunyi presents a rare chronicle of what life was like for her and the other Children's Home kids who became her family. Her paintings are a healing trove of memories that reveal the loneliness, fear and courage of the Stolen Generation children who were torn from family and loved ones. From bible lessons to sucking bone marrow and collecting bush fruits, the escapades, adventures and sorrows of the children are painted with warmth, humour and unflinching honesty. Kunyi's story is one of healing and reconciliation. She is telling it so that the lives of the children at Oodnadatta Children's Home will not be forgotten. This is a collection of tender and honest stories that will educate children on our nation's history and remind adult readers of the real impact of the Stolen Generations. [Aboriginal Studies-First Nations-Own Voice-Australian History-Stolen Generation](#)

82. Masters of Disguise: Camouflaging Creatures (Marc Martin)

\$26.99 \$21.59

Now you see them, now you don't! Cloaked in a riot of colour, pattern and texture are a dozen animals - from chameleons and polar bears to Gaboon vipers and mimic octopuses - that have mastered the art of fading into the background. Fact-packed pages segue into clever and beautifully illustrated seek-and-find spreads that put readers' newfound knowledge of each creature and its ecosystem to the test. [Animals-Camouflage-Adaptation](#)

83. Me, Microbes & I (Philip Bunting)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Me, Microbes & I is full of fascinating and entertaining information about microbes, and provides young readers with a simple and fun guide to how things like bacteria and viruses work in the body. It is packed with handy tips on how to stay healthy, from enjoying fermented foods to taking care of your immune system, and also provides information on how to stop the spread of nasty viruses - including how to cough like a vampire, and the best way to wash your hands.

84. No Way! The Wildest Mind-Blowing Facts in the Universe (Dan Marshall)

\$29.99 \$23.99

Get ready to go on a wonderful journey of discovery that will make you say No Way! Learn all about space, humans, earth, science, animals and maths, with the help of your trusty robot sidekick KLAUS. Did you know - Uranus is leaking gas into space? The average yawn goes for six seconds? The fact that there are over three trillion trees on earth? Spider's silk is five times stronger than steel? Bicycles ride themselves?! This beautifully designed children's book is filled to the brim with facts, challenges and questions that will teach you all the wildest and weirdest things about the world around you!

85. One Potoroo: A Story of Survival (Penny Jaye and Alicia Rogerson)

\$24.99 \$19.99

When a bushfire destroys Potoroo's home, he becomes one of the last surviving Gilbert's Potoroos at Two Peoples Bay in Western Australia. Frightened, hurt and alone, Potoroo needs a new home - somewhere safe from predators and with plenty of his favourite food. Luckily, a team of conservationists know where Potoroo can go to be safe. One Potoroo: A Story of Survival is a beautifully illustrated book about the world's most endangered marsupial, the Gilbert's Potoroo, and the conservation work that has kept this unique Australian alive. [Endangered Animals-Australian Animals-Marsupials-Conservation](#)

86. Rachel's War (Mark Wilson)

\$26.99 \$21.59

Growing up on a farm in country Victoria, all Rachel wants is to help people. When war comes, she travels to distant Europe and the Middle East, working tirelessly to care for wounded and sick soldiers from the battlefields of Gallipoli and the Western Front. Inspired by the life of Rachel Pratt, a World War I Australian army nurse who was awarded the Military Medal for bravery, this is an incredible story of bravery and sacrifice. [Anzac Day-Australian History-War-World War 1](#)

87. Saving Seal: The Plastic Predicament (Diane Jackson Hill and Craig Smith)**\$24.99 \$19.99**

Seal has made his home in the waters of a coastal village, but he often finds himself trapped and ensnared in the plastic rubbish filling the Bay. Fortunately, he is rescued by Lizzie and Grandpa Dave. Lizzie and Grandpa Dave are motivated to do something about cleaning up their Bay and saving the marine life who are being threatened more and more by the rubbish found in the Bay and on their beaches. They encourage the towns people to join them in their fight against plastic pollution devastating their beaches and harming marine life. This is a story about how we can make a change, about cooperation and making the right choices and making them now.

88. Still Alive, Notes from Australia's Immigration Detention System Graphic Novel (Safdar Ahmed)**\$30.00 \$24.00**

In early 2011, Safdar Ahmed visited Sydney's Villawood Immigration Detention Centre for the first time. He brought pencils and sketchbooks into the centre and started drawing with the people detained there. Their stories are told in this book. Interweaving journalism, history and autobiography, Still Alive is an intensely personal indictment of Australia's refugee detention policies and procedures. It is also a searching reflection on the redemptive power of art. And death metal. **Age 16+** [Graphic Novel-Graphic Non Fiction-Detention-Refugees-Human Rights](#)

89. Superpower (Philip Bunting)**\$24.99 \$19.99**

Have you ever thought about energy – the stuff that lights up our lives and powers our wonderful world? How does renewable energy work? Where does electricity come from? Why are fossil fuels bad for our environment? Renowned picture book creator Philip Bunting answers all these questions and more in this entertaining and enlightening look at the various ways we use energy to power the world around us Superpower is packed with engaging and entertaining information for kids and their families, including helpful tips on easy ways to reduce energy consumption in our day-to-day lives. Learn the history of energy through time, discover how energy is produced and delve into the many forms of renewable energy available to us today.

90. Underground Graphic Novel (Mirranda Burton)**\$29.99 \$23.99**

Why would a wombat be registered for war? It's 1965, and an old Tattersalls barrel starts rolling marbles to randomly conscript young Australian men to fight in the war in Vietnam. Melbourne housewife Jean McLean is outraged, as are her artist friends Clif and Marlene Pugh, who live in the country with their wombat, Hooper. Determined to wreck the system, Jean forms the Save Our Sons movement's Victorian branch, and she and her supporters take to the streets to protest. Meanwhile, in the small country town of Katunga, Bill Cantwell joins the Australian Army, and in Saigon, young Mai Ho is writing letters to South Vietnamese soldiers from her school desk. And when Hooper's call-up papers arrive, he mysteriously goes underground... As these stories intersect in unexpected ways and destinies entwine, a new world gradually emerges – a world in which bridges of understanding make more sense than war. This stunning graphic novel, full of empathy, courage and resistance, is based on true events. **Age 14+** [War-Vietnam War-Empathy-Courage-Resistance-Graphic Novel](#)

91. Walking in Gagudju Country: Exploring the Monsoon Forest (Diane Lucas, Ben Tyler and Emma Long)**\$29.99 \$23.99**

Walk with us through one of the Top End's magnificent monsoon forests, in Kakadu National Park, learning about the plants, animals and Kundjeyhmi culture along the way. When we go walking, we never know how long we will be, what we will hear and what we will see. We pack our bags with food and water, a billy and some matches to light a fire. We head off into the shady monsoon forest on the edge of the billabong. [Aboriginal Studies-First Nations-Culture-Australian Animals-Australian Flora-Kakadu-Forests-Habitats-Ecosystems](#)

92. Way of the Weedy, The (Anne Morgan and Lois Bury)**\$24.99 \$19.99**

Can you imagine a strange and colourful fish that looks like a dragon? It can't fly or breathe fire, but it is an excellent dancer! The weedy seadragon is an amazing underwater fish with a talent for camouflage, weird eating habits and a unique courtship dance. But its habitat and future are threatened. This enchanting story takes you under the sea to meet this mysterious sea creature, and reveals its weird and wonderful ways. [Habitats-Environment-Conservation-Seadragons-Ocean Creatures](#)

93. Wiradjuri Country (Larry Brandy)**\$24.99 \$19.99**

Welcome to Wiradjuri Country. The Wiradjuri are the people of the three bila (rivers) and their nguram-bang (Country) is the second largest in Australia. Come with Uncle Larry Brandy on an enlightening journey through his Country's rivers, woodlands, grasslands and rocky outcrops, as well as the murri-yang (sky world). Along the way, young readers will encounter animals such as bila-durang (platypus), and maliyan (wedge-tailed eagle), plants like the maybal (grass tree) and yirany (yam daisy), and discover stories like that of Tiddalik the giant frog. They will learn how Wiradjuri people lived on their Country, using the flower spikes of the grass tree as spears, soaking its flowers in water to make a sweet drink and weaving its leaves into baskets. This is a unique book combining language, culture, Indigenous history and storytelling, written by a Wiradjuri author. It features colour photographs of animals, plants and habitats, as well as illustrations by Indigenous artists Kristie Peters and Scott 'Sauce' Towney.

94. Wombat (Christopher Cheng and Liz Duthie)**\$26.99 \$21.59**

Burrowing and basking, digging and defending; Wombat is a new Nature Storybook exploring the world of one of Australia's most beloved creatures. Far underground, where dirt and tree roots mesh, are tunnels that lead to a burrow, and in this burrow Wombat's day begins. A story about the life of a wombat, looking at the interesting way these animals build their homes, look after their family and protect themselves from predators. Wombat is a new addition to the Nature Storybooks series, which feature a lyrical narrative and engaging nonfiction combined with stunning artwork to pique the curiosity of young minds. [Australian Animals-Wombats-Narrative Non Fiction](#)

CBC NOTABLE BOOKS: OLDER READERS (95-115)

(These books are for intended for Secondary School aged readers, please consider the age recommendations when ordering)

(RRP) (School)

95. Boy from the Mish, The (Gary Lonesborough)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

It's a hot summer, and life's going all right for Jackson and his family on the Mish. It's almost Christmas, school's out, and he's hanging with his mates, teasing the visiting tourists, avoiding the racist boys in town. Just like every year, Jackson's Aunty and annoying little cousins visit from the city - but this time a mysterious boy with a troubled past comes with them... As their friendship evolves, Jackson must confront the changing shapes of his relationships with his friends, family and community. And he must face his darkest secret - a secret he thought he'd locked away for good. [Age 14+](#) [Aboriginal Studies-First Nations-Racism-LGBTQIA-Own Voice-Identity](#)

96. Can the Real JR Stand Up, Please? (Nadia L. King)

\$22.99 ~~\$18.39~~

When Jake Rollins isn't worrying about his dad going ape-sh*t, he's busy creating out-of- this-world manga and hanging out with his best mate. Jake and his mum spend their lives dodging Jake's dad's fists, but it's the last year of high school and Jake has the perfect plan to escape home. All he has to do is nab a scholarship to Tokyo where he'll learn how to be a professional manga artist. But before then, Jake has to navigate his final year of high school, and keep himself, his mum and their dog alive.

97. Dark Rise (C. S. Pacat)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

The ancient world of magic is no more. Its heroes are dead, its halls are ruins, and its great battles between Light and Dark are forgotten. Only the Stewards remember. For centuries they have kept vigil, sworn to protect humanity if the Dark King ever returns. Sixteen-year-old dock boy Will is on the run in London, pursued by the men who killed his mother. When an old servant urges him to seek out the Stewards, Will is ushered into a secret world, where he must train to fight for the Light in the oncoming war. As the Dark King's return looms, reborn warriors begin to draw battle lines. But when the young descendants of Light and Dark step into their destined roles, old allegiances, old enmities and old flames are awakened. Will must stand with the last heroes of the Light to prevent the calamity that destroyed their world from returning to destroy his own. [Age 14+](#) [Fantasy](#)

98. Dirt Circus League (Maree Kimberley)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Asa's running from a troubled past. To a remote outback town, a disappointing father and a fresh start that's already souring. But then the notorious Dirt Circus League arrives. A troupe of outcast teens performing spectacular fight sequences and challenging any who dares to take part. They're ruthless. Menacing. Thrilling. And led by the magnetic Quarter. He's dark, powerful and intensely attractive-and he faces a threat only Asa can see. Will Asa be drawn into the league's mysterious community? And, as she discovers the violent secrets at its heart, will she delve into her own untapped abilities to save herself-and heal those caught in its evil web? [Age 15+](#) [Cults-Ethics-Environmental Issues-Thriller](#)

99. Evacuation Road (H. M. Waugh)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Eva is far from home when everything goes wrong. And then it gets even worse. Her evacuation bus leaves her behind, stranded with classmates she barely knows. The chase is on. But South America is big, and the old rules are changing quickly. This is the road trip Eva never knew she needed. This is the race for the last flight home. [Age 13+](#) [Survival-Change-Mental Health-Prejudice](#)

100. Gaps, The (Leanne Hall)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

When sixteen-year-old Yin Mitchell is abducted, the news reverberates through the whole Year Ten class at Balmoral Ladies College. As the hours tick by, the girls know the chance of Yin being found alive is becoming smaller and smaller. Everyone is affected by Yin's disappearance-even scholarship student Chloe, who usually stays out of Balmoral dramas, is drawn into the maelstrom. And when she begins to form an uneasy alliance with Natalia, the queen of Year Ten, things get even more complicated. [Age 15+](#) [Mystery-Crime-Abduction-Vulnerability-Identity-Friendship](#)

101. Girls in Boys' Cars (Felicity Castagna)

\$18.99 ~~\$15.19~~

Rosa was never really trying to kill anyone, no matter what they said in court. But she's ended up in juvenile jail anyway, living her life through books and wondering why her best mate Asheeka disappeared. A page-turning novel about a complicated friendship; a road trip through NSW in a stolen car; the stories that define us; and two funny, sharp, adventurous young women who refuse to be held back any longer. [Age 15+](#) [Friendship-Coming Of Age-Road Trip-Theft](#)

102. Henry Hamlet's Heart (Rhiannon Wilde)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Henry Hamlet doesn't know what he wants after school ends. It's his last semester of year twelve and all he's sure of is his uncanny ability to make situations awkward. Luckily, he can always hide behind his enigmatic best friend, Len. They've been friends since forever, but where Len is mysterious, Henry is clumsy; where Len is a heart-throb, Henry is a neurotic mess. Somehow it's always worked. That is, until Henry falls. Hard. For the last person he imagined. [Age 14+](#) [Friendship-Humour-Love-LGBTQIA](#)



**103. House of Hollow (Krystal Sutherland)**

\$19.99 \$15.99

Iris Hollow and her two older sisters are unquestionably strange. Ever since they disappeared on a suburban street in Scotland as children only to return a month later with no memory of what happened to them, odd, eerie occurrences seem to follow in their wake. And they're changing. First, their dark hair turned white. Then, their blue eyes slowly turned black. People find them disturbingly intoxicating, unbearably beautiful and inexplicably dangerous. Now, ten years later, seventeen-year-old Iris Hollow is doing all she can to fit in and graduate high school - something her two famously glamorous globe-trotting older sisters, Grey and Vivi, never managed to do. But when Grey goes missing, leaving behind only bizarre clues, Iris and Vivi are left to trace her last few days. They aren't the only ones looking for her. As they brush against the supernatural, they realise that the story they've been told about their past is unravelling and the world that returned them seemingly unharmed ten years ago, might just be calling them home. [Age 14+ Thriller-Murder-Mystery-Fantasy-Parallel World](#)

104. How to Repaint a Life (Steven Herrick)

\$19.99 \$15.99

A powerful prose novel from one of Australia's most awarded authors. Isaac is running from his old life when he steps off the bus in a small town. He doesn't plan on sticking around and has nowhere to stay, but a local cafe owner's kindness offers him a chance to change his story. Then Isaac meets Sophie and learns he's not the only one wanting to repaint his life. As he did so masterfully with *The Simple Gift*, Steven Herrick delves into the universal themes of rising above the past and taking control of your future. [Age 14+ Family-Friendship-School-Domestic Violence-Homelessness](#)

105. Midnight Girls, The (Alicia Jasinska)

\$19.99 \$15.99

In a snow-cloaked kingdom, now is a time for mischief and revelry. For the next few weeks, all will be wintry balls, glittery disguises, and nightly torch-lit sleigh-parties. But unbeknown to the merrymakers, two uninvited girls join the fun. Zosia and Marynka are drawn to each other the moment they meet - until they discover they're rivals, who both have their sights set on the prince's heart. If one consumes a pure heart, she'll gain immeasurable power. Marynka plans to bring the prince's back to her patron in order to prove herself, while Zosia is determined to take his heart and its power for herself. Their ambition turns into a magical contest, even as their attraction to one another grows. But their attempts on the prince's life draws the attention of the city that would die for him, and their escalating rivalry might cost them not only their love for each other but both their lives. [Age 14+ Fantasy-Witches-Witchcraft](#)

106. Morrison and Mr Moore (Michael Hyde)

\$25.00 \$20.00

Morrison is 17. Smart, sarcastic, annoying, and very angry. Mr Moore, a school principal on the verge of retirement, has seen it all. Now coping with a wife who has Alzheimers, his plans for his life in retirement are in tatters. The last thing he needs is someone like Morrison. What happens when two unlikely people find strength in each other? This unique story is captivating and surprising, bringing tears and laugh-out-loud moments and brilliant insights into the nature of friendship and the problems of ageing at every age. A novel of strength, hope, humility, and acceptance... and that kid who wears petticoats...

107. Prison Healer, The (Lynette Noni)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Seventeen-year-old Kiva Meridan has spent the last ten years fighting for survival in the notorious death prison, Zalindov, working as the prison healer. When the Rebel Queen is captured, Kiva is charged with keeping the terminally ill woman alive long enough for her to undergo the Trial by Ordeal - a series of elemental challenges against the torments of air, fire, water and earth, assigned to only the most dangerous of criminals. Then a coded message from Kiva's family arrives, containing a single order - Don't let her die. We are coming. Aware that the Trials will kill the sickly queen, Kiva risks her own life to volunteer in her place. If she succeeds, both she and the queen will be granted their freedom. But no one has ever survived. With an incurable plague sweeping Zalindov, a mysterious new inmate fighting for Kiva's heart, and a prison rebellion brewing, Kiva can't escape the terrible feeling that her trials have only just begun. [Age 15+ Dystopian-Fantasy-Survival](#)

108. Road Tripping with Pearl Nash (Poppy Nwosu)

\$24.95 \$19.96

The summer is finally here, and Pearl Nash is on a mission to save her slowly disintegrating friendship with a whirlwind end-of-year road trip that is definitely, absolutely, most positively going to solve all her problems. Except, instead of her best friend Daisy's feet on her dash, suddenly Pearl ends up stuck in the middle of the desert beside Obi Okocha, a boy with a mega-watt smile and an endlessly irritating attitude. Tasked with delivering him to the most epic end-of-year party ever, located in a beach shack in literal middle-of-nowhere woop woop, Pearl Nash is certain that nothing could be worse than this. She's wrong. Add in a breakdown, multiple arguments, an AWOL nana and a kiss that was most definitely a huge mistake, and suddenly Pearl has the perfect ingredients for the perfect disaster. [Age 15+ Family-Home-Connection-Love](#)

109. Skin Deep (Hayley Lawrence)

\$15.99 \$12.79

Scarlett was gifted with beauty. But beauty can be taken in a day, in a single moment, by one car fire. Now permanently scarred, Scarlett has become a smudge in her perfect world. She can see only one acceptable solution: to escape the modern world for Matilda Mountain, which is desolate, isolated, forlorn. Perfect. But mountains are not always as lonely as they appear. And unexpected friendships can be found in the wilderness. Friendships that challenge her ideas about perfection and her place in the world. Can Scarlett break free from the confines of her beauty-obsessed culture to discover who she is beyond the layers of her skin? [Age 13+ Trauma-Beauty-Self Worth-Family-Friendship](#)

110. Social Queue (Kay Kerr)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Zoe Kelly is starting a new phase of her life. High school was a mess of bullying and autistic masking that left her burnt out and shut down. Now, with an internship at an online media company-the first step on the road to her dream writing career-she is ready to reinvent herself. But she didn't count on returning to her awkward and all-too-recent high-school experiences for her first writing assignment. When her piece, about her non-existent dating life, goes viral, eighteen-year-old Zoe is overwhelmed and more than a little surprised by the response. But, with a deadline and a list of romantic contenders from the past to reconnect with for her piece on dating, she is hoping one of her old sparks will turn into a new flame. [Age 15+](#) [Romance-Autism-Own Voice-Discrimination-Media](#)

111. Stars in Their Eyes Graphic Novel (Jessica Walton and Aśka)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Pop culture-obsessed Maisie can't wait to get to her first Fancon. But being a queer, disabled teenager with chronic pain comes with challenges. Can Maisie make it through the day without falling over, falling in love or accidentally inspiring anyone? Maisie has always dreamed of meeting her hero, Kara Bufano, an amputee actor who plays a kick-arse amputee character in her favourite show. Fancon is big and exciting and exhausting. Then she meets Ollie, a cute volunteer who she has a lot in common with. Could this be the start of something, or will her mum, who doesn't seem to know what boundaries are, embarrass her before she and Ollie have a chance? [Age 13+](#) [Graphic Novel-LGBTQIA-Disability-Anxiety-Own Voice-Romance](#)

112. Sugar Town Queens (Malla Nunn)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Fifteen-year-old Amandla's mother has always been strange. For starters, she's a white woman living in Sugar Town, one of South Africa's infamous shanty towns. She won't tell anyone, not even Amandla, about her past. And she has visions, including ones that promise the return of Amandla's father as if he were a prince in a fairytale, but their hardscrabble life is no fairytale. Amandla knows her father is long gone - since before Amandla was born - and she's pretty sure he's not a prince. He's just another mystery and missing piece of her mother's past, and one of the many reasons people in Sugar Town give them strange looks - that and the fact that Amandla is black and her mother is not. Lately, her mother has been acting even more strangely, so when Amandla finds a mysterious address at the bottom of her mother's purse along with a large amount of cash, she decides it's finally time to get answers about her mother's life. With her best friends by her side, Amandla is ready to take on the devil himself, and as she confronts devastating family secrets and pain that has lasted a generation, taking on the devil is exactly what she must do. [Age 14+](#) [Family-Friendship-Race-Identity](#)

113. Terciel and Elinor (Garth Nix)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

In the Old Kingdom, a land of ancient and often terrible magics, eighteen-year-old orphan Terciel learns the art of necromancy from his great-aunt Tizanael. But not to raise the Dead, rather to lay them to rest. He is the Abhorsen-in-Waiting, and Tizanael is the Abhorsen, the latest in a long line of people whose task it is to make sure the Dead do not return to Life. Across the Wall in Ancelstierre, a steam-age country where magic usually does not work, nineteen-year-old Elinor lives a secluded life, her only friends an old governess and an even older groom who was once a famous circus performer. Her mother is a tyrant, who is feared by all despite her sickness and impending death... but perhaps there is even more to fear from that. Elinor does not know she is deeply connected to the Old Kingdom, nor that magic can sometimes come across the Wall, until a plot by an ancient enemy of the Abhorsens brings Terciel and Tizanael to Ancelstierre. In a single day of fire and death and loss, Elinor finds herself set on a path which will take her into the Old Kingdom, into Terciel's life, and will embroil her in the struggle of the Abhorsens against the Dead who will not stay dead. [Age 14+](#) [Fantasy](#)

114. Tiger Daughter (Rebecca Lim)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Wen Zhou is the daughter and only child of Chinese immigrants whose move to the lucky country has proven to be not so lucky. Wen and her friend, Henry Xiao - whose mum and dad are also struggling immigrants - both dream of escape from their unhappy circumstances, and form a plan to sit an entrance exam to a selective high school far from home. But when tragedy strikes, it will take all of Wen's resilience and resourcefulness to get herself and Henry through the storm that follows. [Age 12+](#) [Family Unit-Friendship-Migration-Expectation-Pressure-Own Voice-Suicide-Stigma](#)

115. Waking Romeo (Kathryn Barker)\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

YEAR: 2083. LOCATION: LONDON. MISSION: WAKE ROMEO. It's the end of the world. Literally. Time travel is possible, but only forwards. And only a handful of families choose to remain in the 'now', living off the scraps that were left behind. Among these are eighteen-year-old Juliet and the love of her life, Romeo. But things are far from rosy for Jules. Romeo is in a coma and she's estranged from her friends and family, dealing with the very real fallout of their wild romance. Then a handsome time traveller, Ellis, arrives with an important mission that makes Jules question everything she knows about life and love. Can Jules wake Romeo and rewrite her future? A highly original mashup that delights as it disorients... and asks what would have happened if two great literary love stories were somehow intertwined. [Age 15+](#) [Romance-Relationships-Love-Time Travel-Family-Destiny-Fate-Climate Change-](#)

