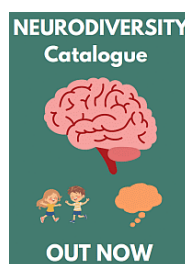


CBCA NOTABLE AND SHORTLISTED BOOKS 2025

20% SCHOOL DISCOUNT off the RRP



CHILDREN'S BOOKWEEK: 16-23 August 2025

Bookweek Theme: Book An Adventure

Winners announced Friday 15th August 2025

Servicing schools
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POSTAGE

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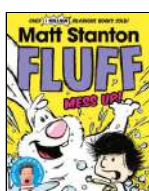


1. AGGIE FLEA STEALS THE SHOW! [AGGIE FLEA](#)

[Tania Ingram](#) | [A Yi](#) (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 7+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

Meet Aggie Flea – She's a girl with a big imagination ... that lands her in even bigger trouble! The school play is almost here and Aggie wants the role of Web Legs, the superhero spider from Mars! But Aggie's stage time has always been a disaster! Will she break a leg or break the set?!

Categories: [Imagination](#), [Adventure](#), [Mystery](#), [Humour](#), [Community](#), [Integrity](#), [Teamwork](#)

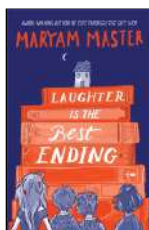


2. FLUFF: MESS UP! [FLUFF](#)

[Matt Stanton](#) | Paperback | Age 8+ | **RRP \$15.99** | **School Price \$12.79**

The hilarious and unmissable new series about Gilbert, a boy whose best friend is an imaginary giant fluffy bunny called Fluff, from the creator who brought us The Odds, Funny Kid and Bored. Sometimes it's better to clean up your own mess ... Fluff and Gilbert have made an enormous mess. It's bedlam and they really don't want to get their hands dirty, but then they have a brilliant idea and go into business. Can Fluff and Gilbert's enterprise become a global cleaning empire and literally clean up? From the creator of Funny Kid and The Odds comes a seriously messy adventure!

Categories: [Humour](#), [Friendship](#)



3. LAUGHTER IS THE BEST ENDING

[Maryam Master](#) | Paperback | Age 10+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

Zee is a loner. She likes to read Oscar Wilde and watch documentaries all day which, according to her parents, is not normal for 13 year olds. So they decide to send her on a five-day holiday camp, hoping she'll make 'at least one friend'. But Zee would rather take a bath in Tabasco sauce than attend a camp called Youth Fusion. Especially when the fearsome camp leader, Madam Augustus, declares a bonding game called 'Murder in the Dark'. With influencer Tiffanee and super-nerds Jonah and Moses, Zee soon finds herself in the middle of a hair-raising mystery, hurling her into some fierce detective work and bringing her face to face with the notorious Old Bat Viv.

Categories: [Family](#), [Hope](#), [Identity](#), [Mystery](#), [Humour](#)



4. FUNDRAISER FAIL SASKIA SPARK-LEE

[Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg](#) | [Sofya Karmazina](#) (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 6+ | **RRP \$15.99** | **School Price \$12.79**

Saskia Spark-Lee loves animals – she’s almost adopted a whole zoo-worth! But when Da and Dee say they can’t add another to the collection, she must come up with a new plan to continue supporting her furry friends. With some help from Nanna, and the amazing fundraising skills of her friends, Saskia may find where there’s a will there’s a way!

Categories: [Animal Welfare](#), [Activism](#), [Friendship](#)



5. TIGG AND THE BANDICOOT BUSHRANGER

[Jackie French](#) | Paperback | Age 11+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

Orphaned twelve-year-old Tigg is the Bandicoot Bushranger, the youngest bushranger on the Ballarat goldfields in 1859. When a robbery goes wrong, Tigg must flee in disguise as one of the tens of thousands of Chinese men and boys braving heat, thirst, starvation and murderous attacks on the long road from Robe in South Australia to the goldfields in Victoria. But even further danger threatens. Who has offered a large sum of money for Tigg’s capture? And is the mysterious Henry Lau a friend or enemy? To be safe, Tigg must solve the greatest mystery of all. Who is Tigg?

Categories: [Australian History](#), [Bushrangers](#), [Gold Rush](#), [Robbery](#), [Mystery](#)



6. TO AND FRO

[Anton Clifford-Motopi](#) | Paperback | Age 9+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

Sam thinks he’s a weird-looking white kid with an afro. He lives with his white mum (annoying but not smelly) and brown dog Trevor (smelly but not annoying). He’s never met his father. He just knows that his father is black. But a surprise visit has Sam questioning who he really is. Is he a white kid with a black dad? Or a black kid with white skin? Or half-black and half-white? Not only does Sam want to know these answers, he has to know them to finish his annoying homework and perform in the school concert. But how can he make his outside match his insides if he doesn’t know who he is? A delightfully funny story about family and identity, and what it means to be truly Sam.

Categories: [Family](#), [Identity](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS:

EARLY CHILDHOOD

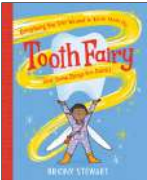


7. DON'T WORRY, FELIX

| [Chloe Bennet](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Felix has a problem. It's a big, red, round problem. A worry balloon that follows him everywhere he goes...As his heart thumps, stomach twists and toes wiggle, it grows and grows and stops him from doing what he wants to do.

Categories: [Starting School](#)

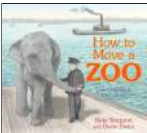


8. EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TOOTH

[Briony Stewart](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

Every single minute, of every single day, a child somewhere loses a baby tooth. But what happens to all those teeth? They are collected by the tooth fairy, of course! Or the tooth fairies – because there is more than just one tooth fairy. In fact, there are millions! Like us, they are all different. And now there is an informative and fully illustrated guide that's jam-packed with answers to every child's tooth fairy questions, like: What do tooth fairies eat? Where do they live? How do they collect your tooth – and what on earth do they do with it?

Categories: [Humour](#), [Magic](#), [Fairies](#)



9. HOW TO MOVE A ZOO: INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

[Kate Simpson](#) | [Owen Swan](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

It was still dark when Mr Miller opened the gates of the old zoo, but he wasn't scared because he wasn't alone. He was with Jessie the elephant and together they were going to walk from Moore Park, through the city streets, to the ferry at Fort Macquarie. Jessie was moving to her spacious new home in the soon-to-be-opened Taronga Zoological Park. Jessie's surprising journey was unlike any other and it brought a little warmth to the city on that brisk September morning in 1916.

Categories: [Animal Welfare](#), [Animal Stories](#), [Zoos](#), [Elephants](#), [Australian History](#)



10. ONE LITTLE DUNG BEETLE

[Rhian Williams](#) | [Heather Potter](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Follow along as One Little Dung Beetle counts all kinds of fascinating creepies and crawlies. How many can you see?

Categories: [Counting](#), [Rhyming Text](#), [Beetles](#), [Insects](#), [Minibeasts](#)

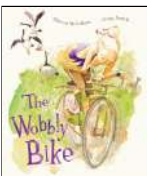


11. SPIRO

[Anna McGregor](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$27.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Spiro's formula for spidery success: 11% hunger to succeed (or actual hunger) 34% trying again and again ... and again! 53% giving it another shot And 2% spider silk. A hilarious tale of one spider's determined search for a decent meal from award winning author and illustrator Anna McGregor.

Categories: [Determination](#), [Persistence](#), [Perseverance](#), [Spiders](#), [Insects](#), [Humour](#)



12. WOBBLY BIKE, THE

[Darren McCallum](#) | [Craig Smith](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$25.99** | **School Price \$20.79**

How do you fix a wobbly bike? Could it be the tyres, the terrain, or maybe it might be a new rider? A joyful, multi-layered story, celebrating the unique culture of Australia's urban "top end", the precious roles of grandparents in families, the fact that kindness and encouragement, combined with practice, are the key to success, bound together with gentle humour... because laughter is always the best medicine.

Categories: [Rhyming Text](#), [Cycling](#), [Bike Riding](#), [Exercise](#), [Determination](#), [Family](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS: PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR



13. LEAF CALLED GREAF, A

[Kelly Canby](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

A stunning new picture book by award-winning author and illustrator Kelly Canby that gently introduces the concept of grief to children. Bear is all alone. His brothers and sisters have left him. Bear embraces his grief in the form of Greaf – the greenest, most beguiling leaf Bear has ever seen. Bear holds Greaf tight. But as the season wanes, Greaf changes, and so too does Bear. A poignant, lyrical story gently touching on the changing nature of sorrow in the aftermath of loss.

Categories: [Grief](#), [Loss](#), [Hope](#), [Memories](#), [Lifecycles](#), [Mental Health](#), [Optimism](#)



14. AFLOAT

[Kirli Saunders](#) | [Freya Blackwood](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Against a backdrop of a changed environment, an Elder leads a child along the waterways, sharing her People's knowledge and gathering community along the way. Afloat is an uplifting and inspiring picture book that uses the practice of weaving as a powerful metaphor for the honouring and teaching of First Nations wisdom, and the coming together of all people to survive, thrive and create a more hopeful future.

Categories: [Environmental Issues](#), [Climate Change](#), [First Nations](#), [Community](#), [Unity](#), [Togetherness](#), [Tradition](#), [Homelessness](#), [Social Issues](#)

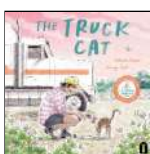


15. GARDEN OF BROKEN THINGS, THE

[Freya Blackwood](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

One day, curious Sadie follows a cat into the tangled vines behind the lonely house at Number 9, Ardent Street. Deep in the undergrowth, past all the twisted, rusted things, Sadie finds the cat sitting on the lap of a woman, bent with time and weariness. Sadie has found the Garden of Broken Things.

Categories: [Friendship](#), [Change](#), [Curiosity](#), [Listening](#), [Relationships](#)



16. TRUCK CAT, THE

[Deborah Frenkel](#) | [Danny Snell](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Some cats are house cats. Some are apartment cats. But Tinka is a truck cat. Tinka lives everywhere. Along with his human, Yacoub, Tinka travels roads wide and narrow, near and distant. But no matter how much they travel, home feels very far away – for both of them. Yacoub drives his truck to make a living, learning the landscape of a new country along the way, and longing for connection. When Tinka and Yacoub are unexpectedly separated, they are determined to find their way back to each other – and, in doing so, might find more than they expected ...

Categories: [Immigration](#), [Family](#), [Culture](#), [Pets](#), [Cats](#), [Identity](#), [Home](#), [Belonging](#)



17. THESE LONG-LOVED THINGS

[Josh Pyke](#) | [Ronojoy Ghosh](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

Where do they go, these long-loved things? These stories told, these songs we sing? Once a memory is made, it remains. Even when it is forgotten. From the creators of Family Tree, comes this moving story of love, loss and the power of shared memories.

Categories: [Alzheimers](#), [Dementia](#), [Memory](#), [Love](#), [Loss](#), [Family](#), [Storytelling](#)



18. WE LIVE IN A BUS

[David Petzold](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

We live in a bus. She's called Gracie Joy Rufus Bean (we couldn't agree on a name). Gracie Joy Rufus Bean has six wheels and a door that opens when you push a button, tic-shhh! Join one family as they enjoy life on the road – camping under the stars, listening to nature, and making new friends along the way.

Categories: [Camping](#), [Outback](#), [Family](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Adventure](#), [Environment](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS:

EVE POWNALL AWARD FOR INFORMATION BOOKS



19. **ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE**

[Aunty Fay Muir](#) | [Sue Lawson](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$27.99** | **School Price \$22.39**

From the very first protest of January 26th as a Day of Mourning in 1938, to the Pilbara Strike of 1946, to the struggle for the right to vote and be counted; the fight for justice for First Nations people takes many forms. *Always Was, Always Will Be* takes a closer look at some of the iconic First Peoples protest movements of the last 200 years, celebrating the strength, wisdom, and bravery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people defending their land and asserting their right to self-determination through history.

Categories: [Australian History](#), [Aboriginal Studies](#), [First Nations](#), [Activism](#), [Bravery](#), [History](#)



20. **DESIGN AND BUILDING ON COUNTRY** FIRST KNOWLEDGES

[Alison Page](#) | [Blak Douglas](#) (Illustrator) | Paperback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

What do you need to know to prosper as a people for 65,000 years or more? Join designer and artist Alison Page alongside anthropologist and architect Paul Memmott as they share some of the incredible inventions created by the oldest continuing culture in the world.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [First Nations](#), [Culture](#), [STEM](#), [Inventions](#), [Technology](#)



21. **FLORA: AUSTRALIA'S MOST CURIOUS PLANTS**

[Tania McCartney](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

When it comes to flora, Australia is a land of diversity. From rainforests to deserts, mountains to the seashore, 90 per cent of our plant life is unique to this ancient land. Treasures like our wattles, eucalypts, grass trees and banksias are part of our heritage and identity and they still flourish here today, on the oldest landmass on Earth. *Flora* celebrates and highlights these diverse and curious plants, looking into the history, quirks and uses of our native plants, and how vital they are for our unique ecosystems.

Categories: [Flora](#), [Plants](#)



22. **I AM A MAGPIE, I AM A CURRAWONG**

[Bridget Farmer](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

From magpies to currawongs, and finches to thornbills, here are a few little details to look out for when in Australian gardens, parks, beaches or bush. With simple rhymes and stunning illustrations this book is a beautiful beginning to a bird loving journey.

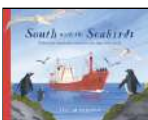


23. **MAKING THE SHRINE: STORIES FROM VICTORIA'S WAR MEM**

[Laura J Carroll](#) | Paperback | **RRP \$40.00** | **School Price \$31.99**

Laura J Carroll's deeply affecting graphic novel offers an intimate portrait of the Shrine of Remembrance and a nuanced understanding of war's impact on the Australian national psyche. Exquisitely rendered, with touches of whimsical humour, this is a book that will appeal across generations.

Categories: [Graphic Novel](#)



24. **SOUTH WITH THE SEABIRDS**

[Jess McGeachin](#) | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

In 1959, four scientists travelled to an island at the edge of the world. They were greeted by giant seabirds, snorting seals and penguins as far as the eye could see. Their names were Hope Black, Mary Gilham, Susan Ingham and Isobel Bennett, and they were the first female scientists to join an Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition. Join their journey south and discover their incredible legacy.

Categories: [Narrative Non Fiction](#), [Conservation](#), [Environment](#), [Exploration](#), [Ecosystems](#), [Marine Biology](#), [Antarctica](#), [Gender Equality](#), [Women's Rights](#)

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS:

OLDER READERS



25. WRECK OF SEABIRDS, A

Karleah Olson | Paperback | RRP \$34.99 | School Price \$27.99

Shortlisted for the Fogarty Literary Award, this is a confronting and compelling read from the very first chapter. Both grappling with grief and loss, Briony and Ren are brought together in their hometown, where Ren has returned to care for his dying father and Briony remains hopeful of finding her missing sister, Sarah. Meanwhile, Sarah and her best friend Aria are hopelessly trapped on a remote island off the coast, and nobody has a clue where they have gone. This tightly written, atmospheric novel captures the natural environment and explores the depths of human emotion.

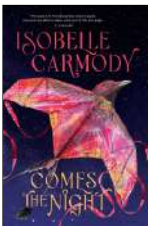


26. BIRDY

Sharon Kernot | Paperback | Age 14+ | RRP \$22.99 | School Price \$18.39

Maddy is mute. Since the Incident she has barely spoken. And now she and her mother and brother are staying in a farmhouse on an old apricot orchard not far from town. It's a chance to rest and recuperate-or a way to hide further away from the world. Alice is waiting. Since Birdy, her darling daughter, disappeared forty-five years ago, she has sat in her house waiting for her to come home. Alice says Maddy reminds her of Birdy, and Maddy feels a strange connection to the long-lost girl. In the quiet not-speaking and waiting, amid the clutter of the old woman's house, Maddy and Alice slowly become friends. Until Maddy takes something that's not hers.

Categories: Verse Novel, Grief, Pain, Loss, Shame, Kindness

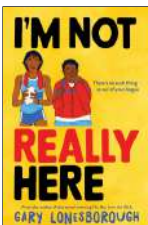


27. COMES THE NIGHT

Isobelle Carmody | Paperback | Age 14+ | RRP \$24.99 | School Price \$19.99

Will lives with his father in a future domed Canberra where citizens are safe from extreme weather events, dangerous solar radiation and civil unrest. He does not question his carefully controlled existence until the recurrence of an old nightmare propels him on a dangerous quest. Gradually Will discovers his dreams hold cryptic clues that lead him into a shadowy alternate dimension. Here he must grapple with dark forces that operate in both worlds, with the help of his best friend Ender, her brilliant but difficult twin sister Magda, and a mysterious gift from his uncle.

Categories: Psychological Thriller, Suspense, Fantasy

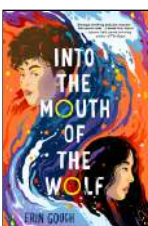


28. I'M NOT REALLY HERE

Gary Lonesborough | Paperback | Age 14+ | RRP \$19.99 | School Price \$15.99

A wonderful coming-of-age queer romance from the multi award-winning author of The Boy from the Mish. Jonah is the new kid in a country town. When he joins the local footy team to be closer to his crush, Harley, it feels like a fresh start - but he still has to navigate new friendships, an unresolved past, and the same body image issues he's always had.

Categories: Romance, Friendship, LGBTQIA, Family Unit, Grief, Loss, New Beginnings, Football, Crush



29. INTO THE MOUTH OF THE WOLF

Erin Gough | Paperback | Age 15+ | RRP \$22.99 | School Price \$18.39

Iris lives on the run with her mother, Rohan. They're travelling to escape the earthquakes, though of course that's impossible. And they're being followed. One day, Rohan insists Iris repeat the phrase in bocca al lupo: into the mouth of the wolf. The next day, Rohan's vanished, leaving no clues about where she's gone besides a contact in an unknown town. Entirely alone and fearing the worst, Iris reaches out to a stranger for help. When Lena gets Iris's message, she's busy panic-studying for year 12 and helping run her family's hostel. She's intrigued by Iris, and can't deny there's a spark between them - but she's also worried. A dead body has just washed up at the beach in Glassy Bay. And Lena's old best friend - who's just returned after an unexplained absence - seems to know something about it. Missing people. Mysterious deaths. A growing attraction between two girls caught up in the search for the truth. Somehow, they're all connected. But in order to find out how - and in order to even meet each other - Iris and Lena will have to go into the mouth of the wolf ...

Categories: Dystopian, Futuristic, Relationships, LGBTQIA



30. SKIN I'M IN, THE

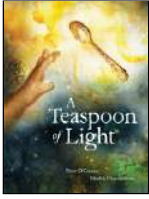
Steph Tisdell | Paperback | RRP \$26.99 | School Price \$21.59

Layla is in her final year of school. It's the last year to make sure that the next major phase of her life begins correctly because she's got big plans. All Layla wants to do is fit in and be a normal teenager but when her troubled cousin Marley comes to stay, he unwittingly challenges everything she thought she was. Plus she's trying to work out what it means to be Indigenous, she's falling in love and her best friend Amy has a new best friend. A feisty, funny and poignant novel - about being 17; being Indigenous and navigating high school, cultural and personal expectations and responsibility - by proud Yidinji woman Steph Tisdell.

Categories: Relationships, Love, Culture, Identity, Humour

CBCA SHORTLISTED BOOKS:

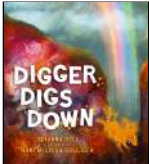
NEW ILLUSTRATOR



31. TEASPOON OF LIGHT, A

Peter O'Connor | Nisaluk Chantanakom (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.95** | **School Price \$21.56**

A story about making and saving loving memories. Marley's dream cloth reminds her of the people she loves, and of safe and happy times. When times get tough and the cloth rips in two, those memories begin to slide away. Marley must make new loving memories before she can bring back the old ones and begin to imagine the future anew.



32. DIGGER DIGS DOWN

Johanna Bell | Huni Melissa Bolliger (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Digger digs down. Digger digs deep, deep into the ground. Join happy-go-lucky Digger as he ditchs the boredom of backyard life for an underground adventure. What will he find? What won't he find? Packed with colour and hidden treasures, this is the perfect picture book for small children who love dogs, digging and discovery.

Categories: Curiosity, Adventure, Pets, Dogs



33. GROW BIG, LITTLE SEED

Bec Nanayakkara | Sarah Capon (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Exciting things were happening in Nina's home. 'While we wait,' said Mum, 'let's plant a seed and watch it grow.' When Nina plants a pumpkin seed, she imagines herself and a little sister playing in the leaves of a large pumpkin plant. Nina's mum is pregnant and it seems that Nina's dreams may soon come true. But despite Nina's loving care, her seedling stops growing as her mother's pregnancy ends early. As time goes by, her mother is pregnant again, and Nina finds the courage to plant another seed. This time, Nina's seedling grows and grows, and her family embraces a joyful surprise with not one but two rainbow babies.

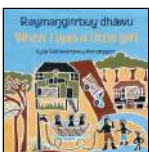
Categories: Family Unit, Grief, Loss, Pregnancy, Miscarriage



34. PEEK-A-BOO LOTTIE

Laura Holloway | Kristen Willis (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Peek a Boo is played around the world in different languages and Lottie loves playing Peek a Boo most of all! Join Lottie as she makes friends around her neighbourhood and learn a few new words along the way.

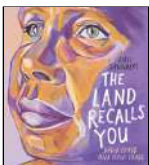


35. WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL

Kylie Gatjarrarawuy Mununggurr | Hardback | **RRP \$27.99** | **School Price \$22.39**

An artistically stunning story of Kylie Gatjarrarawuy Mununggurr's life growing up on her grandmothers Country in Raymagirr, a remote Yolu homeland in North East Arnhem Land in the Top End of Australia. Told in both Djambarrpuyand and English, Raymagirrbuy dhwu, When I was a little girl is a sweet story of the author's experiences with her grandmother and her community. From learning to grind ochre and paint, to hunting for bush honey (guku), ceremonial dances, and full-moon night fishing with a big shark, each vignette of Kylie's life is filled with humour and nostalgia for her peaceful childhood. Developed with the support of Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts centre and Kylie's mother and grandmother, young readers will experience life in Raymagirr country and gain important insights into cultural practices.

Categories: Aboriginal Studies, Dual Language, Bilingual, Dhuwal Language, Arnhem Land



36. LAND RECALLS YOU, THE

Kirli Saunders | David Cragg (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Do not mourn the hands that raised you ... Do not weep for songs of land. Honouring the Stolen Generations, and all who've been taken, The Land Recalls You is a powerful story of returning, written with love and reverence by award-winning Gunai author Kirli Saunders (OAM) and illustrated by debut Bundjalung artists David and Noni Cragg.

Categories: Aboriginal Studies, Stolen Generation, First Nations, Family, Community, Connection, Belonging

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS: YOUNGER READERS



38. COUNTDOWN TO YESTERDAY

Shirley Marr | Paperback | Age 10+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

James wishes he could go back in time. Back to when his mum and dad were together, when he had one home, when his family laughed and climbed hills and went to the movies. After meeting the enigmatic Yan, a girl who looks at the world differently, James discovers time travel might not be impossible after all. But if James can live forever in one of his six favourite memories, which one will he choose?

Categories: Family Unit, Friendship, Science, Time Travel, Past and Present



39. ELLA AND THE AMAZING FROG ORCHESTRA ELLA

Cassy Polimeni | Hykie Breeze (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 6+ | **RRP \$15.99** | **School Price \$12.79**

"Did you know frogs can find their way home? It's called a 'homing instinct' ... no matter where they are, they know where they belong. I think I know how frogs feel". Eight-year-old Ella hates her new house. She wants to be back in her old house with her best friend Viv next door ... until one day Ella discovers a secret pond in her neighbours' backyard with an orchestra of frogs! At her new school Ella meets Mai and learns about their class frog bog project. But when Ella finds out that the neighbours' secret pond is under threat Ella and Mai must come up with a plan to save the frogs before it's too late!

Categories: Adventure, Family, Neighbours, Moving House, Frogs, Rescue

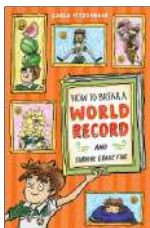


40. HELLO TWIGS, LOOK WHO'S GRUMPY GRAPHIC NOVEL HELLO TWIGS

Andrew McDonald | Ben Wood (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 5+ | **RRP \$10.99** | **School Price \$8.79**

Oh no – Stump's favourite splinter is missing! How terrible. Can Stump's twiggy friends help him get rid of his grumpy, or will he be grumpy forever?

Categories: Graphic Novel, Adventure, Friendship, Independence

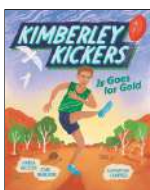


41. HOW TO BREAK A WORLD RECORD AND SURVIVE GRADE FIVE

Carla Fitzgerald | Paperback | Age 9+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

Sam is a kind and thoughtful eleven-year-old, but he's not particularly great at anything. His sister, Ava, is a soccer star, and his best friend, Vihaan, is an award-winning artist. The one thing Sam is good at is knowing all about the extraordinary feats in the Big Book of Records. When Sam is set a class project about a moment he's proud of, he can't think of anything and takes inspiration from his favourite book. He knows he'll be proud of himself if he can break a world record! But breaking a world record isn't easy. And things get even harder when someone close to Sam needs his help and he must decide- will he be good? Or be the best?

Categories: Friendship, Self Worth, Self Confidence, Humour



42. JY GOES FOR GOLD KIMBERLEY KICKERS

Carl Merrison | Samantha Campbell (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 8+ | **RRP \$15.99** | **School Price \$12.79**

I'm Jy Farrar and this is my first professional match and the dream I had to play AFL since I was a kid in outback Halls Creek has finally come true. Let me tell you the story of how I got here – about my mates, my family, growing up in the Kimberley around the bush and the red dirt and spinifex and goannas, playing footy and going to boarding school far away from home.

Categories: Sport, AFL, Football, Aboriginal Studies



43. KINDNESS PROJECT, THE

Deborah Abela | Paperback | Age 9+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

Ms Skye thinks kids can change the world with a Kindness Project. Nicolette wants to but how can she when Layla treats her like she's invisible and DJ picks on everything she says? Leaf thinks Nicolette can be a superhero. So maybe if they work together they just might do it. A heartwarming story about four kids who overcome their differences and take on the world.

Categories: Verse Novel, Differences, Kindness, Problem Solving, Cooperation, Teamwork

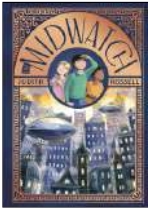


44. **LANDOVEL** **LANDOVEL**

Emily Rodda | Boxed Set | Age 9+ | **RRP \$39.99** | **School Price \$31.99**

Derry knows no other life than that of a captive on Cram's Rock, shunned by the other young prisoners for being Cram's poison taster. Until the day everything changes, when a traveller arrives, on the run from the sinister El executioners. She leaves Derry with a magical notebook full of secrets, secrets that might hold the key to Derry's destiny – and his past.

Categories: [Adventure](#), [Fantasy](#), [Quest](#), [Family](#), [Identity](#)



45. **MIDWATCH**

Judith Rossell | Hardback | Age 9+ | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Banished to the Midwatch Institute for Orphans, Runaways and Unwanted Girls, Maggie Fishbone is sure she's in for a life of drudgery. But she quickly discovers there's more to the Midwatch than meets the eye... The city shimmers with jewels and secrets, and soon Maggie is thrust into an adventure that takes her deep underground, high above the clouds and face to face with danger itself.

Categories: [Mystery](#), [Crime](#), [Adventure](#), [Orphans](#), [Teamwork](#)

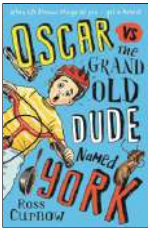


46. **MING AND ADA SPARK THE DIGITAL AGE** **GIRLS WHO CHANGED THE WORLD**

Jackie French | Paperback | Age 10+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

The fourth book in the best-selling Jackie French historical series that places girls centre stage. Ming Qong is convinced that girls have changed the world throughout history. History's sister, the mysterious Herstory, believes that the more you know about the past, the better you can understand the future. And so she now sends Ming back in time to work as a maid in an isolated English mansion to see a girl change the world in 1829. But which girl? The young mistress of the house is lying in bed blind and immobile, recovering from the measles. Abandoned by her aristocratic mother and the rest of her family, she may never walk – or even read and write – again. Ming becomes friends with another scullery maid, Hepzibah, who is desperately teaching herself to read and who longs to free slaves, as she and her parents had been. But what hope has a scullery maid? When Hepzibah is accused of a crime that might send her to the gallows, it is up to Ming to prove her innocent, as well as find the person in this lonely house who will – surprisingly – help pioneer the computer revolution. From one of the Australia's favourite writers comes an inspiring series for all the young people who will, one day, change the world.

Categories: [Time Travel](#)



47. **OSCAR VS THE GRAND OLD DUDE NAMED YORK**

Ross Curnow | Paperback | Age 9+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

Oscar's life has become a mystery. He has no idea why his grandfather bequeathed him a necklace – of all things! He could give it to Tiffany Crandle, if she actually knew he existed! The only one who does notice him is his neighbour Basil York, who apparently wants him dead – at least that's what the weird-and-definitely-not-wonderful daily booby traps he sets for him seem to imply! Things get even stranger when his grandfather's shop is burgled, and suddenly Oscar, his friend Maddie are in danger. Who knew that an old necklace would turn out to be such bait for bad guys? Oscar has more going on a kid in Year 7 should have to deal with ... and Basil York might just turn out to be the biggest mystery of all.

Categories: [Mystery](#), [Humour](#)



48. **OTHER SHADOW, THE**

Tania Ingram | Paperback | Age 10+ | **RRP \$15.99** | **School Price \$12.79**

Life has not been easy for Thomas since his dad died. His mother is acting strangely, he needs to care for his younger sister and things at school aren't great. And then there's the Other Shadow. The shadow that doesn't belong to anyone. The shadow that wants to be Thomas' friend. But who can you really trust when your world is falling apart?

Categories: [Grief](#), [Family](#), [Loss](#), [Mental Health](#), [Trust](#), [Responsibility](#)



49. **REAL PIGEONS POWER UP** **REAL PIGEONS**

Andrew McDonald | Ben Wood (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 6+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

The REAL PIGEONS are all about pigeon powers. But what happens when a CURSED HOLE opens up in the park, a TONGUE MONSTER terrorises the city, and the pigeons discover that their powers have suddenly DISAPPEARED? There's only one thing to do, and that is for the Real Pigeons to figure out where their powers come from ... so that they can hopefully get them back!

Categories: [Humour](#), [Crime](#), [Mystery](#)



50. **BREAK THE CURSE** **SHOWER LAND**

Nat Amore | James Hart (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 8+ | **RRP \$14.99** | **School Price \$11.99**

Felix hates Mondays. Dad's yelling at him to get up. His little brother, Olly, is being super annoying. So when Felix shuts the bathroom door, he wishes he could get away. He turns on the shower and ... REEEEEKKKKK! Felix finds himself standing in the middle of a field ... naked ... with an army of soldiers charging at him. Step 1- Avoid flying pitchforks! Step 2- Find some PANTS. Step 3- UM, IS THAT A DRAGON?!

Categories: [Parallel World](#), [Humour](#), [Adventure](#)



51. SIX SUMMERS OF TASH AND LEOPOLD

[Danielle Binks](#) | Paperback | Age 10+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

Alytash and Leopold – Tash and Leo – are neighbours who used to be best friends, but aren't anymore, for reasons that Leo doesn't entirely understand. But now it's the last week of Year Six and Tash is standing in Leo's front yard with a misdelivered letter – and a favour to ask. It's a request that will set off a chain of events in their little crescent in Noble Park, a suburb that is changing, and fast. As they solve an unfolding neighbourhood mystery and help Ms Shepparson, a reclusive neighbour with a tragic past, Tash and Leo each has to confront fault lines in their own recent histories and families. They will discover that friendships can grow and change, that bravery takes many forms, and that, most of all – whatever the future holds – friends and family are what matter.

Categories: [Friendship](#), [Coming Of Age](#), [Mystery](#), [Change](#), [Family](#)

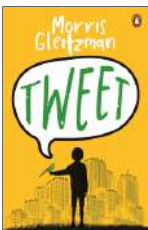


52. SMALL ACTS

[Kate Gordon](#) | Paperback | Age 8+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

Josh wants a friend but he doesn't know how to find somewhere to belong ... Ollie wants to express herself but doesn't want to be noticed ... Small Acts introduces two kids with great hearts who know that helping others can start with one small act of kindness. Josh has a plan to start with just that. So does Ollie. What Josh and Ollie don't know yet is that they need each other to make their plans work.

Categories: [Neurodiverse](#), [Neurodiversity](#), [Kindness](#), [Friendship](#), [Belonging](#)



53. TWEET

[Morris Gleitzman](#) | Paperback | Age 8+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

Birds. Lots of birds. The people of the world are puzzled. Their feathered friends are trying to tell them something, and they're not sure what it is. Then a boy and his pet budgie discover the secret. Join Jay and Clyde, and their friends Maxine and Dora, on an exciting, funny, risky journey to save their families. And every other family too.

Categories: [Friendship](#), [Family](#), [Journey](#), [Danger](#), [Birds](#)



54. TWINNING: BFFS (NOT) TOP SECRET DIARIES OF TWIN SISTERS

[Alexa Moses](#) | [Sofya Karmazina](#) (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 7+ | **RRP \$15.99** | **School Price \$12.79**

Grace and Izzy are twins—identical twins—and they're closer than BFFs. But even though they look alike, they're not similar at all! It's Harmony Day at Rocky Point Primary, and Izzy and Grace are entering the best presentation competition. But when the girls choose the same topic, the battle between the sisters is on. Who will win? And will they ever be BFFs again?

Categories: [Siblings](#), [Sisters](#), [Frindship](#), [School](#)



55. WE DO NOT WELCOME OUR TEN-YEAR-OLD OVERLORD

[Garth Nix](#) | Paperback | Age 11+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

All Kim wants to do is play Dungeons & Dragons with his friends and ride his bike around the local lake. But he has always lived in the shadow of his younger sister. Eila is a prodigy, and everyone talks about how smart she is, though in Kim's eyes, she has no common sense. So when Eila finds an enigmatic, otherworldly globe which gives her astonishing powers, Kim not only has to save his sister from herself, he might also have to save the world from his sister!

Categories: [Fantasy](#), [Thriller](#), [Science Fiction](#), [Aliens](#)



56. SATURDAY WORST WEEK EVER

[Eva Amores](#) | [Matt Cosgrove](#) (Illustrator) | Paperback | Age 8+ | **RRP \$15.99** | **School Price \$12.79**

Have you ever had a bad week? Justin Chase sure has, and this is it! He miraculously made it through the mayhem of Monday, the trauma of Tuesday and the weirdness of Wednesday. He was throttled by Thursday and frazzled by Friday! It's time for a nice, relaxing weekend, right? Wrong! Now it's Saturday and Justin has to somehow survive a zombie apocalypse ... and he lives next door to the cemetery for elite athletes!

Categories: [Humour](#)

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS:

EARLY CHILDHOOD

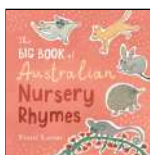


57. AMID THE SAND DUNES BOARD BOOK

Andrea Rowe | Hannah Sommerville (Illustrator) | Board Book | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

Little people love to explore little worlds! Explore the hidden spaces and sounds across the sand dunes with this beautiful board book for our smallest nature-lovers, from the CBCA award-winning creators of In the Rockpool and Jetty Jumping, Andrea Rowe and Hannah Sommerville.

Categories: [Rhyming Text](#), [Nature](#), [Beach](#)

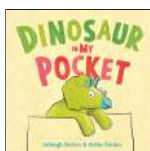


58. BIG BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN NURSERY RHYMES, THE

Frane Lessac | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Row, row, row, your boat, Gently down the creek. If you hear a Tassie devil, Don't forget to shriek! Tweaked and twisted nursery rhymes include: Twinkle, Twinkle, Southern Stars; Rock-a-Bye, Joey; D-I-N-G-O-I; This Little Froggy; Lizzie Had a Little Bat; Here We Go Round the Banksia Bush; Hop Goes the Bilby; Three Blind Moles; Old McDonald Went Out Bush ... and many more in this glorious 96-page volume, destined to be an Australian classic

Categories: [Australia](#), [Australiana](#), [Nursery Rhymes](#)



59. DINOSAUR IN MY POCKET

Ashleigh Barton | Blithe Fielden (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

James loves two things more than anything in the world: dinosaurs and miniatures. So when his class goes on an excursion to a museum and James finds a miniature dinosaur in the gift shop, he can't help himself: he steals the dinosaur. But as the day continues, James's guilt grows. And so does the dinosaur! The only thing that can cure James's guilt – and shrink the dinosaur back to its proper size – is doing the right thing. A warm-hearted cautionary tale for sticky fingers everywhere.

Categories: [Dinosaurs](#), [Excursion](#), [Guilt](#), [Cautionary Tale](#)

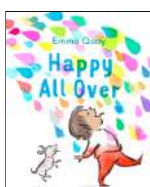


60. GOOD HAIR

Anna Sewankambo | Freda Chiu (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$25.99** | **School Price \$20.79**

Waking up can be hard, and getting ready for the day can be tricky, especially when Birungi thinks doing her hair is a chore. Luckily Dad knows the secret to good hair and he's about to share ... Because once you learn the secret to celebrating hair ... EVERY DAY is a GOOD HAIR DAY!

Categories: [Family](#)

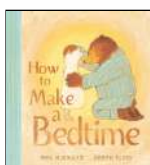


61. HAPPY ALL OVER

Emma Quay | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Happy on the inside, inside-out. Happy all over – splash it all about. From Emma Quay, the award-winning and much-loved creator of Rudie Nudie, comes an irresistible and joyous celebration of all the small joys to be found in the everyday.

Categories: [Wellbeing](#), [Kindness](#), [Happiness](#), [Positive Thinking](#), [Growth Mindset](#), [Rhyming Text](#)



62. HOW TO MAKE A BEDTIME

Meg McKinlay | Karen Blair (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Meg McKinlay and Karen Blair celebrate the bonding rituals of bedtime with this delightful story. A sloshy bath, soft pyjamas, finding teddy, a song for singing, a huggily hug – and especially a story!

Categories: [Bedtime](#)

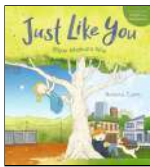


63. I AM TREE REX!

Mo Davey | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Rex loves counting and hugging every one of his twenty-one trees. So, he is absolutely heartbroken when one of his trees goes missing? Where could it be? Who could have taken it? Rex isn't the only one who wants to know. A little bird who lost her home comes to him for help. Together, and with a group of feathered friends, they hatch a plan to scare away the tree cutters once and for all. Tree Rex and his friends will inspire readers to care for the trees around them and protect them with all their might, in this hopeful story of environmental activism.

Categories: [Environmental Issues](#), [Activism](#), [Trees](#), [Teamwork](#)

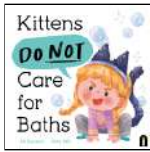


64. JUST LIKE YOU

Natashia Curtin | Hardback | **RRP \$25.99** | **School Price \$20.79**

A dual language (English and Gupapuyunu) bed time story, sharing the universal childhood experiences between generations, people and places. Natashia Curtin draws inspiration from her time growing up in Arnhem Land in this delightful celebration of the universality of childhood, and the experiences we all share and treasure, regardless of generation, place, time and space.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [Dual Language](#), [Bilingual](#), [Gupapuyunu](#), [Experiences](#)

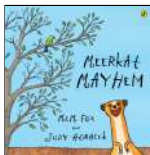


65. KITTENS DO NOT CARE FOR BATHS

Ali Rutstein | Nina Nill (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$22.99** | **School Price \$18.39**

Kittens Do Not Care for Baths is a spirited and funny picture book to encourage even the most rebellious kids to jump in the bath and get ready for sleep.

Categories: [Pets](#), [Cats](#), [Home](#), [Health](#), [Hygiene](#)



66. MEERKAT MAYHEM

Mem Fox | Judy Horacek (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

One day, after another hearty meal, Meerkat decided to leave his burrow and take a walk. But he found himself, all at once...stuck fast! 'Mother of all meerkats!' he said. And that is where the mayhem began...

Categories: [Humour](#), [Problem Solving](#), [Teamwork](#)



67. MOST AMAZING THING, THE

Ian Hayward Robinson | Matt Shanks (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

'What is the most amazing thing?' asks Henry. 'Life,' says his sister. 'The mind,' says his brother. 'The universe,' says his father. Henry can see these things are amazing, but are they the MOST amazing thing? A timely story with an enduring message about the different ways to find wonder in the world.

Categories: [Hope](#), [Family](#), [Understanding](#), [Philosophy](#), [Creativity](#)



68. NIGHT WATCH

Jodi Toering | Tannya Harricks (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Sunset beckons. Moon appears, and Tawny Frogmouth stirs. She begins her nightly flight, watching over all the animals nestled down to sleep in the burrows and branches of the beautiful Australian bush. Australia's native Tawny Frogmouths are often mistaken for owls, are like owls are nocturnal. This beautiful bedtime book follows the journey of the Tawny Frogmouths as they soar through the skies and through the night ... keeping watch over native fauna as they settle in for their safe slumber.

Categories: [Australian Animals](#), [Australiana](#), [Nocturnal](#), [Bush](#), [Bedtime](#)

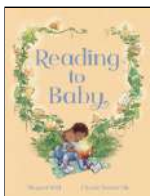


69. OVER OR UNDER?

Pip Harry | Hilary Jean Tapper (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

I'm jumping waves at the beach with Dad. If they're small I can leap over their frothy peaks. Easy! But further out, when they're big, you have to duck dive under. Maisie is learning about ocean swimming at the beach. The small waves are easy, but how will she know when to dive under the bigger ones? And will she be brave enough to try? Lucky Dad is there to help her.

Categories: [Swimming](#), [Water Safety](#), [Beach](#)

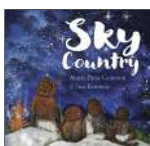


70. READING TO BABY

Margaret Wild | Hannah Sommerville (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

When Dora was born, her brothers were very excited. 'I'm going to cuddle her,' said Alex. 'I'm going to rock her to sleep,' said Liam. 'I'm going to make her laugh,' said Bruno. 'I'm going to read to her,' said Peter. Dora has doting big brothers who play with her, look after her, and guide her as she grows. But Peter reads to her, which turns out to be the greatest gift of all.

Categories: [Family Unit](#), [Siblings](#), [Books](#), [Reading](#), [Imagination](#)



71. SKY COUNTRY

Aunty Patsy Cameron | Lisa Kennedy (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$27.99** | **School Price \$22.39**

An ancient story of creation that describes two Ancestral Beings who came down from the Milky Way to create the Trouwerner (Tasmanian) landscape.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [Creation Story](#)

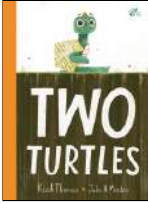


72. TO STIR WITH LOVE

Kate Mildenhall | Jess Racklyeft (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

'It's my everything cake,' Grandma says. 'My grandmother's grandmother gave it to her, and my grandmother gave it to me.' Grandma makes her everything cake for every special occasion. These days she sometimes needs a little help, but that's what grandkids are for.

Categories: [Grandparents](#), [Grandmas](#), [Family](#), [Cooking](#), [Recipes](#), [Relationships](#)



73. TWO TURTLES

Kiah Thomas | Jake a Minton (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Frank and Terrence are known for their relentless rivalry. They compete in everything, from slow-walking races to shiniest-shell contests. But one fateful day, they take things too far, with no way out but to work together. Two Turtles is a hilarious and irreverent story that explores cooperation, communication and teamwork. The surprising ending will tickle readers and spark endless discussions about complex friendships and conflicting feelings - can you be fiercely competitive and still be a good teammate?

Categories: [Competition](#), [Humour](#), [Rivalry](#), [Humour](#), [Cooperation](#), [Teamwork](#)



74. WILLOW'S GUMBOOTS

Beverley McWilliams | Helen Magisson (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

Willow loved her gumboots. She wore them wherever she went. The gumboots were there in the garden, at the beach and even at parties. But one day Willow discovered that something was wrong with her beloved gumboot. A delightful story for anyone who has ever had a favourite piece of clothing.



75. WORMS ARE OUR FRIENDS

Toni D'Alia | Mimi Purnell (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Worms Are Our Friends invites preschool readers into a stunning garden to admire the hard work of one tiny worm, and to marvel at the essential role it plays in nature. Discover how earthworms help our soil, plants and environment thrive, and encourage your kids to love nature exploration and outdoor learning.

Categories: [Narrative Non Fiction](#), [Worms](#), [Compost](#), [Nature](#), [Soil](#), [Rhyming Text](#)

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS: PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR



76. BERNIE THINKS IN BOXES

Jess Horn | Zoe Bennett (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Bernie thinks in boxes. She has boxes for everything: for home, for school and even for the park. Bernie likes boxes. When things fit into boxes, they make sense. But one day, Bernie's boxes collide, and she must find a way to make sense of her world again. A beautiful story about thinking differently and navigating change in a neurotypical world.

Categories: [Neurodiverse](#), [Neurodiversity](#), [Autism](#)



77. DRAGON FOLDING

Christopher Cheng | Lucia Mascuillo (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

In a fractured old house, with a wiggly sign, lived a bent old man, alone. But it wasn't always this way... When Mr Singer's wife went away, the colour and life disappeared from Dragon Hall. Can his young friend Evan help to bring back the dragons and the magic?

Categories: [Love](#), [Loss](#), [Friendship](#), [Hope](#), [Community](#), [Origami](#)



78. FOOTPRINT

Phil Cummings | Sally soweol Han (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

You carry hope and future need, With careful footprint, plant the seed. Breathe... Yes, breathe. Embark on a lyrical, meditative journey through nature's tapestry, where every step you take leaves a legacy of wonder and protection for the environment. Explore forests and mountains, cities and fields, and animals in their natural habitats as you ponder the footprint humans have left on the Earth.

Categories: [Mindfulness](#), [Nature](#), [Positivity](#), [Conservation](#)

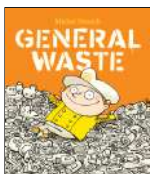


79. FOR 60,000 YEARS

Marlee Silva | Rhys Paddick (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

For 60,000 years, as sure as the sun rises and rests, our people have thrived and survived. Originally penned as a poetic response to January 26th, this is an empowering story of truth, strength and community, told by Gamilaroi and Dunghutti woman Marlee Silva and illustrated by Yamatji man Rhys Paddick.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [Culture](#), [Identity](#), [First Nations](#), [Survival](#)

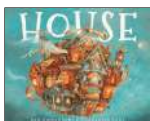


80. GENERAL WASTE

Michel Streich | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

General Waste loves stuff! Wasting lots of stuff! He tosses away apples after one bite, he has hour-long showers, he must have the latest uniform fashion, and he rides around in a monster truck! He shares a house with Gram-Gram. She always saves her leftovers, does her own repairs and cycles everywhere! One day, when General Waste finds himself trapped under a mountain of his own stuff, Gram-Gram comes to the rescue ... General Waste is a hilarious tale about how to find joy in the simple things in life.

Categories: [Environmental Issues](#), [Sustainability](#), [Waste](#), [Nature](#), [Recycling](#), [Rubbish](#)

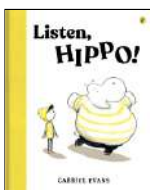


81. HOUSE

Dan Giovannoni | Charlotte Lane (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

House is the story of a lonely little house, all by itself in the world, without anyone to open its front door. House abandons its foundations and launches into the sky in search of a friend. From its aerial vantage it can see the whole world - and then, it comes across someone just like it; someone lonely; a child, all by herself in the middle of a storm.

Categories: [Loneliness](#), [Friendship](#), [Resilience](#), [Imagination](#), [Home](#), [Belonging](#), [Mental Health](#), [Security](#), [Magic](#), [Adventure](#)



82. LISTEN, HIPPO!

Gabriel Evans | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

When Billy is feeling sad, he wishes he had someone to talk to. He thinks what he needs is someone to listen . . . but his best friend, Hippo, believes he knows exactly what Billy needs! Hippo just wants to make Billy happy, but it's only when he finally listens to what Billy wants that he can help his friend.

Categories: [Feelings/Emotions](#), [Depression](#), [Mental Health](#), [Friendship](#), [Listening](#)



83. STICKBOY

Rebecca Young | Matt Ottley (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Stickboy lived in wind and dust, where ancient rock loomed like waves waiting to break ... From Patricia Wrightson Prize-winning storytellers, Stickboy is a tale about listening for the truth that lies within ... and beneath.

Categories: [Hope](#), [Adversity](#), [Conservation](#), [Belonging](#), [Environment](#)



84. SPACE BETWEEN, THE

Jess McGeachin | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Max and Milo do everything together, every day, and in their rocket ship even the stars and planets don't seem too far to reach. But when Milo has to move away, the space between them seems too great ... and Max must find another way to navigate the galaxy.

Categories: [Friendship](#), [Moving House](#), [Imagination Play](#), [Space](#), [Teamwork](#)



85. THEN AND NOW

Datsun Tran | Hardback | **RRP \$30.00** | **School Price \$23.99**

In his picture-book debut, contemporary artist Datsun Tran tells his family's story of making a new home after journeying by boat from Vietnam as refugees. In vivid ink paintings and spare, resonant text, Then and Now explores the powerful associations a sound, smell or sensation can carry. Young readers are warmly welcomed into two immersive, multi-sensory and strikingly different worlds: then and now.



86. THREE DRESSES

Wanda Gibson | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

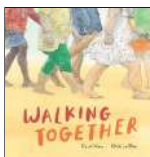
A richly illustrated picture book by Nukgal Wurra author-artist Wanda Gibson about her joyful childhood beach holidays in Far North Queensland. Beautifully illustrated with Wanda's paintings, this heart-warming true story celebrates family time, connection to place and finding joy in the simple things, like your favourite three dresses. 'Take three dresses ... one to wash, one to wear and one spare.' When Wanda Gibson was a little girl, her mum would tell her this as they packed to go on holidays. Wanda grew up on Hope Vale Mission in Far North Queensland, and her family were allowed only one short break away from work each year. They would walk for two days to get to their special spot at the beach. Here, they camped in the sandhills, cooked fresh fish on the fire and swam in the ocean.



87. TILLY IN A TANGLE

Margrete Lamond | Monty Lee (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.95** | **School Price \$21.59**

When things go wrong, following our instinct yields unexpected results. Tilly works hard at keeping her boat shipshape, striving to retain the approval of those around her, following their advice and conforming to their opinions. But when disaster strikes, and her friends are called to act instead of administering advice, Tilly discovers her own way of doing things works best for both her and her friends.



88. WALKING TOGETHER

Coral Vass | Dub Leffler (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

'We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future ...' Extract from the Uluru Statement from the Heart. From award-winning storytellers Coral Vass and Dub Leffler.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [First Nations](#), [Culture](#), [Sharing](#), [Community](#)



89. WHY I LOVE CHRISTMAS

Michael Wagner | Tom Jellett (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

Do you know what the best time of the year is? I do. It's easy. CHRISTMAS! I love it so much. And here's why. From fake snow in the heat of summer to cute kids busking carols, from late night drives to see the lights to dogs wearing reindeer antlers - an Australian Christmas is unique. In this book Christmas is for everyone. It's all about sharing experience with the people we love and missing some people too.

Categories: [Christmas](#), [Australiana](#), [Community](#), [Family](#), [Celebration](#), [Anticipation](#)



90. WORDS THAT TASTE LIKE HOME

Sandhya Parappukkaran | Michelle Pereira (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Words That Taste Like Home is a heartwarming picture book about how language can connect us to our culture and hold on to the people we love. Rohan loves spending time with his grandmother, making mango pickle and sharing stories. But when he moves to a different country and learns a new language, words from his first language start slipping away until one day there are none left. How will Rohan find the words to tell his grandmother a story again?

Categories: [Language](#), [Family](#), [Culture](#), [Home](#), [Connection](#), [Grandparents](#)

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS: EVE POWNALL AWARD FOR INFORMATION BOOKS



91. ALL ABOUT THE BRAIN

Gabriel Dabscheck | Kim Siew (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Kids who want to know more about the body will devour this deep dive into the brain, written by a paediatric neurologist and designed to be read cover to cover.

Categories: [Human Body](#), [Brain](#)



92. ANTI-RACISM KIT: GUIDE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Jinyoung Kim | Emma Ismawi (Illustrator) | Paperback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Written by two bright young Australian thinkers, the Anti-Racism Kit is a liberating, eye-opening exploration of anti-racism and racial justice centring on the lives and experiences of young adults. Covering three actionable, tangible areas for change – Self, School and Society – this guide breaks down key steps in learning about and practising anti-racism, including understanding important concepts such as privilege and internalised racism and learning to speak up effectively and safely in challenging situations. Packed with first-person experiences and interviews, the Anti-Racism Kit explores what it means to rise above as a young person of colour in Australia today, and how to be a force for change.

Categories: [Racism](#), [Self Esteem/Resilience](#)



93. AUSTRALIA'S BABY ANIMALS

Jess Racklyeft | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

From underground burrows to treetop nests, and from sandy beaches to riverbeds, Australia's unique landscapes provide homes for baby animals to live and thrive in. Here is a celebration of the animals that are born in this incredible country, from Snubfin Dolphin calves to Pygmy Possum joeys, Rainbow Lorikeet fledglings, Huntsman spiderlings, Thorny Devil hatchlings, and many more.

Categories: [Australian Animals](#), [Australiana](#), [Habitats](#), [Home](#)



94. BEFORE THE MOUNTAIN HAD A NAME

Fiona Levings | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Take a journey through deep time, to a place long ago where the bones of kunanyi/Wellington were formed from the remains of a frozen sea.

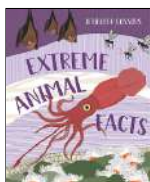


95. COME TOGETHER AGAIN: A CELEBRATION OF FIRST NATION

Isaiah Firebrace | Jaelyn Biunaiwai (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

The follow-up to Isaiah Firebrace's hugely successful picture book, Come Together, that explores First Nations music song and dance.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [Culture](#), [Music](#), [Dance](#), [Community](#), [Connectivity](#), [Culture](#)

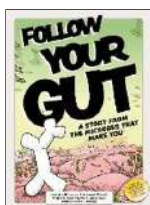


96. EXTREME ANIMAL FACTS

Jennifer Cossins | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Explore over 140 of the world's most extraordinary animals in this beautifully illustrated book from CBCA award-winning author-illustrator Jennifer Cossins. Did you know the immortal jellyfish has the longest lifespan of any creature on Earth? Or that the dung beetle is the strongest animal for its body size? Get ready to explore the record-holders of the animal kingdom, from the animals that can dive the deepest in the ocean to those that can fly the highest in the sky. Perfect for readers aged 7+ who love learning about the world around them.

Categories: [Animals](#)



97. FOLLOW YOUR GUT: STORY FROM THE MICROBES THAT MAKE

Ailsa Wild | Paperback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

Meet the ecosystem inside you ... A timid Bifidobacterium named Biffy is forced to leave their family and become part of a new community, in the gut of a newborn human baby. Follow Your Gut is a comic that ate a biology textbook. It's an epic adventure set over the first three years of a new life, exploring one of the most important relationships you will ever have – the one with your gut microbiome. Created by artists, scientists, and educators, this story is for anyone who's curious about the human-microbe symbiosis, and what all those trillions of bacteria are doing down there in your intestines! Inspired by the latest research, Follow Your Gut includes a fascinating and detailed appendix that explains the amazing science behind the story.

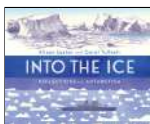


98. ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF EXTINCT ANIMALS, THE

Sami Bayly | Hardback | **RRP \$32.99** | **School Price \$26.39**

Pore over beautifully detailed illustrations of some of the most fascinating extinct and critically endangered animals in the natural world. Discover how these species fit into the history of the animal kingdom and why they have become extinct or are under threat. Featuring facts and astonishing illustrations about sixty amazing animals, including the Western black rhino, thylacine, dodo, South Island giant moa and Tapanuli orangutan, as well as megafauna such as the giant wombat-like diprotodon and the crocodile-like Quinkana. Plus creatures with mysterious origins like Delcourt's giant gecko. Children and adults alike will wonder at the contribution these animals have made to the natural world while being reminded of the importance of wildlife conservation.

Categories: [Extinction](#), [Environmental Issues](#), [Conservation](#), [Endangered Animals](#)



99. INTO THE ICE: REFLECTIONS ON ANTARCTICA

Alison Lester | Coral Tulloch (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$35.00** | **School Price \$28.00**

Bestselling creators Alison Lester and Coral Tulloch share their fascination with Antarctica through a personally selected mix of their own and others' work, from the early age of exploration through to the present day.

Categories: [Narrative Non Fiction](#), [Antarctica](#), [History](#), [Environment](#), [Exploration](#)



100. NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

Planet Ark | Paperback | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

From Australia's most respected environmental advocate, Planet Ark, "Now for the Good News" reveals story after story of world-saving actions to inspire and inform YOU to keep the good news coming. Showcasing fantastically positive environmental advances, initiatives and inventions, "Now for the Good News" delivers a strong WE CAN DO THIS message, encouraging kids to engage and act through informative and inspiring stories that reveal what is already being done to reverse the damage to our planet.

Categories: [Environmental Issues](#), [Activism](#), [Climate Change](#), [Rubbish](#), [Inventions](#)

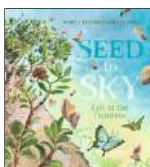


101. PLANTABULOUS! MORE A-Z OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

Catherine Clowes | Rachel Gyan (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

Plantabulous! presents 26 iconic and unique native plants for you to discover in your local park, bushland or even your own backyard! Filled with fabulous facts, activities and illustrations, Plantabulous! will prove just how fabulous Australia's native plants really are!

Categories: [Plants](#), [Native Plants](#), [Flora](#)

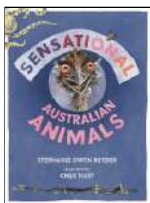


102. SEED TO SKY: LIFE IN THE DAINTREE NATURE STORYBOOKS

Pamela Freeman | Liz Anelli (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

In the oldest rainforest on Earth, on the oldest continent, a seed falls to the ground. Over hundreds of years, the seed will grow into a sapling reaching for the sunlight, to become a tree towering above the rainforest canopy. Generations of insects, butterflies, bird, lizards, snakes and an abundance of native wildlife will bear witness to the magnificent Bull Kauri pine...

Categories: [Narrative Non Fiction](#), [Environment](#), [Ecosystems](#), [Rainforest](#)



103. SENSATIONAL AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

Stephanie Owen Reeder | Cher Hart (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

Explore the fascinating world of native Australian animals through the five basic senses — sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. Covering more than 145 truly astounding animals — from sharp-eyed whale sharks to sticky-bellied green tree frogs — Sensational Australian Animals showcases the strange things these creatures can do with their eyes, ears, noses, mouths and skin! Meet birds that laugh, frogs that quack and fish that sing. Discover mammals that glow in the dark and seahorses disguised as seaweed. Be surprised by turtles that breathe through their bums and squirm at lizards that clean their eyes with their tongues. And then there's the dangerous creatures that bite and sting!

Categories: [Australian Animals](#), [Australiana](#), [Birds](#), [Mammals](#), [Sea Creatures](#), [Wildlife](#), [Conservation](#)



104. SUNNY FINDS HIS SONG

Catherine Storey | Sarah Matsuda (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Sunny is a lonely Regent Honeyeater. Yearning for others of his kind, he searches high and low but cannot find them. In the recent past, Sunny's kin travelled in flocks and the blossom-filled woodlands echoed with their song. Now only fragments of woodland remain, and the songbirds are gone. One day, Sunny hears a unique melody full of hope. Will Sunny find what he is looking for? A lyrical story of loss and longing, finding your flock, and maybe . . . even love.



105. TOO MANY TIGERS

Monica Reeve | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

Most people know of the Tasmanian tiger. How did they actually become extinct? Find out what really happened and how we can use our past to better care for the unique species of today.

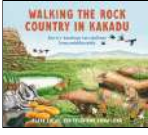


106. UNREAL: CAN YOU TELL FACT FROM FAKE?

[Kate Simpson](#) | [Leila Rudge](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

Guess which of the weird and wonderful exhibits are real and which are fake in this sumptuous collection of extraordinary animals and plants.

Categories: [Critical Thinking](#), [Myths](#)

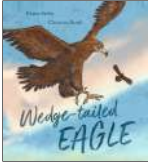


107. WALKING THE ROCK COUNTRY IN KAKADU

[Diane Lucas](#) | [Emma Long](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$29.99** | **School Price \$23.99**

A breathtaking encounter with the magnificent rock country of Australia's iconic Kakadu National Park, from the highly acclaimed creators of Walking in Gagudju Country: Exploring the Monsoon Forest.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [First Nations](#), [Dual Language](#), [Kundjeyhmi](#), [Language](#), [Environment](#), [Ecosystems](#), [Culture](#)



108. WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE NATURE STORYBOOKS

[Claire Saxby](#) | [Christina Booth](#) (Illustrator) | Hardback | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Wedge-tailed Eagle explores the family life of these remarkable birds. The largest raptor in Australia, wedge-tailed eagles are powerful hunters, who mate for life, bringing many new clutches of chicks into the world in their lifetime. Award-winning author Claire Saxby leads us through a mating season, while Christina Booth's illustrations capture the majesty, power and gentleness of these magnificent birds of prey.

Categories: [Narrative Non Fiction](#), [Nature](#), [Birds](#), [Environment](#), [Habitats](#)



109. WHEN THE WORLD WAS SOFT: YINDJIBARNDI CREATION

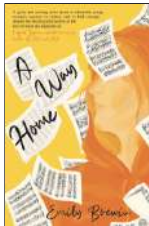
[Compilation](#) | [Alex Mankiewicz](#) (Illustrator) | Paperback | **RRP \$34.99** | **School Price \$27.99**

Yindjibarndi believe all creation is written in our landscape and was sung long ago, filling our Ngurra (Country) with sacred meanings and deep religious significance. At the dawn of time, Ngurra Nyujunggamu, the world was soft as clay and the sky was very low. Our Creator, Minkala, sang the songs from which all life and Ngurra evolved. These are some of our stories. And now we are sharing them with you.

Categories: [Aboriginal Studies](#), [Dreaming Stories](#), [Storytelling](#), [Graphic Picture Book](#)

CBCA NOTABLE BOOKS:

OLDER READERS



110. WAY HOME, A

Emily Brewin | Paperback | Age 14+ | RRP \$19.99 | School Price \$15.99

Sixteen-year-old Grace lives under a bridge in Melbourne's CBD. It's cold and wet, but hidden. Safe, at least, until she can go home. When winter drives her to the City Library one morning, Grace meets Louie, a weird kid with his own problems, and discovers a community piano. The piano reminds Grace of her mum, a celebrated pianist whose mental illness makes life a rollercoaster – and not always a fun one. When Grace comes up with a plan to find the help she and Mum need, life begins to look up. But things don't work out as Grace imagines and suddenly her world's turned upside down again, and maybe for good this time.

Categories: Homelessness, Family, Mental Health



111. DEEP IS THE FEN

Lili Wilkinson | Paperback | Age 15+ | RRP \$24.99 | School Price \$19.99

Merriwether Morgan doesn't need a happily-ever-after. Her life in the idyllic town of Candlecott is fine just as it is: simple, happy, and with absolutely no magic. Magic only ever leads to trouble. But Merry's best friend, Teddy, is joining the Toadmen – a secret society upholding backward thinking and suspiciously supernatural traditions – and she is determined to stop him. Even if it means teaming up with her academic arch-nemesis, Caraway Boswell, an ice-cold snob who hides his true face behind a glamour. An ancient Toad ritual is being held in the nightmarish Deeping Fen, and if Merry doesn't rescue Teddy, she'll lose him forever. But the further she travels into Deeping Fen's foul waters, the more Merry wonders if she can possibly save her friend – or if she's walking straight into a trap. Because there's nothing the Toadmen love more than a damsel in distress...

Categories: Fantasy, Magic, Friendship, Feminism, Romance, LGBTQIA+



112. ELEANOR JONES CAN'T KEEP A SECRET

Amy Doak | Paperback | Age 13+ | RRP \$19.99 | School Price \$15.99

Things have settled down in Coovinda and Eleanor Jones is getting used to her new normal – spending time with her friends, going to school, and working on a project at the local old age home. But just as things start to feel calm, a series of events once again rock Eleanor's world– Troy's ex-girlfriend is back in town and, during a visit to the old age home, Eleanor's buddy Nance admits to witnessing a murder, swearing Eleanor to secrecy.

Categories: Mystery, Murder, Investigation, Friendship, Secrets



113. I HOPE THIS DOESN'T FIND YOU

Ann Liang | Paperback | Age 14+ | RRP \$19.99 | School Price \$15.99

Sadie Wen is perfect on paper– school captain, valedictorian, and a "pleasure to have in class." It's not easy, but she has a trick to keep her model-student smile plastered on her face at all times– she channels all her frustrations into her email drafts. She'd never send them of course – she'd rather die than hurt anyone's feelings – but it's a relief to let loose on her power-hungry English teacher or a freeloading classmate taking credit for Sadie's work. All her most vehemently worded emails are directed at her infuriating co-captain, Julius Gong, whose arrogance and competitive streak have irked Sadie since they were kids. Sadie doesn't have to hold back in her emails, because nobody will ever read them... that is, until they're accidentally sent out. Overnight, Sadie's carefully crafted, conflict-free life is turned upside down. It's her worst nightmare – now everyone at school knows what she really thinks of them, and they're not afraid to tell her what they really think of her either. But amidst the chaos, there's one person growing to appreciate the "real" Sadie – Julius, the only boy she's sworn to hate...

Categories: Romance

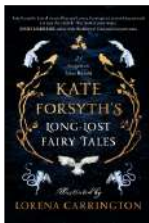


114. INVOCATIONS, THE

Krystal Sutherland | Paperback | Age 15+ | RRP \$24.99 | School Price \$19.99

Zara Jones believes in magic because the alternative is too painful to consider–that her murdered sister is gone forever and there is nothing she can do about it. Rather than grieving and moving on, Zara decides she will do whatever it takes to claw her sister back from the grave–even trading in the occult. Jude Wolf may be the daughter of a billionaire, but she is also undeniably cursed. After a deal with a demon went horribly wrong, her soul has been slowly turning necrotic. It's a miserable existence. Now that she's glimpsed what's beyond the veil, Jude's desperate to find someone to undo the damage she's done to herself. Enter Emer Byrne, an orphaned witch with a dark past and a deadly power, a.k.a. the solution to both Zara's and Jude's problems. Though Emer lives a hardscrabble life, she gives away her most valuable asset–her invocations–to women in desperate situations who are willing to sacrifice a piece of their soul in exchange for a scrap of power. Zara and Jude are willing, but they first have to find Emer. When Emer's clients start turning up dead all over London, a vital clue leads Zara and Jude right to her. If a serial killer is targeting her clients, Emer wants to know why–and to stop them. She strikes a tenuous alliance with Zara and Jude to hunt a killer before they are next on his list, even if she can't give them in return what Zara and Jude want most–a sister and a soul.

Categories: Fantasy, Magic, Murder, Mystery



115. KATE FORSYTH'S LONG-LOST FAIRYTALES

Kate Forsyth | Lorena Carrington (Illustrator) | Paperback | **RRP \$32.99** | **School Price \$26.39**

Fairy tales are as old as language itself. In this collection of long-lost fairy tales, author Kate Forsyth and illustrator Lorena Carrington work together to bring tales of wisdom, compassion, and courage to life for the modern-day reader.

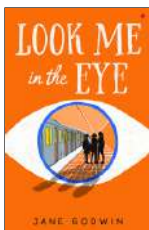


116. LIAR'S TEST

Ambelin Kwaymullina | Paperback | Age 14+ | **RRP \$24.99** | **School Price \$19.99**

Liar's Test is a fast-paced, intricately woven fantasy novel with an unforgettable heroine inspired by the strength and power of Aboriginal women. Bell Silverleaf is a liar. It's how she's survived. It's how all Treesingers have survived since they were invaded by the Risen and their fickle gods. But now Bell is in the Queen's Test-she's one of seven girls competing in deadly challenges to determine who will rule for the next twenty-five years. If Bell wins, she'll have the power to help her people and take revenge on the Risen. But first she has to make it through the challenges alive.

Categories: First Nations, Fantasy, Mystery, Strength, Survival

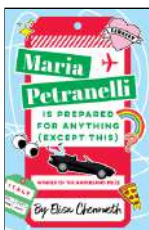


117. LOOK ME IN THE EYE

Jane Godwin | Paperback | Age 12+ | **RRP \$16.99** | **School Price \$13.59**

Best friends Bella and Connie live on the outskirts of the city in an area that was once full of open fields and paddocks but is changing as the suburbs creep closer. And now there is Mish, Connie's cousin, who has to be included even though she is unfriendly and unpredictable. The pandemic lockdowns have lifted and the three teens are eager to explore their newfound independence. But with the world opening up, there has been a rise in surveillance, from apps that track their movements to voice recorders and hidden cameras. It feels like everyone is watching them. But when does 'watching' become 'watching over'?

Categories: Freedom, Trust, Privacy, Secrets



118. MARIA PETRANELLI IS PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

Elisa Chenoweth | Paperback | Age 13+ | **RRP \$22.99** | **School Price \$18.39**

Looking for Alibrandi meets Arrested Development in this YA screwball comedy about a student exchange gone hilariously, criminally wrong. Maria Petranelli will do anything to get away from her overbearing Italian-Australian family. She's over their constant heckling about getting a boyfriend, their unspoken belief that she's not normal, and their loudly spoken belief that she's incapable of doing, well, anything. So when her family declares she 'couldn't handle living in Italy', Maria immediately signs up to go there on student exchange. What could possibly go wrong? Well, everything ...

Categories: Travel, Comedy, Humour, Murder, Crime, LGBTQIA+

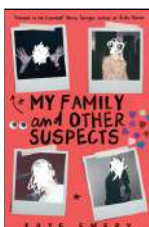


119. MY BROTHER, FINCH

Kate Gordon | Paperback | Age 13+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

Finch and Wren were as close as a brother and sister can be. When he vanished, when they were nine years old, her world cracked in two. Finch was never found. On the same day that Finch disappeared, another girl was lost, too. Her name was Ava. Her parents were rich tourists, from Sydney. Ava's story got all the media attention. And Finch was forgotten. But not by Wren. Never by Wren. Three years on, Finch is still with her, whispering in her ear, guiding her through life. As Wren begins high school and forms a new, bewildering friendship with a mysterious girl called Freddie, Finch is there, urging her on. To go bolder. To go braver. To grab life with two hands. When another girl goes missing – a strange girl called Johanna – Wren feels compelled to search for her. To her surprise, Freddie does, too. The two of them try and piece together who Johanna is and why she ran away. Or did she run away? Was the truth more awful? And was it all tied together with what happened to Finch and Ava?

Categories: Mystery, Suspense, Siblings, Disappearance, Family, Loss, Grief, Friendship



120. MY FAMILY AND OTHER SUSPECTS

Kate Emery | Paperback | Age 13+ | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

Ruth is not thrilled to be spending the weekend at the family farm visiting the ancient GG, her coolly distant step-grandmother. With no internet or phone coverage, Ruth occupies herself by re-reading old Agatha Christie novels, eavesdropping on the adults, and definitely not daydreaming about her sort-of-cousin Dylan. But when GG dies under suspicious circumstances, Ruth's dull weekend turns into an enforced-family-holiday-slash-possible-murder-investigation – and she's not about to let the police get in the way of her chance to solve a real-life murder mystery. Ruth list of suspects grows to comprise everyone in the house. Including, in the interests of fairness, herself.

Categories: Mystery, Crime, Humour, Murder, Inheritance, Crime, Romance



121. RETURN TO SENDER

Lauren Draper | Paperback | Age 15+ | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

After three years away, seventeen-year-old Brodie McKellon has returned to live with her grandmother above the last remaining Dead Letter Office – the place letters go when no one is left to claim them. Soon, Brodie is consumed by an unsolved mystery – the unclaimed letters of a group of teens who seemed to vanish many years ago – while also attempting to reconcile with her former best friends, Elliot and Levi. As the trio is drawn into the riddle of the dead letter writers, they discover that the past is never truly past, and that it's never too late for old wrongs to be put right...

Categories: [Relationships](#), [Mystery](#), [Friendships](#), [Community](#)

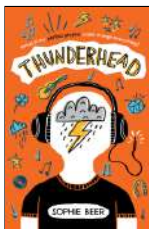


122. SWEETNESS BETWEEN US, THE

Sarah winifred Searle | Paperback | Age 15+ | **RRP \$22.99** | **School Price \$18.39**

Summer holidays are over. Perley and Amandine should be busy with their school's knitting club and hockey, but instead they're struggling with major life changes. Perley has been diagnosed with diabetes and is trying to get his head around sugar levels and insulin shots. Amandine, part of a respected vampire family, has been turned much younger than she expected after a near-fatal car accident. Bonding over hospital trips and new diets, the two teens form a fast friendship. And Amandine's ability to taste blood sugar levels is a helpful perk for Perley that also provides her an ethical source of sustenance (essential for a vegan-turned-vampire). But as the year passes, Perley and Amandine begin to realise that their coping strategies – and their blood-sipping-turned-romance – may not be as healthy as they first thought. Will they be able to get their lives back to normal? And when so much has changed, what does 'normal' even mean?

Categories: [Romance](#), [Friendship](#), [Mystery](#), [Fantasy](#)



123. THUNDERHEAD

Sophie Beer | Paperback | Age 10+ | **RRP \$17.99** | **School Price \$14.39**

Captivating, memorable and deeply funny, Thunderhead is a heart-squeezing and hopeful illustrated middle grade novel about music, disability, friendship and fandom – beautifully told with humour, art and joy. Perfect for fans of Wonder and Lenny's Book of Everything.

Categories: [Disability](#), [Deafness](#), [Hearing Impairment](#), [Music](#), [Friendship](#)



124. WHITE NOISE

Raelke Grimmer | Paperback | Age 14+ | **RRP \$26.99** | **School Price \$21.59**

Fifteen-year-old Emma is woken up by her dad's nightmares. Again. On Friday evenings they go running at East Point Reserve to escape. Escape the ripples of grief that still chase them three years after her mum's death; escape Emma's autism diagnosis; escape her dad's work as an emergency room doctor. At school, Emma has won a spot on the beach volleyball Sports Institute program. The spot that her best friend Summer desperately wanted. And Summer's family are moving to the other side of town. Their friendship has kept Emma going since her mum's death but now things are changing between them and change isn't something Emma can outrun.

Categories: [Friendship](#), [Identity](#), [Grief](#), [Autism](#), [Neurodiversity](#), [Neurodiverse](#)



125. WRONG ANSWERS ONLY

Tobias Madden | Paperback | Age 15+ | **RRP \$19.99** | **School Price \$15.99**

Marco should be at university, studying biomedicine. Instead, he's been sent to live on a cruise ship in the Mediterranean with his estranged uncle, all because of a 'blip' everyone else is convinced was a panic attack. (Which it most definitely was not.) And even though Marco's trip is supposed to provide answers – about himself, about his family – all he finds on board the Ocean Melody are more and more questions. But then his best friend CeCe proposes a new plan – for someone who has always done the right thing, in every possible way, it's time for Marco to get a few things wrong. And hooking up with a hot dancer from the ship is only the beginning...

Categories: [LGBTQIA](#), [Romance](#), [Family](#), [Secrets](#), [Mental Health](#)