

CBCA Shortlisted and Notable Books List 2021

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CHILDREN'S BOOKWEEK: 21-27 August 2021

Winners announced Friday 20th August 2021

Bookweek Theme: Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds

CBCA SHORTLISTED AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2021

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

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS: YOUNGER READERS (1-6)

(In Alphabetical Order by Author)
(Intended for independent younger readers)

Old Worlds
New Worlds
Other Worlds

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1. Aster's Good, Right Things (Kate Gordon)

(RRP) (School)

\$14.99 \$11.99

Aster attends a school for gifted kids, but she doesn't think she's special at all. If she was, her mother wouldn't have left. And if she isn't careful, everyone else will leave her too. Each day Aster must do a good, right thing challenge she sets herself, to make someone else's life better. Nobody can know about her things, because then they won't count. And if she doesn't do them, she knows everything will go wrong. Then she meets Xavier. He wears princess pajamas and has his own kind of special missions to make life better. When they do these missions together, Aster feels free, but if she stops doing her good, right things will everything fall apart? **Age 10+ Anxiety-Kindness-Friendship**

2. Stolen Prince of Cloudburst, The (Jaclyn Moriarty and Kelly Canby)

\$22.99 \$18.39

Long ago, the little Prince of Cloudburst was stolen from the seashore by a Water Sprite. Now, ten years later, the prince has found his way home. The King and Queen are planning the biggest party in their Kingdom's history to welcome him. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Kingdoms and Empires, Esther Mettleson-Staranise is looking forward to another year at Katherine Valley Boarding School. As secrets and dangers escalate, Esther must find the answers to several puzzles. Why is her teacher behaving so oddly? Which of Esther's classmates is the Spellbinder, and can they really protect the school from gathering hordes of Shadow Mages? Could the Stolen Prince of Cloudburst be connected? **Age 9+ Magic-Adventure**

3. Worse Things (Sally Murphy and Sarah Davis)

\$14.99 \$11.99

Worse Things follows the lives of three main characters: Blake, an Aussie Rules football player who suffers a devastating injury; Jolene, a hockey player who hates the game and is grieving over the recent death of her father; and Amed, a soccer-loving, non-English speaking orphan who feels like an outsider since arriving in Australia after being raised in a refugee camp. A touching and inspirational story about connections and the things that bind us all. **Age 9+ Refugees and Migration-Sport-Soccer-Hockey-Friendship-Coping-Resilience**

4. We Are Wolves (Katrina Nannestad)

\$19.99 \$15.99

When the Russian Army marches into East Prussia at the end of the war, the Wolf family must flee. Liesl, Otto and their baby sister Mia find themselves lost and alone, in a blizzard, in the middle of a war zone. Liesl has promised Mama that she will keep her brother and sister safe. But sometimes, to survive, you have to do bad things. Dangerous things. Wild things. Sometimes to survive, you must become a wolf. Bestselling author Katrina Nannestad returns with her most masterful novel yet - a book to crack open your heart, a book to light you up inside, a book to love. **Age 10+ War Stories-Family Unit-Friendship-Survival-Historical-World War 2-Wolfskinder**

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5. Bindi (Kirli Saunders and Dub Leffler)

\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Meet 11-year-old Bindi. She's not really into maths but LOVES art class and playing hockey. Her absolute FAVOURITE thing is adventuring outside with friends or her horse, Nell. A new year starts like normal - school, family, hockey, dancing. But this year hasn't gone to plan! There's a big art assignment, a drought, a broken wrist AND the biggest bushfires her town has ever seen! [Age 9+](#) [Verse Novel-Country-Climate Change-Nature-Aboriginal Studies](#)

6. Book of Chance, The (Sue Whiting)

\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

Chance is in Year 7 and thinks she has it all - a loving mother, dog Tiges, best friend and almost-sister next door. But when a reality TV team makes over her house, she discovers newspaper cuttings from the past that cause her to question the world as she knows it and everyone in it. Then she finds herself caught between two realities, identities and worlds. Face-to-face with the truth, Chance has a very difficult decision to make, which almost splits her in two. This powerful story explores what is true and what is fake in today's world. And while Chance is all about the truth, she ponders whether "Maybe being truthful was really just a big lie." [Age 10+](#) [Mystery-Secrets-Social Media-Reality TV-Investigation](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS: EARLY CHILDHOOD (7-12)

(In alphabetical order by Author)
(Intended for Children in the pre-reading to early reading stages)

7. Busy Beaks (Sarah Allen)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Spend a day with Australia's most vibrant and unique feathered friends. Full of splashing shorebirds, clattering cockatoos, parading penguins and greedy galahs, Busy Beaks is the perfect introduction to birds of all shapes and sizes. [Australian Animals-Australiana-Birds](#)

8. Who's Your Real Mum? (Bernadette Green and Anna Zobel)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

A beautifully illustrated story, written with a light and humorous touch, that celebrates nontraditional families and captures exactly what lies at the heart of family life - love. 'Elvi, which one is your mum?' 'They're both my mums.' 'But which one's your real mum?' When Nicholas wants to know which of Elvi's two mums is her real mum, she gives him lots of clues. Her real mum is a circus performer, and a pirate, and she even teaches spiders the art of web. [Family Unit](#)

9. No! Never! A Cautionary Tale (Libby Hathorn and Mel Pearce)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

There was a child, The sweetest ever, Until she learned these words: 'NO! NEVER!' Georgie is a sweet little girl who always makes her parents happy... until she discovers one powerful phrase: No! Never! It suddenly becomes her answer to every request, from tidying up her toys to going to bed. Her parents are at their wits end, but what happens when they decide to try saying No! Never! themselves? [Cautionary Tale-Behaviour-Disobedience-Attitude](#)

10. Anemone is not the Enemy (Anna McGregor)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Anemone lives alone in the rock pool. The tide comes in and the tide goes out. All Anemone wants is a friend, but friends are hard to make when you accidentally sting everyone who comes near you. Perhaps Clownfish has a solution to the problem ... [Friendship-Problem Solving-Humour-Environment-Danger-Hierarchy-Ocean-Tide](#)

11. There's No Such Thing (Heidi McKinnon)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Bear can't sleep. Did you hear that? Did you feel that? What was it? It wasn't a hungry giant or a blood-sucking spider or a fire-breathing dragon because there is NO SUCH THING... Is there? [Bedtime-Humour-Fear](#)

12. We Love You, Magoo (Briony Stewart)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Magoo has his own ideas about what a dog should do - in the kitchen, in the car, at dinnertime and bedtime! But there are so many rules! So many things a dog can't do. But wait! Magoo, THIS is for you... Silly doggo, we do love you! [Rhyming Text-Dogs](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS: PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR (13-18)

(In alphabetical order by Illustrator and Author)
(Intended for an audience from birth to 18)

13. Unwilling Twin, The (Freya Blackwood)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Jules and George are the same in every way. It is quite impossible to tell them apart. Like all twins, Jules and George do everything together. But after a long, hot day at the beach, even twins sometimes disagree ... From multi-award-winning picture book creator Freya Blackwood comes a cheeky and charming story about the ups and downs of sibling love. [Friendship-Beach-Twins-Humour-Differences](#)

14. Not Cute. (Philip Bunting)

\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

Quokka did not like being cute. Not one bit. The romping, stomping, chomping tale of one stubbornly adorable marsupial. [Australian Animals](#)



15. Norton and the Bear (Gabriel Evans)

\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

Is imitation the sincerest form of flattery? Or is it just annoying? Follow Norton as he attempts to avoid a bear who begins to copy his appearance. This irresistible read-aloud helps children deal with the sensitive topics of conformity, individuality and belonging in an accessible, kid-friendly way. Whether you're more like Norton or the bear, this story will show you that there's room for all kinds of creative expression. [Individuality-Identity-Belonging-Friendship-Empathy](#)

16. Ellie's Dragon (Bob Graham)

\$27.99 ~~\$22.39~~

When Ellie is very little, she finds a newborn dragon fresh from the egg on a supermarket shelf, and calls him Scratch. He is quite the sweetest thing she has ever seen! From that day on, Ellie and Scratch do everything together. Ellie's mum and her teacher can't see her fiery friend, but all her friends can – and, over the years, Ellie's dragon grows to be big, house-trained, and very affectionate. And Ellie is growing, too...A moving story about the wonders of imagination and the nature of growing up. [Imaginary Friend-Friendship-Growing Up-Companionship-Dragons](#)

17. How to Make a Bird (Matt Ottley and Meg McKinlay)

\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

From award-winning author Meg McKinlay and celebrated artist Matt Ottley comes a moving and visually stunning picture book that celebrates the transformative power of the creative process from inception through recognition to celebration and releasing into the world. We shadow the protagonist as she contemplates the blue print of an idea, collects the things that inspire from the natural world to shape a bird. And breathes life into it before letting it fly free. It shows how small things, combined with a little imagination and a steady heart, can transform into works of magic. [Growing Up-Freedom](#)

18. Your Birthday Was the Best! (Felicita Sala and Maggie Hutchings)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

From the author of the best-selling MERMAID! and UNICORN! and one of the world's hottest new picture-book illustrators comes the story of a plucky young cockroach who gate-crashes a birthday party - with hilarious results. Funny, silly and surprisingly cute, YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS THE BEST! is the perfect blend of downright gross and delightfully entertaining. [Birthdays-Humour-Family](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS: EVE POWNALL AWARD FOR INFORMATION BOOKS (19-24)

(In alphabetical order by Author)
(Intended for an audience from birth to 18, some books may be for mature readers)

19. Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals, The (Sami Bayly)

\$32.99 ~~\$26.39~~

Dangerous animals get a bad rap, but this beautifully illustrated encyclopaedia helps us appreciate the incredible features of some of our more hair-raising animal species. You will learn interesting facts about these fascinating species, (many of which you won't have even known were deadly) such as how they have adapted to survive and whether we should be threatened by these animals or appreciate them for their incredible features. Pore over the breathtaking scientific illustrations of unusual animals from the geography cone snail to the wolverine, the Irukandji jellyfish to the slow loris, debating their relative dangerous features, learning about science and nature along the way. [Animals-Adaptation-STEAM-Nature](#)

20. Azaria: A True History (Maree Coote)

\$29.99 ~~\$23.99~~

Where wild animals and people meet, tragedy can strike, because just like the big bad wolf, the dingo is not afraid of you and me. A beautifully illustrated non-fiction picture book that sensitively explores the collision of wilderness and civilisation, explains a famous miscarriage of justice, and examines the role of the media in history-telling, in an appropriate manner for children.

21. Dry to Dry: The Seasons of Kakadu (Pamela Freeman and Liz Anelli)

\$26.99 ~~\$21.59~~

In the tropical wetlands and escarpments of Kakadu National Park, the seasons move from dry to wet to dry again. Those seasons have shaped the astonishing variety of plants, animals, birds, insects ... migratory birds by the thousands, grasshoppers and owls, lizards and turtles, fruit bats and spear grass. And, gliding past them all in the rivers and waterholes, the long, sinuous shapes of crocodiles ... [Seasons-Australian Animals-Habitats-Kakadu-Aboriginal Studies](#)

22. Strangers on Country (David Hartley & Kirsty Murray and Dub Leffler)

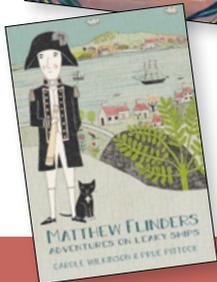
\$29.99 ~~\$23.99~~

Giom, Anco and Duramboi are the names of just three young shipwreck survivors and convict escapees who were given refuge by Indigenous communities during the nineteenth century. No one knows exactly how many received sustenance from the local people, but there are some documented accounts of these experiences. Strangers on Country includes the stories of six Europeans and the people who cared for them. Based on historical records each story in this book is told through two historical fiction narratives. The first is from the point of view of an Indigenous person who befriends the stranger in their land. The second is from the point of view of the castaway or convict who is given refuge. At the end of each chapter, there is a section of facts and information. Too often Australian history is told only from the point of view of the Europeans who sailed here from across the world. [Aboriginal Studies-Australian History](#)

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23. **Hold On! Saving the Spotted Handfish** (Gina M Newton and Rachel Tribout) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
Have you ever seen a fish that could do a handstand? Hold On! Saving the Spotted Handfish is perfect for primary aged readers. This is the story of a quirky and primitive little fish that is famous for two things: walking on its 'hands' (pectoral fins), and being the first marine fish anywhere in the world to be listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Spotted Handfish has survived since the time of the dinosaurs - until now. Invasive sea stars, pollution and climate change mean that this unique Australian is in real trouble - raise your hand if you want to know more! [Endangered Species-Climate Change-Pollution-Environmental Issues](#)



24. **Matthew Flinders - Adventures on Leaky Ships** (Carole Wilkinson and Prue Pittock) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
Matthew Flinders was a country boy who wanted to be a sailor. He lived at a time when ocean voyages took months, sometimes years. His life at sea was full of adventure and danger. He was the first to sail all the way around Australia. He drew the first complete map of the continent. Sailing was a dangerous business in Matthew's time that could end in shipwreck, disease or death. He wanted to make it safer for sailors by making his map as accurate as possible. [Explorers-Exploration-Navigation](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS: OLDER READERS (25-30)

(In alphabetical order by Author)

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

Note: Unless otherwise indicated these titles are not suitable for Primary-aged readers



25. **End of the World is Bigger than Love, The** (Davina Bell) \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
Identical twin sisters Summer and Winter live alone on a remote island, sheltered from a destroyed world. They survive on rations stockpiled by their father and spend their days deep in their mother's collection of classic literature-until a mysterious stranger upends their carefully constructed reality. At first, Edward is a welcome distraction. But who is he really, and why has he come? As love blooms and the world stops spinning, the secrets of the girls' past begin to unravel and escape is the only option. [Age 16+ Dystopian-Futuristic-Isolation-Relationships](#)



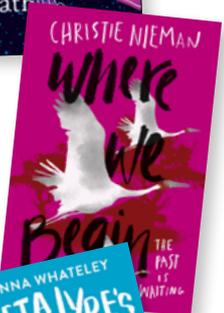
26. **The Lost Soul Atlas** (Zana Fraillon) \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
Loyalty is tested, and a cruel twist of fate leads to an act of ultimate betrayal in this epic story that spans a city, a decade, and the divide between life and death itself. Twig is all alone after his dad goes missing. But when he meets Flea, a cheerful pickpocket, the pair become fast friends. Together, Twig and Flea raise themselves on the crime-ridden streets, taking what they need and giving the rest to the even-poorer. Life is good, as long as they have each other. But then Twig wakes up in the Afterlife. With just a handful of vague memories, a key, a raven, and a mysterious atlas to guide him, he tries to piece together what happened, and to find his way home . . . [Age 14+ Afterlife-Mystery-Hope-Friendship](#)



27. **When Rain Turns to Snow** (Jane Godwin) \$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~
Lissa is home on her own after school one afternoon when a stranger turns up on the doorstep carrying a baby. Reed is on the run - surely people are looking for him? He's trying to find out who he really is and thinks Lissa's mum might have some answers. But how could he be connected to Lissa's family - and why has he been left in charge of a baby? A baby who is sick, and getting sicker ... Reed's appearance stirs up untold histories in Lissa's family, and suddenly she is having to make sense of her past in a way she would never have imagined. Meanwhile, her brother is dealing with a devastating secret of his own. A beautiful and timely coming-of-age story about finding out who you are in the face of crisis and change. [Age 14+ Growing Up-Identity-Family-Come of Age](#)



28. **Metal Fish, Falling Snow** (Cath Moore) \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
Fourteen-year-old Dylan has always been troubled by her black skin, the legacy of her absent father. She lives with her French mother, and together they dream of one day sailing across the water to France. But when her mother dies in a freak accident, Dylan finds herself on a very different journey- a road trip in the care of her mother's grieving boyfriend, Pat. As they travel through outback towns further and further from the water than Dylan craves to take her to France to her mother's spirit, she and Pat form an unlikely bond. One that will be broken when he delivers her to the family she has never known. A road trip with unlikely companions, a girl with a unique way of seeing the world, a great loss and a struggle of identity. [Age 14+ Racism-Loss-Family-Own Voice](#)



29. **Where We Begin** (Christie Nieman) \$18.99 ~~\$15.19~~
Seventeen-year-old Anna is running into the night. Fleeing her boyfriend, her mother, and everything she has known. She is travelling into the country, to the land and the grandparents she has never met, looking for answers to questions that have never been asked. For every family has secrets. But some secrets - once laid bare - can never be forgiven. [Age 15+](#)



30. **Peta Lyre's Rating Normal** (Anna Whateley) \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
'I'm Peta Lyre,' I mumble. Look people in the eye if you can, at least when you greet them. I try, but it's hard when she is smiling so big, and leaning in. Peta Lyre is far from typical. The world she lives in isn't designed for the way her mind works, but when she follows her therapist's rules for 'normal' behaviour, she can almost fit in without attracting attention. When a new girl, Sam, starts at school, Peta's carefully structured routines start to crack. But on the school ski trip, with romance blooming and a newfound confidence, she starts to wonder if maybe she can have a normal life after all. When things fall apart, Peta must decide whether all the old rules still matter. Does she want a life less ordinary, or should she keep her rating normal? A moving and joyful own voices debut. [Age 13+ Autism-Autism Spectrum Disorder-LGBTQIA-Romance](#)

CBCA AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATORS (31-36)

This Award aims to recognise and encourage new talent in the field of Australian children's book illustration.

Ages 0-18 years.

31. Ribbit Rabbit Robot (Sofya Karmazina and Victoria Mackinlay) \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
This lamp is enchanted and I am the genie. I'll grant all your wishes, but don't be a meanie... When a friendly frog, a greedy rabbit and a robot with a short fuse discover a magic lamp, chaos follows...and friendship is found.

(RRP) (School)

(No. 9 in The Early Childhood Category)

No! Never! A Cautionary Tale (Libby Hathorn and Mel Pearce) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

There was a child, The sweetest ever, Until she learned these words: 'NO! NEVER!' Georgie is a sweet little girl who always makes her parents happy... until she discovers one powerful phrase: No! Never! It suddenly becomes her answer to every request, from tidying up her toys to going to bed. Her parents are at their wits end, but what happens when they decide to try saying No! Never! themselves? [Cautionary Tale-Behaviour-Disobedience-Attitude](#)

33. Seven Seas of Fleas (David Petzold) \$22.99 ~~\$18.39~~

A flying boy and seven bees are chased by fleas, but an unexpected friendship forms. Bryce McFee is an ordinary boy bored with washing the flea-ridden family dog. So, he escapes to his imagination and flies across the backyard with a dandelion and seven bees. Trouble strikes when a swarm of pesky fleas gives chase, threatening to ruin his adventure. Ultimately, an unlikely friendship is formed between the flying boy and the fleas. A fun rhyming story that exercises the imagination.

34. Shirley Purdie: My Story, Ngaginybe Jarragbe (Shirley Purdie) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

I am Shirley Purdie. This is my story. Ngayin-ga Birrmarriyan-nga. Berrembi jarragbe ngaginybe. My mother shows me how to get bushtucker and she shows me how to paint. Now I'm a famous artist. My paintings are all over the world hanging in important places. Happy times. Told in English and Gija, this is the story of Shirley Purdie, famous Gija artist, as told through her paintings, as part of the Ngaalim-Ngalimboorro Ngagenybe exhibition created for the 2018 National Portrait Gallery exhibition So Fine: Contemporary women artists make Australian history. The exhibition will be rehung, in Gallery 1, to coincide with the launch of My Story, along with a series of cultural engagement activities based on My Story. [Aboriginal Studies-Dual Language-Gija-Art-Aboriginal Artists-Kimberley](#)

35. This Small Blue Dot (Zeno Sworder) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

With a strong message of interconnectedness, hope and empowerment, This Small Blue Dot follows a little girl exploring the big and small things in life. From contemplating our place on this 'blue dot' to the best Italian, Chinese and Indian desserts, the book provides a broader, more inclusive view of who we are, where we come from and where our dreams may take us. [Connectivity-Family-Planet Earth-Hope-New Baby](#)

36. Go Away Worry Monster (Robin Tatlow-Lord and Brooke Graham) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Worry Monster loves 'helping' Archie to worry. Archie feels so anxious that his head hurts, his tummy flutters and his heart pounds. But he soon realizes that the only way to feel better is to make Worry Monster go away by challenging his fears and following a set of steps useful for helping any child to cope with their anxieties.

ZART ART ACTIVITY BOOK

37. Old Worlds New Worlds Other Worlds (Compilation) \$45.95 ~~\$36.76~~

Art activities based on the 2021 CBCA Book Week theme, short listed Early Childhood and Picture Books. Full of activities and teacher's notes. Suitable for early learning, primary and lower secondary.

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS: YOUNGER READERS (38-51)

38. Year The Maps Changed, The (Binks Danielle) \$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

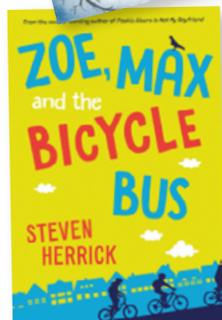
Sorrento, Victoria 1999. Fred's family is a mess. Fred's mother died when she was six and she's been raised by her Pop and adoptive father, Luca, ever since. But now Pop is at the Rye Rehabilitation Centre recovering from a fall; Luca's girlfriend, Anika, has moved in; and Fred's just found out that Anika and Luca are having a baby of their own. More and more it feels like a land-grab for family and Fred is the one being left off the map. But even as the world feels like it's spinning out of control, a crisis from the other side of it comes crashing in. When 400 Kosovar-Albanian refugees arrive in the middle of the night to be housed at one of Australia's 'safe havens' on an isolated headland not far from Sorrento, their fate becomes intertwined with the lives of Fred and her family, as she navigates one extraordinary year that will change them all. [Age10+ Refugees and Migration-Australian History-Blended Family](#)

39. January Stars, The (Constable Kate) \$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

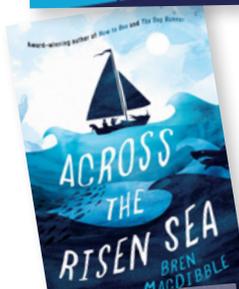
When twelve-year old Clancy and her fourteen-year-old sister, Tash, visit their Pa at his aged-care facility, they have no idea that the three of them will soon set out on an intrepid adventure. Along the way there are many challenges for Tash and Clancy to overcome and in the process, they discover their own resourcefulness and resilience and demonstrate their heartfelt love for their grandfather. [Age 10+ Family Unit-Grandparents-Siblings-Resilience-Humour](#)

40. *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn* (Kate Gordon)\$14.99 ~~\$11.99~~

Wonder Quinn is a lonely orphan who lives in the attic of Direleaf Hall with only a gloomy crow for company. Every year she watches the other girls return to school, hoping to find a friend among them. And every year her heart breaks when she doesn't. So when a fiery new girl befriends her in class, Wonder's dreams seem to be coming true. Mabel Clattersham is outspoken, kind and, most importantly, unafraid of the awful Georgiana Kinch. But as the girls grow closer, Wonder discovers her friend has a list of strange wishes- Throw a pie, leap into the sky, break someone's heart What is Mabel's big secret? And why is she in such a hurry to finish her list? Can Wonder protect her heart from being broken all over again? *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn* is an enchanting fairytale celebrating friendship, bravery and the importance of staying true to yourself. [Age 10+ Friendship-Bravery-Identity](#)

41. *Zoe, Max and the Bicycle Bus* (Steven Herrick)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

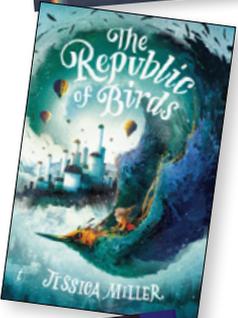
The sun is shining and today feels like an adventure, only one I can go on whenever I want because I have a bicycle and friends and a city just waiting to be explored. With their new teacher's help, the kids in Class 5D ride to school together in a bicycle bus. Olivia can fix a puncture in two minutes and Max can ride on one wheel. Lily wishes she wasn't quite so wobbly and Jordi's been waiting forever to ride on the road. Dylan has a speedy getaway from alley cats, Dabir's glad to be part of a group and Zoe's bike even has a name (Esmeralda). Everyone loves their new way of getting to school. But there's a narrow stretch on Fishers Road with no white line to separate the cyclists from the local traffic, so Zoe and Max decide they need to make it right (even if that means breaking a few rules). Award-winning author Steven Herrick's latest verse novel is an ode to bike-riding, the environment and fixing the future. [Age 10+ Verse Novel-Environmental Issues-Cycling-Humour](#)

42. *Across the Risen Sea* (Bren MacDibble)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

'It's one of them days when everything is off. A hot sweaty night in Rusty Bus means we kids is all grouchy-tired. Me and my best friend, Jaguar, is trying to cool down by taking turns at dipping in the sea pool. Him standing on the sea wall made from car frames and rocks on lookout for crocs, me swimming, then we'll swap places. We's always doing things as a team, him and me. We's gonna be the best fisher people and the best salvagers on the whole of the inland sea one day.' Neoma and Jag and their small community are 'living gentle lives' on high ground surrounded by the risen sea that has caused widespread devastation. When strangers from the Valley of the Sun arrive unannounced, the friends find themselves drawn into a web of secrecy and lies that endangers the way of life of their entire community. Soon daring, loyal Neoma must set off on a solo mission across the risen sea, determined to rescue her best friend and find the truth that will save her village. [Age 11+ Environmental Issues-Climate Change-Community-Adventure](#)

43. *Grandest Bookshop in the World, The* (Amelia Mellor)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Pearl and Vally Cole live in a bookshop. And not just any bookshop. In 1893, Cole's Book Arcade in Melbourne is the grandest bookshop in the world, brimming with every curiosity imaginable. Each day brings fresh delights for the siblings: voice-changing sweets, talking parrots, a new story written just for them by their eccentric father. When Pearl and Vally learn that Pa has risked the Arcade - and himself - in a shocking deal with the mysterious Obscurosmith, the siblings hatch a plan. Soon they are swept into a dangerous game with impossibly high stakes: defeat seven challenges by the stroke of midnight and both the Arcade and their father will be restored. But if they fail Pearl and Vally won't just lose Pa - they'll forget that he and the Arcade ever existed. [Age 10+ Historical-Mystery-Adventure-Bookshops](#)

44. *Republic of Birds, The* (Jessica Miller)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Olga loves the stories of the old cartographers and pores over their ancient books and maps, trying to unlock their secrets. Sometimes, she thinks she can even feel through the maps- almost see into them-as if by magic. But magic is banned in Tsaretsvo, ever since the war with the birds that divided the kingdom, and the powerful magic-wielding lagas have long been banished. Now, any young girl who shows signs of being an laga is whisked away to Bleak Steppe-to a life, so the story goes, of unspeakable punishment. When the bird army kidnaps Olga's sister in a surprise attack on the human kingdom, Olga realises she has to venture into the Republic of Birds to bring her back. But first, she must learn to unlock her magical ability. As her journey takes her into the hidden world of the lagas and the wilds of the Unmappable Blank, Olga discovers the truth about the war with the birds-and learns just how much is at stake. Inspired by Russian folklore, *The Republic of Birds* is a rich middle-grade fantasy adventure for readers of Karen Foxlee, Jessica Townsend and Philip Pullman. [Age 10+ Fantasy-Adventure-Magic-Conflict-Determination-Persistence](#)

45. *Secret Library of Hummingbird House, The* (Julianne Negri)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Hattie Maxwell is trying to make sense of her life since the Big Split. It used to be the four of them - Mum, Dad, Ivy and Hattie - against the universe. But now it feels like she's a lone star in a big galaxy. And to make matters worse, her favourite place, Hummingbird House, is going to be demolished! Determined to stop the development, Hattie throws herself into uncovering the secrets of the house. Under a special full moon, she discovers that there is much more to the grand old mansion than first meets the eye . . . But will it be enough to save Hummingbird House? Or her family? [Age 10+ Friendship-Time Slip-Family Unit-Change-Mystery](#)

46. *When This Bell Rings* (Allison Rushby)\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

This story within a story within a story celebrates the creative art of storytelling. In London's Belgravia, Tamsin lives next door to Edie St Clair, famous author of the 'London of the Bells' series of graphic novels. With the series' tenth and final novel overdue, Tamsin offers her idol help and discovers that Edie can literally draw herself into her stories. When Edie goes missing, Tamsin draws herself into the novel and lands in a world of unexpected danger. The stakes couldn't be higher in this gripping adventure. [Age 9+ Adventure-Fantasy-Storytelling](#)

47. Mummy Smugglers of Crumblin Castle, The (Pamela Rushby)\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

It's England, 1873. When 12-year-old Hatshepsut (Hattie) Lambton's guardian is unfortunately eaten by a crocodile, Hattie is sent to live with hitherto unknown relatives: Great-uncle Sisyphus and Great-aunt Iphigenia, in their half-ruined castle in mysterious, mist-shrouded marshes. A crumbling castle, a moat full of crocodiles, a catastrophe of kittens, and let's not forget the villains and the mummies! This rambunctious story has it all. **Age 10+ History-Fantasy-Adventure**

48. Haywire (Claire Saxby)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

In 1939, 14-year-old Tom lives in Hay where his family runs the local bakery. Max Gruber is nearly fourteen-years-old. He is sent to his Uncle Ferdie in London, but is then interred and shipped to Australia aboard the Dunera. He arrives in Hay and meets Tom. The two boys become friends and find their lives and their friendship influenced by a far-away conflict in Europe. **Age 11+ Australian History-War-World War 2**

49. The Fire Star (A.L. Tait)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

A maid with a plan. A squire with a secret. A missing jewel. A kingdom in turmoil. Maven and Reeve have three days to solve the mystery of the Fire Star. If they don't, they'll lose everything. This could be a complete disaster... or the beginning of a great friendship. An intriguing story of two unlikely allies and a mystery to solve that could change their lives. **Age 12+ Fantasy-History-Medieval-Mystery-Friendship**

50. Beyond Belief (Dee White)\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

Inspired by the true story of Muslims who saved the lives of Jewish children in the Second World War. In 1942, in the Grand Mosque in Paris, 11-year-old Ruben is hiding from the Nazis. Already thousands of Jewish children have disappeared, and Ruben's parents are desperately trying to find his sister. Ruben must learn how to pass himself off as a Muslim, while he waits for the infamous Fox to help him get to Spain to be reunited with his family. One hint of Ruben's true identity and he'll be killed. So will the people trying to save him. But when the mosque is raided and the Fox doesn't come, Ruben is forced to flee. Finding himself in the south of France, he discovers that he must adjust to a new reality, and to the startling revelation of the Fox's true identity. **Age 11+ War Stories-Heroism-World War 2-Holocaust-Jewish-Muslim-Judaism-Islam**

51. Her Perilous Mansion (Sean Williams)\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

In a strange mansion, miles from anywhere, an orphan named Almanac and a twelfth daughter named Etta find themselves working - and bickering - side by side in the largely deserted rooms. But soon they realise that the house and its inhabitants are not quite what they seem, and there's more at stake than just their jobs. Can they solve the puzzle of Her Perilous Mansion before it's too late? **Age 10+ Fantasy-Friendship-Magic**

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS: EARLY CHILDHOOD (52-65)

(In alphabetical order by Author)

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

52. Bear in Space (Deborah Abela and Marjorie Crosby-Fairall)\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

Bear has plans to change his world, one space adventure at a time, and discovers just how far you can go with someone by your side. Bear is different. When he dreams of going into space, the other bears laugh. But Bear has plans to change his world, one space adventure at a time. In space he feels at home, but also alone, until something extraordinary happens. He discovers just how far he can go with someone by his side. **Self Esteem/Resilience-Determination-Persistence-Friendship-Relationships-Space**

53. Coming Home to Country (Bronwyn Bancroft)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Run to the creek, perch on a rock, slip into clear crystal water. An visual and lyrical depiction of coming home to country from acclaimed author and illustrator Bronwyn Bancroft. **Aboriginal Studies-Belonging-Home**

54. What Do You Call Your Grandpa? (Ashleigh Barton and Martina Heiduczek)\$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~

An inclusive picture book for grandparents everywhere. In every country around the world are grandpas 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 grandpa. What Do You Call Your Grandpa? is a love letter to grandfathers and families from every corner of the globe. **Multicultural-Family Unit-Grandparents**

55. Shapes and Colours (John Canty)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

A multi-tiered new concept book about shape and colour sorting and object identification. With fresh and appealing illustrations and a striking design, this is a future classic for modern kids. **Colours-Shapes-Classification**

56. Soon (Libby Gleeson and Jedda Robaard)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

We're waiting for our baby. Wait, wait, wait. 'When will the baby come, Mum?' 'Soon.' A delightful story that perfectly captures the excitement of waiting for the arrival of a new baby. **New Baby-Family Unit-Patience**

57. I'll Always Be Older Than You (Jane Godwin and Sara Acton)\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

A big sister marvels at how she will always be older than her baby brother, no matter how much he grows. A celebration of the bond between siblings from acclaimed author Jane Godwin, with glorious illustrations from Sara Acton. **Family Unit-New Baby-Siblings-Rhyming Text-Perspective**



58. Me and My Boots (Penny Harrison and Evie Barrow) \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
 In Me and My Boots, Bronte rejects the label bossy boots, and in introducing us to her family and friends, offers up alternative ways to describe assertive girls like herself. Mum calls them my brave-girl boots. My bold-as-brass, adventure boots. I'm off to snare the dragon boots. I'll drag him home for tea. My teacher calls them bustling boots. My buckle-down-to-business boots. I'm the best at jobs boots. I'm busy as a bee. [Individuality-Difference](#)

59. Ruby Red Shoes: My Wonderful Grandmother (Kate Knapp) \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
 Let Ruby welcome you into her world as she tells you all the wonderful things about her grandmother. What's wonderful about my grandmother is she wears x-ray spectacles. She can see deep inside me and knows just what I'm feeling. Ruby Red Shoes is an aware hare who lives in a colourful caravan with her grandmother, Babushka Galina Galushka. Ruby loves her grandmother very much and thinks she is wonderful for all sorts of very special reasons. What's wonderful about your grandmother? [Mother's Day-New Baby-Grandparents](#)

60. Australia Under the Sea 1, 2, 3 (Frané Lessac) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Count from one giant whale shark all the way to twelve tired seahorses, meeting and learning about plenty of playful Australian sea creatures along the way. With vibrant artwork, simple facts about each creature and a gentle conservation message, Australia Under the Sea 1, 2, 3 is a celebration of twelve fish and friends living in our seas. [Ocean Creatures-Counting](#)

61. Respect (Aunty Fay Muir and Lisa Kennedy) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Our Way is old. Older than the red earth. Older than flickering stars. Our way is respect. A tender, thoughtful story reminding us to respect others and respect ourselves. Part of the Our Place series which welcomes children to culture. 'Dream team Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson, who previously brought us the excellent Nganga: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words and phrases, have collaborated with artist Lisa Kennedy to deliver this absolutely exquisite picture book. [Aboriginal Studies-Culture-Identity-Respect-Family Unit-Tradition](#)

62. Bin Chicken (Kate Temple and Ronojoy Ghosh) \$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~
 Diving in dumpsters, traipsing through trash! Rummaging through rubbish, making a splash! 'Revolting!' they snort, starting to sicken, 'Trash Turkey! Dumpster Duck! BIN CHICKEN!' One bird's trash is another bird's treasure-find out why the ibis is the queen of the rubbish pile! [Adaptation-Nature-Pollution-Environment-Survival](#)

63. Pink! (Margaret Wild and Judith Rossell) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Pink was born to stand out Pink is a small dinosaur who stands out from the crowd. Hide-and-seek is her favourite game, but her colour means she's always the first one to be found. She doesn't want to be pink anymore ... until her difference helps her friends find their way home again. An adorable new picture book about accepting yourself and finding your strengths. [Acceptance-Difference-Diversity-Friendship](#)

64. Ten Little Figs (Rhiân Williams and Nathaniel Eckstrom) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Ten little figs are on my tree. I love figs and they're all for me. Ten Little Figs is a joyful rhyming picture book about a child keeping careful watch of the figs on the fig tree in his backyard. With his dog by his side, he counts down the number of figs as they are taken by various hungry Australian animals (flying fox, finches, green ants and others) until only one fig is left. Who will get that very last fig? Luckily Dad comes to the rescue and surprises his little one with the very last fig. [Counting](#)

65. Sometimes Cake (Tamsin Ainslie and Edwina Wyatt) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Christopher Robin had Pooh. Calvin had Hobbes. Audrey has Lion. This is the story of two friends learning the joy of celebrating the every day because sometimes it's important to enjoy things like Tuesdays, coconuts, orange, purple, and lions. [Friendship-Positive Thinking-Mental Health-Celebration](#)

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS: PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR (66-82)

66. Biscuit Maker, The (Liz Anelli and Sue Lawson) \$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~
 Benedict Stanley lives alone with his cat in Mavin Road where families hustle, joggers puff and workers scurry to the train. There's no time for hellos or chats. So Benedict begins making biscuits to mark moments in all their lives, leaving them secretly at their doors. People start talking. Who is this mysterious biscuit maker? When Benedict falls ill, young Rory, the only person to know his secret, gathers the residents of Mavin Road and brings them to his door. [Community-Kindness-Friendship-Baking](#)

67. I Saw Pete and Pete Saw Me (Evie Barrow and Maggie Hutchings) \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 When you are small you can see things that grown-ups are too busy to notice . . . Everyone walks right past Pete - except for one little boy. He notices Pete's drawings, and big smile, and soon he has a new friend. When Pete gets sick, the boy wants to help. But how do you help someone get better when they don't have a home? A heartfelt, moving story about the importance of really seeing the world around us and the power in tiny acts of kindness. [Homelessness-Friendship-Kindness](#)

68. **Wolfred (Nick Bland)** \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Fancy Pants Tower is the biggest, shiniest building in the city. And Wolfred operates the lift. Each day he silently observes the extraordinary things he sees as he passes between the floors of the tower. To his boss, Wolfred isn't important enough to notice. But Wolfred notices everything – big, small, normal or very, very strange ... [Rhyming Text-Aspirations-Writers-Stories](#)
69. **Give Me Some Space (Philip Bunting)** \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
 "Una dreams of a life in Space. Life on Earth is just so so-so. But how will she get there? And will she complete her mission to discover life in Space? And did she remember to feed Neil the goldfish?" [STEAM-Science-Space-Space Exploration-Determination](#)
70. **Who Am I? (Philip Bunting)** \$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~
 Am I my body? Am I my mind? Who am I? Take a trip into deepest inner space to answer one of life's biggest questions. This is a book for anyone who has ever paused to wonder exactly who is wondering. [Humour-Identity-Philosophy](#)
71. **Wombat (Philip Bunting)** \$17.99 ~~\$14.39~~
 A rhythmic, read-aloud (and rather silly) burrow into the unseen world of the wombat. [Rhyming Text-Humour](#)
72. **Littlelight (Kelly Canby)** \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 When bricks start to go missing from the town's four walls, the mayor whips his citizens into a frenzy of aggravation. But when the town's people find the thief, and her motive, they discover perhaps it is the mayor who is the problem. Illustrated in moody black and white with dynamic neon highlights, this is a thought-provoking tale of tolerance and acceptance. [Community-Tolerance-Acceptance](#)
73. **Diamonds (Armin Greder)** \$29.99 ~~\$23.99~~
 Mama, if I was to dig a hole in our garden, would I find a diamond? No, darling, there are no diamonds here. Where are diamonds, then? Oh, in other countries. In Africa for example ... A powerful parable that explores how the desire for endless riches perpetuates chains of inequality and corruption. [Parable-Inequality-Corruption-Ethics-Racism-Slavery-Diamond Mining](#)
74. **Sing Me the Summer (Alison Lester and Jane Godwin)** \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Splash into summer with this glorious love letter to the seasons. Combining Jane Godwin's sparkling text and Alison Lester's whimsical watercolours, Sing Me the Summer celebrates those precious everyday moments that stay with us forever. [Seasons-Summer-Autumn-Winter-Spring-Nature-Rhyming Text](#)
75. **Colin Cockroach Goes to Caloundra (Chris McKimmie)** \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Past the mountains where the dinosaurs used to roam. Past the big pineapple. Surfin' at the beach. Dancin' at the disco. Making new friends. Missing old ones. Colin's accidental holiday has to come to an end. He needs to go home and find his family.
76. **Jelly-Boy (Christopher Nielsen and Nicole Godwin)** \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 What happens when a jellyfish falls in love with a plastic bags she mistakes for a jelly-boy? Jelly-Boy is different. He is big and strong. And not as wobbly as the other Jelly-boys. By the time Jelly-Girl discovers the dangerous truth about her new friend, it may already be too late. This is an inventive approach to tackling a conservation issue that is plaguing our world: too much plastic in the ocean. This is a story with the potential to open up an important dialogue. [Environmental Issues-Pollution-Rubbish-Waste](#)
77. **Fire Wombat, The (Danny Snell and Jackie French)** \$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~
 As the bushfire swallowed up the world they knew, a wombat shared her burrow with other animals. As the flames of the bushfire approach, one small wombat is bravely followed by other animals to the safety of her underground burrow. A story of survival, courage and friendship. [Bushfire-Survival-Sharing-Australian Animals-Rhyming Text-Hope](#)
78. **Anisa's Alphabet (Hannah Sommerville and Mike Dumbleton)** \$29.99 ~~\$23.99~~
 Come with Anisa, and see things through her eyes. In this picture book, Anisa takes the reader through the alphabet, describing her journey from an unnamed war-torn country to a refugee camp, then on to an overcrowded boat towards supposed freedom and security. [Refugees and Migration-Hope](#)
79. **My Shadow is Pink (Scott Stuart)** \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Inspired by the author's own little boy, 'Shadow's' main character likes princesses, fairies and things 'not for boys'... he soon learns (through the support of his dad) that everyone has a shadow that they sometimes feel they need to hide. This is an important book for a new generation of children (and adults alike) which exemplifies the concepts of unconditional love, respect and positive parenting. [Gender-Identity-Self Acceptance-Equality-Diversity-Gender Identity](#)
80. **Girl from the Sea (Jane Tanner and Margaret Wild)** \$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~
 Who lives in that cottage by the sea? I wish. I wish. I wish it was me. A lyrical masterpiece by Margaret Wild and Jane Tanner. A poetic ghost story with stunning images from two of Australia's finest children's book creators.



81. Hello Jimmy! (Anna Walker)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

One day, a parrot appears on the doorstep. His name is Jimmy. Dad thinks Jimmy is amazing. He's loud, he's funny and he's full of surprises! But Jack doesn't like surprises. Not at all. A tender, touching story of a young boy and his father; of what comes between them and what brings them together. [Separation-Relationships-Mental Health-Change-Love-Acceptance-Family-Dads](#) (RRP) (School)

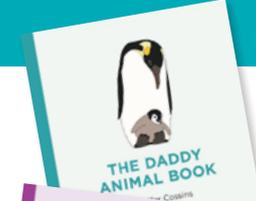


82. Good Question: A Tale Told Backwards (Annie White and Sue Whiting)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Have you ever wondered why Henny Penny thought the sky was falling? Well, here's a story that might just give you the answer. Told from Fox's point of view this magical tale links fairy story and nursery rhyme characters in a delightful, funny and quirky way. All Fox wants is a tasty meal to fill his hungry belly. But he keeps wandering into the WRONG stories. No dinner for him – just more trouble! Will Fox ever find the RIGHT story? [Twisted Fairytales-Perception-Humour](#)

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS: EVE POWNALL AWARD FOR INFORMATION BOOKS (83-90)



83. Daddy Animal Book, The (Jennifer Cossins)

\$9.99 ~~\$7.99~~

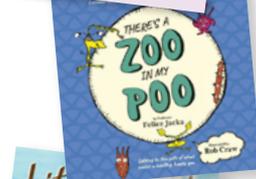
Did you know that a daddy gorilla is called a silverback and a baby gorilla is called an infant? Or that a daddy turkey is called a gobbler and a baby turkey is called a poult? THE DADDY ANIMAL BOOK is an adorable and informative picture book about baby animals and their dads that is perfect for Father's Day, from the author of the CBCA Notable THE BABY ANIMAL BOOK and the bestselling 101 COLLECTIVE NOUNS.



84. Mummy Animal Book, The (Jennifer Cossins)

\$9.99 ~~\$7.99~~

Did you know that a mother peacock is called a peahen and a baby peacock is called a peachick? THE MUMMY ANIMAL BOOK is an adorable and informative picture book about mummy animals and their babies that is perfect for Mother's Day, from the author of the CBCA Notable THE BABY ANIMAL BOOK.



85. There's a Zoo in my Poo (Felice Jacka and Rob Crow)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Did you know that trillions of tiny bugs live in and on all of us? And there's a Zoo of bugs in our poo. But which are the good bugs and which are the bad? What should we eat to keep our good bugs happy and our body strong? Get to the guts of what you need to know about you and your poo. Get ready for a journey inside the most exciting of places ... YOU! [Health-Gut Health](#)



86. Little Lon (Andrew Kelly and Mark Jackson)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Little Lon scrapes back the layers of history to show how people lived and worked in a post settlement Australian city. Behind the grand buildings of the big streets was Little Lon. A working-class district of little houses and narrow lanes, bursting with life and the stories of the people who lived there. The poor of the time are not often celebrated in traditional histories, but Little Lon shows us something of the way people really lived. [Australian History-Settlement-Multicultural-Community-Belonging](#)



87. Saltie Mumma (Sandra Kendall)

\$25.99 ~~\$20.79~~

Way up north in the Territory, scary creatures swim in the rivers and the sea. BIG enough, FIERCE enough to even eat me. Saltie Mumma is lurking, watchful, hungry, and cranky, but why is she so busy and what is she protecting? [Australian Animals-Northern Territory-Crocodiles-Habitats](#)



88. Australia's Wild Weird Wonderful Weather

(Stephanie Owen Reeder and Tania McCartney)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

In Australia's Wild Weird Wonderful Weather, readers are introduced to the wide range of weather in Australia, with bite-size pieces of information presented alongside graphic illustrations to entice young readers. Older readers will enjoy the detailed explanations about everything weather, from what causes certain phenomena to reading weather maps, exploring the climate of the past and preparing for the climate of the future. [Australia-Weather-Extreme Weather-Climate Change](#)

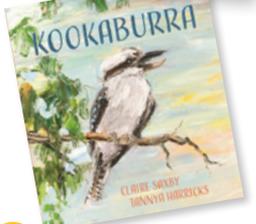


89. Will the Wonderkid: Treasure Hunter of the Australian Outback

(Stephanie Owen Reeder)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

It's December 1914, and young Will Hutchison heads off into the South Australian desert in search of gold with his father, two other explorers and six camels. Their expedition doesn't go according to plan, and finding water becomes their prime concern. In a desperate bid to survive, the men ride off on their camels to look for water, leaving Will alone at their campsite. But teenager Will, is not content with babysitting pack camels, and so he leaves the safety of the campsite to search for water. Resourceful and resilient, Will, not only survives against the odds but also makes a truly remarkable discovery in this true story from Australia's past. [Australian History-Explorers-Survival-Ghan-Opals-Afghans-Camels-Deserts-Coober Pedy](#)



90. Kookaburra (Claire Saxby and Tanya Harricks)

\$26.99 ~~\$21.59~~

An exciting new addition to the narrative nonfiction series Nature Storybooks, about kookaburras. In the crinkled shadows night-dwellers yawn, day-creatures stretch and Kookaburra laughs. Kook-kook-kook. Kak-kak-kak. The team behind Dingo is back again with a new addition to the Nature Storybooks series. The kookaburra, perhaps Australia's best-loved bird, is shown in all her glory in a stunning and vivid landscape. Follow along as Kookaburra finds food for her young and goes searching for a nest with her mate. [Australian Animals-Birds-Kookaburra](#)

CBC NOTABLE BOOKS: OLDER READERS (91-99)

(In alphabetical order by Author)

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

Note: Unless otherwise indicated these titles are not suitable for Primary-aged readers

(RRP) (School)

91. F Team, The (Rawah Arja)

\$22.99 ~~\$18.39~~

Meet Tariq Nader, leader of 'The Wolf Pack' at Punchbowl High, who has been commanded by the new principal to join a football competition with his mates in order to rehabilitate the public image of their school. When the team is formed, Tariq learns there's a major catch – half of the team is made up of white boys from Cronulla, aka enemy territory – and he must compete with their strongest player for captaincy of the team. At school Tariq thinks he has life all figured out until he falls for a new girl called Jamila, who challenges everything he thought he knew. At home, his outspoken ways have brought him into conflict with his family. Now, with complications on all fronts, he has to dig deep to control his anger, and find what it takes to be a leader. [Age 14+](#) [Culture-Friendship-Family-Rugby](#)

92. Future Girl (Asphyxia)

\$24.99 ~~\$19.99~~

Future Girl explores what it means to come of age as a Deaf teenager, against the backdrop of a near-future Melbourne on the brink of environmental catastrophe. Future Girl is the art journal of sixteen-year-old Piper, a visual extravaganza of text, paint, collage and drawings, woven into a deeply engaging coming-of-age story. [Age 14+](#) [Coming of Age-Environmental Issues-Deafness-Own Voice](#)

93. When It Drops (Alex Dyson)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Sixteen-year-old songwriter and aspiring social outcast Caleb Clifford fills his world with music, but – like most things – keeps his songs to himself. That is until his little brother leaks Caleb's most personal track online; a track that's quite obviously about his secret crush. Having his innermost feelings (accompanied by a funky bassline) go viral is not Caleb's idea of a good time. But is this the end of everything, or the start? A hilarious and touching coming-of-age debut novel from ARIA award-winning triple j host Alex Dyson about family, friends, fame, and the importance of never leaving your computer unattended. [Age 14+](#) [Relationships-Social Media-Music-Acceptance](#)

94. Deep Water (Sarah Epstein)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

HENRY WEAVER IS MISSING. Three months ago, thirteen-year-old Henry disappeared from The Shallows during a violent storm, leaving behind his muddy mountain bike at the train station. MASON WEAVER IS TRAPPED. While Mason doesn't know who he is or what he's capable of, he knows the one thing binding him to this suffocating small town is his younger brother, Henry. CHLOE BAXTER WANTS ANSWERS. Why would Henry run away without telling her? One of Chloe's friends knows something and she's determined to find out the truth. As Chloe wades into dangerous waters and Mason's past emerges, a chilling question ripples to the surface: how far would you go to keep a secret? [Age 14+](#) [Friendship-Mystery-Trust-Betrayal](#)

95. Catch Me If I Fall (Barry Jonsberg)

\$16.99 ~~\$13.59~~

Ash and Aiden Delatour are identical twins, living a privileged lifestyle with loving parents. In a world that has fallen apart at the seams, they want for nothing. All they have to do is be there for each other, no matter what. But after Aiden suffers a terrible injury, he isn't the same brother Ash always relied on. Something has changed, and it will lead to a discovery that will turn their whole world upside down. [Age 10+](#) [Twins-Change-Accident-Injury](#)

96. Please Don't Hug Me (Kay Kerr)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Erin is looking forward to schoolies, at least she thinks she is. But her plans are going awry. She's lost her job at Surf Shack after an incident that clearly was not her fault, and now she's not on track to have saved enough money. Her licence test went badly, which was also not her fault- she followed the instructor's directions perfectly. And she's missing her brother, Rudy, who left almost a year ago. But now that she's writing letters to him, some things are beginning to make sense. Kay Kerr's Please Don't Hug Me depicts life on the cusp of adulthood-and on the autism spectrum-and the complexities of finding out and accepting who you are and what's important to you. [Age 15+](#) [Autism](#)

97. Before the Beginning (Anna Morgan)

\$19.99 ~~\$15.99~~

Schoolies week: that strange in-between time when teenagers move from school into the adult world. It's a week when anything is possible, and everything can change. Grace is questioning everything she thought about herself, and has opted not to join her clique of judgemental friends for schoolies, instead tagging along with her brother Casper and his friends. Casper, an artist, is trying to create the perfect artwork for his uni application folio. Overachieving, anxiety-ridden Noah is reeling from a catastrophe that might have ruined his ATAR result. And Elsie is just trying to figure out how to hold their friendship group together. On the first night of the trip, they meet Sierra, a mysterious girl with silver-grey hair and a magnetic personality. All of them are drawn to her for different reasons, and she persuades them to abandon the cliched schoolies experience in favour of camping with her on a remote, uninhabited island. On that island, each of them will find answers to their questions. But what does Sierra want from them? [Age 14+](#) [Coming of Age-Suspense](#)

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98. Left-Handed Booksellers of London, The (Garth Nix)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Eighteen-year-old art student Susan Arkshaw arrives in London in search of her father. But before she can question crime boss Frank Thringley he's turned to dust by the prick of a silver hatpin in the hands of the outrageously attractive Merlin. Merlin is one of the youngest members of a secret society of booksellers with magical powers who police the mythic Old World wherever it impinges on the New World - in addition to running several bookshops, of course! Merlin also has a quest of his own: to find the Old World entity who arranged the murder of his mother. Age 14+ Family-Magic-Fantasy-Adventure-Bookshops

99. Loner (Georgina Young)

\$24.99 \$19.99

Lona has dropped out of art school and no one is quite sure why, least of all Lona. It's just that nothing in her life seems to make sense anymore, including art. She spends her days sneaking into the darkroom at her old school to develop photographs and her nights DJ-ing at the local roller disco. Her aimlessness terrifies her, but everyone else appears oblivious to her fears: her parents are bewildered by her sudden lack of ambition, her brother is preoccupied with his new girlfriend, and her best friend Tab seems to be drifting away. Even a budding relationship with a bass-playing, cello-shredding med student isn't enough to shake her existential angst. Lona knows it's up to her to figure out what she wants to do with her life: the problem is, she has absolutely no idea where to start. Age 15+ Coming of Age-Friendship-Relationships-Adulthood



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