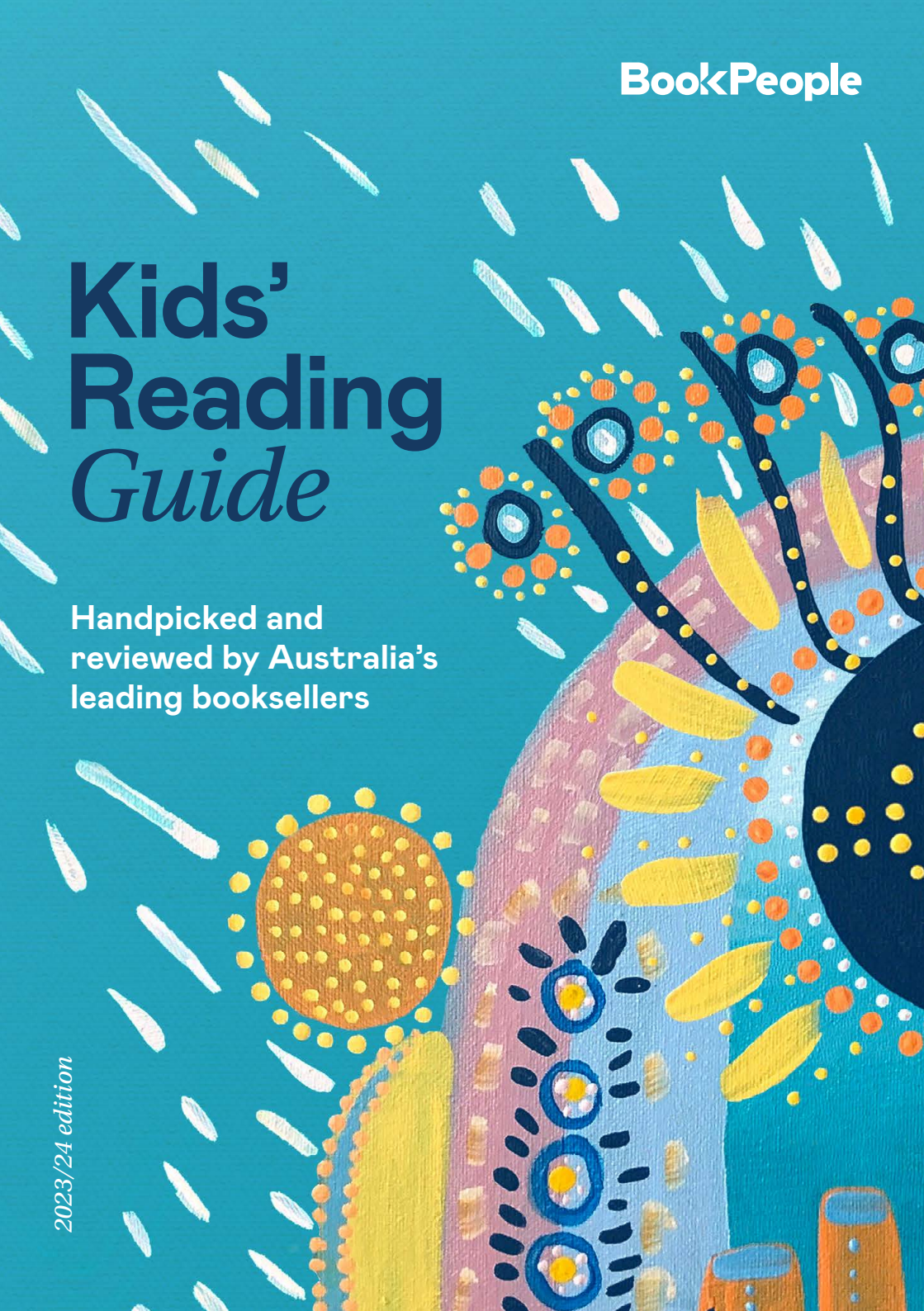


BookPeople

# Kids' Reading *Guide*

Handpicked and  
reviewed by Australia's  
leading booksellers

2023/24 edition



# Welcome to the 2023–2024 edition of the Kids' Reading Guide!

*This reading guide is a passport to a universe of stories, characters, and adventures waiting to be discovered. For children of all ages, reading is more than a skill; it's a gateway to endless possibilities.*

Through the pages of the books in this guide, young readers are able to embark on thrilling journeys, from whimsical realms of magical creatures to the far reaches of outer space. They'll sail the high seas, solve mysteries, learn about love and heartbreak, and share the joy of laughter.

But this guide is not just about reading; it's about the power of storytelling, empathy and understanding. It's about the joy of getting lost in a book and finding yourself along the way. Reading sparks the imagination, inspires curiosity, and provides hours of entertainment.

All the books in the guide have been selected and reviewed by leading Australian booksellers. As booksellers, we know just how important it is to engage young readers and lead them into our exciting world of books and reading.

We hope the recommendations in this guide will set your young readers on a path of discovery and leave a sense of wonder to be carried with them for the rest of their lives.

**BookPeople Booksellers**



## **Giinagay Gaagal, Hello Ocean**

*Melissa Greenwood* | HB \$24.99



*Giinagay Gaagal, Hello Ocean* is the gorgeous new picture book from Gumbaynggirr artist Melissa Greenwood. Each page is full of vibrant colour and movement that celebrates and honours the life in our oceans.



**Theodore**  
Age 14 months

## My Yellow Blanky

*Sofie Laguna and Tom Jellett (illus)*  
BB \$15.99

I was holding my own blanky when my Mummy read this to me. It was exciting when Pickett the dog ran away with the blanky. I laughed at Pickett's funny faces and made lots of woof noises. I am happy that the blanky smells good again.



## My BIG Playbook

*Ingela P. Arrhenius* | BB \$19.99

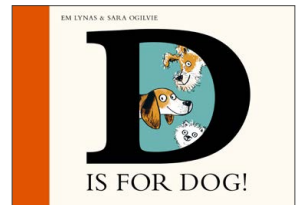
Perfect for older babies and toddlers, *My BIG Playbook* is full of activities from counting ladybirds to learning colours. There are lots of key concepts to explore and this large format board book has felt flaps and a mirror that make it an irresistible addition to any toddler's library.



## D is for Dog

*Em Lynas and Sara Ogilvie (illus)* | HB \$19.99

Try reading this celebration of dogs without smiling. From the divine artwork to the rhyming text describing doggy antics from A to Z, this book is pure joy. The observant will note each letter is illustrated with a dog whose breed starts with that letter. The final pages name the 28 breeds illustrated even those for X, Y and Z!



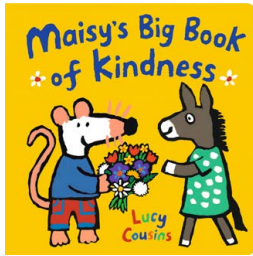
**Zoe**  
Age 17 months

## These Little Feet

*Hayley Rawsthorne and Briony Stewart (illus)* | HB \$19.99

I like reading this book with my mummy because the prose has a simple rhyme, and the illustrations show many different types of people doing interesting things. The story is about a baby's unique journey through life and how all tiny feet play a small but significant part in the grand circle of life.





## Maisy's Big Book of Kindness

*Lucy Cousins* | HB \$27.99

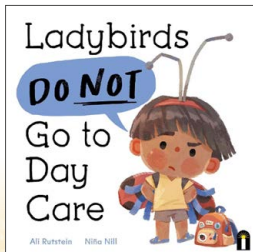
Join Maisy and her friends as they explore all sorts of wonderful ways to be kind, like sharing toys, making and giving cards and looking after animals. This is a bright and joyful celebration of everyday acts of kindness.



## Stories for Big Brothers and Sisters Stories for Little Ones

*Various* | HB \$26.99

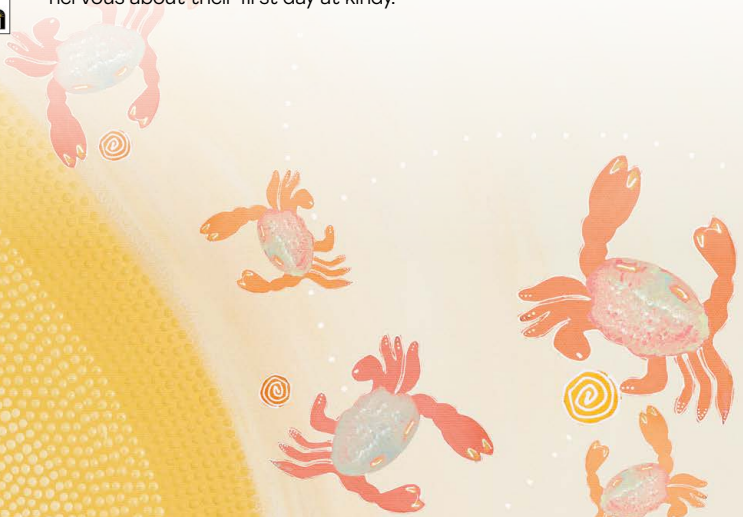
Two brand new treasuries of classic Australian stories. Each treasury contains four favourite stories from some of our best-loved Australian authors and illustrators including Libby Hathorn, Jane Godwin and Margaret Wild. The stories are sweet and playful and are a perfect gift to welcome a new baby into the world.



## Ladybirds Do Not Go to Day Care

*Ali Rutstein and Niña Nill (illus)* | HB \$22.99

It's little Ravi's first day at daycare, but he's dressed up as his favourite insect, a ladybird, and is quite sure that they prefer to stay at home and eat aphids. Will Ravi spread his wings and try something new? Find out in this delightful book, which is perfect for little ones who may be a bit nervous about their first day at kindy.

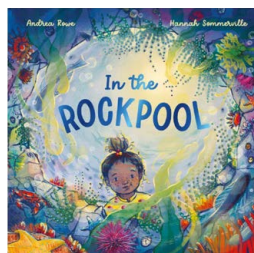


## In The Rockpool

*Andrea Rowe and Hannah Sommerville (illus)*

**BB \$19.99**

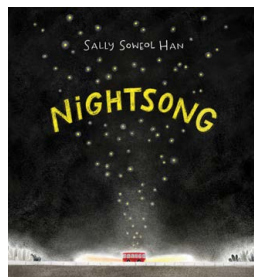
From the creators of *Sunday Skating* and *Jetty Jumping* comes this stunning board book that invites young children to explore and count. Bright illustrations and lyrical text introduce toddlers to underwater creatures and the beach environment, counting clams and finding hidden gems in the pictures. A perfect summer read for little beach babies.



## Nightsong

*Sally Soweol Han | HB \$24.99*

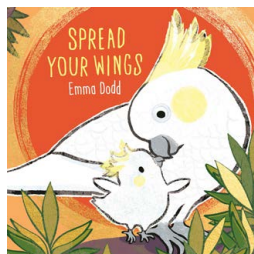
Lewis leaves the sounds of the city evening and heads home with his mum. But when their bus breaks down next to a field, Lewis discovers the secrets behind the fascinating sounds of the nighttime. Readers will love the fun text full of onomatopoeia and accompanied by striking, playful illustrations. From CBCA award-winning illustrator Sally Soweol Han.



## Spread Your Wings

*Emma Dodd | HB \$16.99*

With the help and gentle urging of its parent, a baby cockatoo learns there is a big wide world to explore. Beautiful illustrations are well matched in this heartwarming book about embracing change and having the confidence to explore the world around you.



**Roobee Roo 1: That's Me!**  
**Roobee Roo 2: Fun in the Sun**  
**Roobee Roo 3: Under the Stars**  
**Roobee Roo 4: Sunny Day Treats**  
*Nico and Candy Robertson | BB \$14.99*

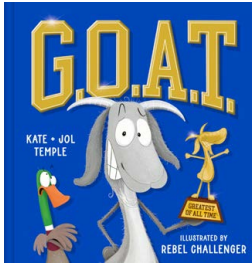


I love going on adventures with Roobee Roo and discovering new things in her magical pouch by lifting lots of flaps! In these books I've learned about going to the beach, and camping, and making sunny day treats with my friends! I can't wait to see where she takes me next!

**Ada**  
Age 20 months



# Picture Books

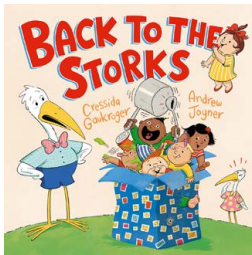


## G.O.A.T.

*Kate Temple, Jol Temple and Rebel Challenger (illus)*  
HB \$18.99



G.O.A.T. is another fun-filled, snappy picture book by Kate and Jol Temple. Goat believes he is the Greatest Of All Time, until his friends realise that they are great too. Who is the greatest? Could they all be great? A fun read-aloud for the whole family.

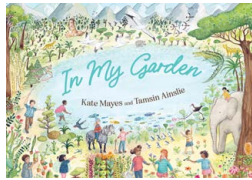


## Back to the Storks

*Cressida Gaukroger and Andrew Joyner (illus)* | HB \$22.99



Little eyes will delight in discovering all the vibrant details filling the pages of this energetic and hilarious picture book. Otis is a loud baby, so his parents decide to send him... back to the storks! Heartwarming, rambunctious and witty, this is a story for the scallywags in your life!

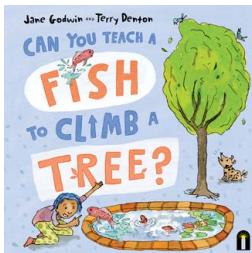


## In My Garden

*Kate Mayes and Tamsin Ainslie (illus)* | HB \$24.99



Can you guess where each child lives as you visit them in their favourite place, their gardens, around the world? Clues can be found in the poetic descriptions of the animals and plants they can see and in the intricately illustrated double spreads. A feast for the eyes and a must for any keen young gardeners.



## Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree?

*Jane Godwin and Terry Denton (illus)* | HB \$24.99



Instead of judging a fish by its inability to climb a tree, let's talk about all the amazing things it CAN do, and how you are the best at being you, no matter what you can do. A celebration of individual ability and creativity, from two powerhouses of the kid's book world.



## Eighteen Summers

*Penny Harrison and Leila Rudge (illus)* | HB \$24.99

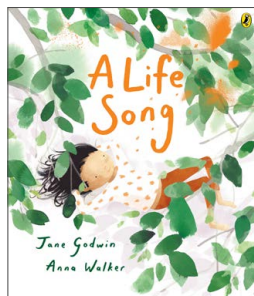


'Let me tell you a tale of the stars and the sea, of adventures we'll have as you grow, wild and free' says a mother to her baby. Lyrical rhyming text matched with gorgeous illustrations capture the bond between a parent and child as they grow together sharing special moments throughout the eighteen summers of childhood.

## A Life Song

Jane Godwin and Anna Walker (illus) | HB \$24.99

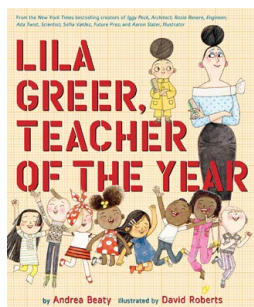
*A Life Song* brings us the beautiful song of childhood and the changes of growing up. Created by the fantastic team of Jane Godwin and Anna Walker, this is a warm, tender and lyrical story highlighting the unique song that is every child, one that we all should listen to and be captivated by.



## Lila Greer, Teacher of the Year

Andrea Beaty and David Roberts (illus) | HB \$26.99

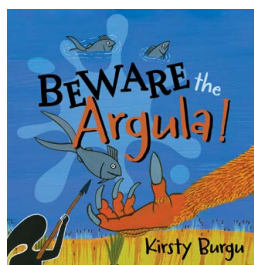
Lila Greer is full of worries. So when her family moves to a new town and she has to start a new school the worries only grow bigger. But Lila's new teacher Mrs Keen knows just how to make Lila feel welcome and ready to try new things. A charming ode to the teachers who shape our lives.



## Beware the Argula!

Kirsty Burgu | HB \$27.99

The vibrant illustrations of Kirsty Burgu, a talented Kimberley artist, tell the story of the Argula, otherwise known as the hairy man or the bush devil. The story follows two young boys who go fishing in the bush and attract the attention of the Argula.



## Good Morning, My Deer!

Mel Amon and Sophie Beer (illus) | HB \$19.99

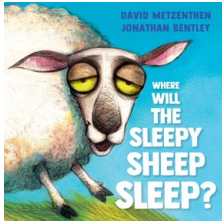
Banjo and his mummy have a very funny day! My mum tells me that heaps of the words in this story sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings, like Sunday and sundae. That is a big word called homophones. I really love the funny pictures and how it makes us laugh every time she reads it to me!



Charlie  
Age 5



# Picture Books



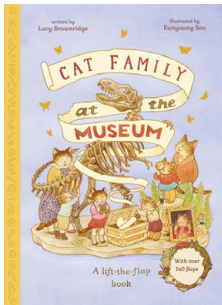
## Where Will the Sleepy Sheep Sleep?

David Metzenthen and Jonathan Bentley (illus)

HB \$19.99



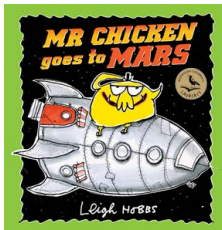
Try saying this three times, really fast: Do you think the sleepy sheep will sleep on top of this wild and windy hill, baah! Kids and adults will find a new favourite in this tongue twister that will have you slipping over silly syllables and sentences. Great for fans of *Oi, Frog!*



## Cat Family at the Museum

Lucy Brownridge and Eunyoung Seo (illus) | HB \$24.99

The cat family are back in a lift the flap extravaganza! Discover the secrets behind the exhibitions and artefacts as you tour the museum alongside the kittens and their grandparents. Children and adults will love poring over every scene and discovering all the charming details.

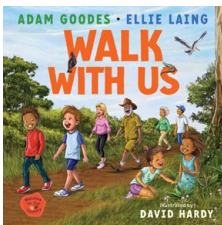


## Mr Chicken Goes to Mars

Leigh Hobbs | HB \$24.99



Everybody's favourite chicken is back and this time he's off on his most ambitious journey yet! He's already been to Paris, Rome, London and all around Australia so now it's time to head into outer space. More hijinks abound for Mr Chicken and a cast of crazy characters in this tale sure to delight young readers.



## Walk With Us: Welcome to Our Country

Adam Goodes, Ellie Laing and David Hardy (illus)

HB \$24.99



The fourth in this wonderful series and maybe the most important — *Walk With Us* has been inspired by the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Join Harvey and his Mum as they take a walk through the local park with Uncle Boris, an Indigenous guide who takes the group on a tour through Country. An invitation to learn for both kids and adults.



## Our Family Dragon: A Lunar New Year Story

Rebecca Lim and Cai Tse (illus) | HB \$24.99



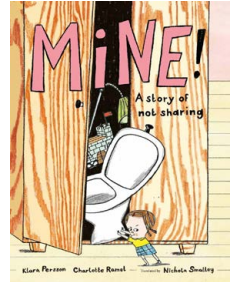
It's time to welcome the Year of the Dragon! Discover what the dragon will bring for the new year, what foods to prepare and celebrations to dance. Multi award-winning Australian writer Rebecca Lim invites all into this stunning story of joy and culture.



## Mine! A Story of Not Sharing

*Klara Persson, Charlotte Ramel (illus) and Nichola Smalley (trans) | HB \$26.99*

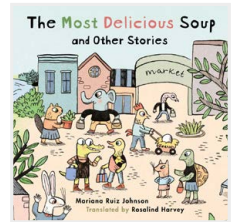
Sally is having her friend Nico over to play but she's not sure she wants him touching some of her favourite toys. Mum suggests putting the things she doesn't want to share in the wardrobe. As more and more items end up in the wardrobe Sally realises it might be more fun to have the toys to play with. A very funny book about the many benefits of sharing.



## The Most Delicious Soup and Other Stories

*Mariana Ruiz Johnson and Rosalind Harvey (trans) HB \$26.99*

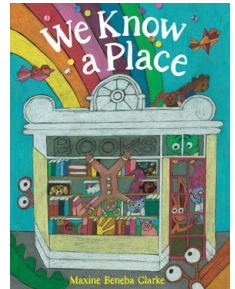
Welcome to the Village of Villa Verde where these five interconnected stories take place. Each story captures experiences that children will be familiar with, like taking a rainy day trip to the library with grandma, visiting the market and falling madly in love with a new pet. Young readers will love the comic book style and there's hours of entertainment to be had with the detailed illustrations.



## We Know a Place

*Maxine Beneba Clarke | HB \$24.99*

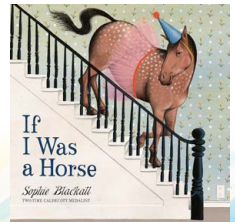
Every Saturday two children set out on a journey to their local bookshop, a magical place where you'll never know what fictional characters you'll meet and where sneaky stories escape as you peep in the door. This is a celebration of reading, and the magic found in books and bookshops.



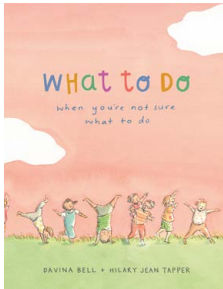
## If I Was a Horse

*Sophie Blackall | HB \$24.99*

'...I would gallop all day!' Inspired by a line her son once said as a child, the two-time Caldecott Medal winner has once again created a gloriously playful book that celebrates imagination and wonder. The perfect story for anyone who wanted to be something else, because when you are a kid... you can be whatever your heart desires.



# Picture Books

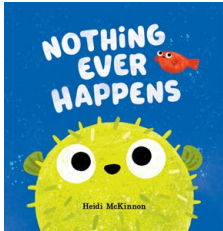


## What to Do When You're Not Sure What to Do



*Davina Bell and Hilary Jean Tapper (illus) | HB \$24.99*

From the duo who brought us *What to Say When You Don't Know* *What to Say* comes another stunning picture book to help littlies navigate tricky situations. From saying sorry to voicing your fears, Bell's text and Tapper's illustrations are pitch perfect for helping young children find their words.

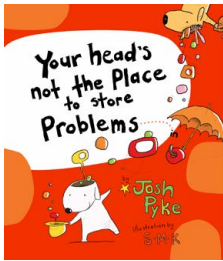


## Nothing Ever Happens



*Heidi McKinnon | HB \$19.99*

Heidi McKinnon's trademark wit and vibrant illustrations bring to life this humorous tale about being bored and what happens when you get what you wish for. Little readers will love the picture cues that reveal that something is happening – it's just that the characters don't know it yet!



## Your Head's Not the Place to Store Problems



*Josh Pyke and Stephen Michael King (illus) | HB \$26.99*

Much admired duo Josh Pyke and Stephen Michael King explore the world of emotions in a gentle and whimsical way. The beautiful rhyme encourages children to identify and talk about their feelings, because everyone knows that your head is not the place to store problems and it's important to set them free.



## Gymnastica Fantastica!



*Briony Stewart | HB \$24.99*

I thought the book was very fancy and had lots of great colourful pictures in it. I enjoyed rolling and jumping around trying to do all the poses from the book, especially the one where you touch your toe to your nose.

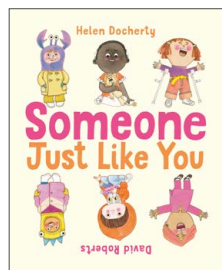
Rosie  
Age 3



## Someone Just Like You

*Helen Docherty and David Roberts (illus) | HB \$24.99*

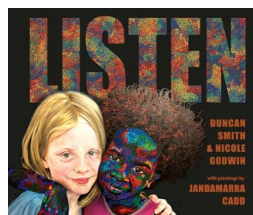
This truly beautiful picture book is a heartwarming entreaty to show kindness, thoughtfulness and acceptance. Roberts' gorgeous illustrations depict wonderful diversity, and combined with Docherty's lyrical rhyming text, shows children the similarities they share and encourages empathy for people just like you going through difficult times.



## Listen

*Duncan Smith, Nicole Godwin and Jandamarra Cadd (illus) | HB \$24.99*

*Listen* is filled with brightly unique paintings by Jandamarra Cadd, and meaningful text from Duncan Smith and Nicole Godwin. Their story leads us to consider the importance of listening and truth-telling in response to Australia's complex history. A heartfelt celebration of our nation's First People.



## Crow Baby

*Helen Milroy | HB \$24.99*

When a baby is born with a crow and human spirit, she is nurtured by both communities until she makes a selfless decision that changes her future. With superb, vibrant illustrations, this stunning picture book from Indigenous creator Helen Milroy is a wonderful introduction for young readers to First Nations storytelling.

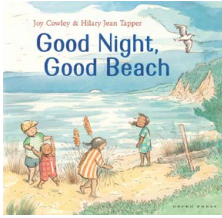


## Always Never Always

*Meg McKinlay and Leila Tude (illus) | HB \$25.99*

The perfect picture book for little adventurers! This charming tale provides rhyming words of wisdom that you must or mustn't do to ensure your escapades are happy ones. It's a delightful book to read aloud with the most endearing illustrations of a little girl, her duck and a successful outdoor experience.

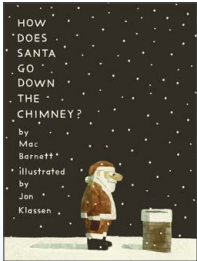




## Good Night, Good Beach

*Joy Cowley and Hilary Jean Tapper (illus) | HB \$27.99*

It is the end of a long hot day at the beach with skin sticky from salt and beach treasures under pillows. The rhythm of the text echoes the cadence of shushing waves at the end of the story. This is a lovely book to read at bedtime that distils the essence of a family summer at the beach through its simple poetic text and beautiful watercolour illustrations.



## How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?

*Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen (illus) | HB \$27.99*

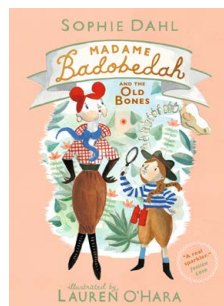
Barnett and Klassen always work magic together and this festive romp will have all ages snort-laughing out loud in unison. Addressing the age-old question 'how does Santa actually get inside the house?', this hilarious tale of shapeshifting, feet first, sliding under doors shenanigans answers all those questions and more. Sure to become an adored Christmas classic.



## Madame Badobedah and the Old Bones

*Sophie Dahl and Lauren O'Hara (illus) | HB \$27.99*

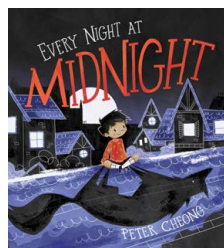
Mabel and her best friend Madame Badobedah live in the Mermaid Hotel. They spend their days larking on the beach and searching for treasure. On Saturdays after elevenses, they choose a drawer in Madame's magic dressing table and they are off on a fantastical mission to the Natural History Museum. A beautifully illustrated celebration of imagination and friendship.



## Every Night At Midnight

*Peter Cheong | HB \$24.99*

Every night at midnight a little boy turns into a wolf. Dramatic illustrations capture the loneliness of thinking you are different until a wild chase through the night leads to a heartwarming discovery; capturing the love of being wild and the joys of being part of a pack.



## Country Tells Us When...

*Tsheena Cooper, Mary Dann, Dalisa Pigram-Ross and Sheree Ford | HB \$24.99*

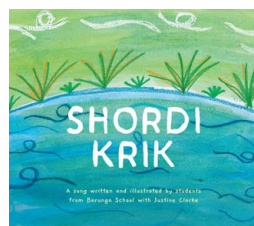
Some cultures around the world have four seasons on a calendar: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. The Yawuru mob have six seasons and Country tells them when each season arrives by what they feel, see, taste, smell and hear. This beautifully illustrated book is an engaging way to share important cultural knowledge and language.



## Shordi Krik

*Students from Barunga School and Justine Clarke  
HB \$24.99*

Join students from Barunga School in the Northern Territory on a trip to their local creek where they play and swim. Written in Kriol and English, everyone will be singing along with this joyful song and learning more about life in Barunga as they go!



# Junior Fiction

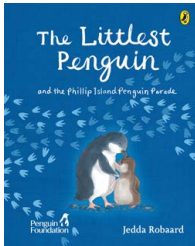


## Hello Twigs, Surprise! Hello Twigs, How Are You Feeling? Hello Twigs, Let's Find Treasure Hello Twigs, Time to Paint



*Andrew McDonald and Ben Wood (illus) | PB \$10.99 each*

Meet the Twigs and Stump. Their everyday foolish lives and hilarious antics will leave you giggling and loving reading. Simple language and goofy jokes are paired with bold illustrations to create an accessible and delightful graphic novel series perfect for new readers from the creators of *Real Pigeons*.

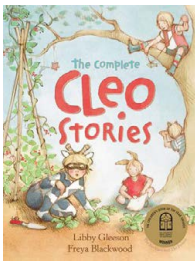


## The Littlest Penguin and the Phillip Island Penguin Parade



*The Penguin Foundation and Jemma Robaard (illus) | PB \$24.99*

Huck, huck, whoop, kazoo! Join the Littlest Penguin and friends as they explore the world, from being hatchlings in the colony to heading out to sea for the very first time on a year-long adventure. This beautifully illustrated chapter book is perfect for young readers to read aloud. A fun and informative story.



## The Complete Cleo Stories



*Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood (illus) | HB \$24.99*

Cleo is a little girl with a big imagination, who solves problems in creative and amusing ways and has a heap of fun doing so. This gorgeous collection of four stories by the dynamic team of Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood will delight newly independent readers ready for more of a challenge, as well as being a perfect read aloud for children ready for longer stories at bedtime with its whimsical writing and gorgeous colour illustrations.



## The Isabelle Stories: Volume 2



*Jane Godwin and Robin Cowcher (illus)  
PB \$14.99*

This year Isabelle and her friends, Izzy and Harry B, are in Grade 2 and they have a new teacher called Ms P. What I like about *The Isabelle Stories* is that every time it gets more interesting. I like that I can read them by myself but sometimes I need help. I think my friends would enjoy *The Isabelle Stories* too.

Lola  
Age 6



## Millie Mak the Maker

*Alice Pung and Sher Rill Ng (illus) | HB \$22.99*



A journey through creativity starts with a project to restore an abandoned doll house and ends with new friends. Along the way Millie learns some new skills as well as some important life lessons. This is a sweet and wholesome story, with delicate illustrations throughout. Plus a bunch of delightful craft projects included at the end!



## The Magic Gems: Lily Halfmoon 1

*Xavier Bonet | PB \$16.99*

Lily is a witch, and is attending a secret school to learn all about Gem Magic. But an evil creature is on the loose — can Lily figure out her powers in time to save the day? This is a fun adventure and a charming beginning to a new graphic novel series for young readers.

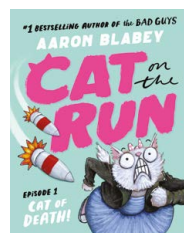


## Cat on the Run: Cat of Death!

*Aaron Blabey | PB \$16.99*



What happens when the World's #1 Cat Video Star Princess Beautiful gets accused of a crime she didn't commit? She becomes a Cat on the Run, of course. But how do you avoid capture and prove your innocence when you are the most famous feline on the planet?! The author of *The Bad Guys* has done it again creating another character that kids (and grown ups!) are going to love.



## Bullie Beware (Fluff #1)

*Matt Stanton | PB \$15.99*



I don't have an imaginary friend, but in this story Gilbert does and his name is Fluff. Fluff is a giant fluffy bunny and they get up to lots of mischief together! I think you'll really like this funny story and wish you had an imaginary friend to help you when you needed them.

Henry  
Age 9



# Middle Fiction



## The 169-Storey Treehouse

*Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (illus) | PB \$14.99*



## Who's Who & What's Where in the Treehouse

*Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton (illus) | PB \$16.99*

**Question:** What has taken 12 years to build, has 169 storeys and millions of fans?

**Answer:** Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton's Treehouse series of course! With *Who's Who and What's Where in the Treehouse*, learn all the secret facts, and savour it as the Treehouse series has finally come to a stupendous end.

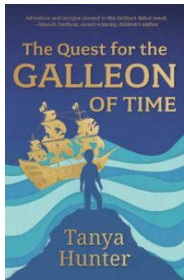


## Kip of the Mountain

*Emma Gourlay | HB \$19.99*



Kip's home is not for the fainthearted. It's full of ghostly horses, scheming vets and greedy kings. When her best friend, a special furry creature, is kidnapped, Kip must gather her closest allies and use her most cunning schemes to rescue him.



## The Quest for the Galleon of Time

*Tanya Hunter | PB \$17.99*



This is an exciting adventure set on the high seas involving secrets and family betrayals. Tobias Crane is an 11-year-old cabin boy on the *Merry Maiden* in 1738 whose first-time experiences at sea include shipwrecks, pirates, and ghostly encounters. With plenty of action, it will appeal to readers of historical fiction.



## The Lonely Lighthouse of Elston-Fright

*Reece Carter and Simon Howe (illus) | PB \$17.99*



The prequel to *A Girl Called Corpse* is as good as I thought it would be, it does not disappoint. *The Lonely Lighthouse of Elston-Fright* is a stand-alone read so you do not have to read the first one in order to enjoy the experience. I recommend this book to anyone who likes spooky fiction.

Teddy  
Age 9





## The Impossible Secret of Lillian Velvet: A Kingdoms and Empires Book

Jaclyn Moriarty and Kelly Canby (illus) | HB \$22.99



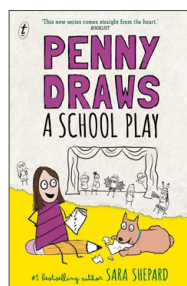
This is a ripser of a read — both clever and entertaining! Lillian is given a jar full of gold coins on her 10th birthday. Suddenly she is travelling through time, meeting an eclectic cast of characters including Genies, Hurltins and Mettlestones, trying to understand what her connection is with them and if she can help their plights.



## Penny Draws a School Play

Sara Shepard | PB \$16.99

Following on from the success of *Penny Draws a Best Friend*, we now have a second book in the humorous, heartfelt, highly illustrated series about a girl who doodles to cope with her anxiety. Halfway through fifth grade, Penny has her friends and her lovable dog Cosmo. But big change is around the corner. How will Penny cope?



## Silver Linings

Katrina Nannestad | HB \$19.99

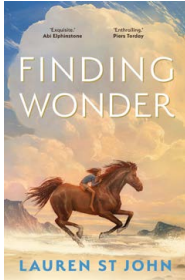


Five-year-old Nettie is so happy when her dad remarries because she has always wanted a mother, and her mum died when she was born. Just when everything is at its peak, a terrible thing happens that tears Nettie's family apart, so Nettie tries to fix things, and bring her family back together again. *Silver Linings* made me feel happy in the end, and I thought that Nettie's kindness made her the perfect character to tell the story.

Edie  
Age 11



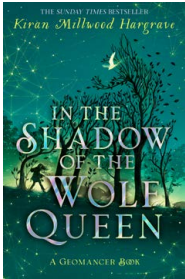
# Middle Fiction



## Finding Wonder

*Lauren St John* | PB \$17.99

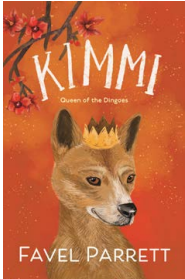
Orphaned Roo Thorn feels like the unluckiest girl in the world. Until, with the help of her aunt, Roo sets out to buy her dream horse — a fiery showjumper named Wonder Boy. But when Wonder vanishes without a trace, Roo and Joni are drawn into a mystery which soon becomes an exciting and dangerous adventure!



## In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen (Geomancer #1)

*Kiran Millwood Hargrave* | PB \$17.99

This fantasy is a rollercoaster ride from beginning to end, as Ysolda tries to rescue her missing sister. But something is shaking the world to the core, and many seek an ancient magic and vast power. Who can Ysolda trust? Hargrave's writing is superb, with rich prose and strong world building. A fantastic adventure with more to come!



## Kimmi

*Favel Parrett* | HB \$19.99

One of Australia's most adored authors and passionate dingo advocates has brought us a beautiful follow up to last year's classic, *Wandi*, with an equally moving tale of incredible courage and survival. This time, we follow how Kimmi became queen of the dingoes, tracing thousands of years and the long line of female dingoes who came before her. A modern classic to share with the whole family.



## Impossible Creatures

*Katherine Rundell* | PB \$18.99

Christopher's family are guardians to the entrance to the Archipelago, where magical creatures run free and magic thrives. When a girl called Mal emerges from the pond and says that she needs help, the two make friends, battle monsters, negotiate with sphinxes and centaurs and much more! This book was AMAZING! I can't wait for more.

Angus  
Age 11

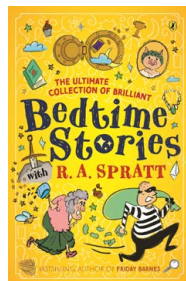


## Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt

*R.A. Spratt* | PB \$22.99



R.A. Spratt is back with a huge collection of imaginative short stories taken from her immensely popular podcast of the same name. The stories chosen were the most popular stories from the podcast including a new never-before-published Friday Barnes mystery. These stories are ridiculously funny and highly imaginative.

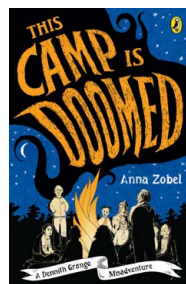


## This Camp is Doomed: A Dennith Grange Misadventure

*Anna Zobel* | PB \$16.99



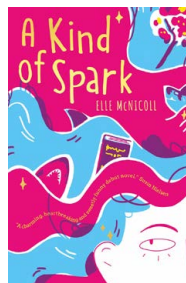
The only thing more exciting than going to camp is having magical powers and going to camp! This isn't any ordinary magic camp though, the instructor seems odd, there's a light in the abandoned cabin and there might be a ghost trying to warn them of danger... A perfectly spooky and fun read!



## A Kind of Spark

*Elle McNicoll* | PB \$18.99

11-year-old Addie knows there is more to the witches who were put on trial during a dark era in her Scottish town's history. As Addie campaigns for a memorial to be created, this could also be her chance to challenge how people see her and her autism. This is a heartfelt and funny story about friendship, standing up for your beliefs and using your voice.

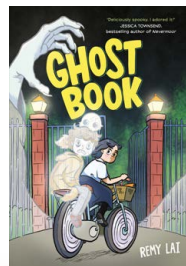


## Ghost Book

*Remy Lai* | PB \$19.99



During the Chinese Hungry Ghost Festival, wandering spirit William, his ghost dog Floof and June, a girl no one ever remembers, sneak into the underworld on a quest to reunite William's spirit with his comatose body. Spooky, impish and hilarious — this is a graphic novel everybody should read!



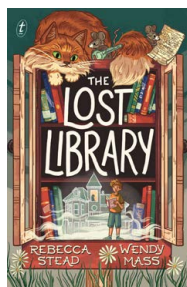
# Middle Fiction



## The Silver Road

*Sinead O'Hart* | PB \$17.99

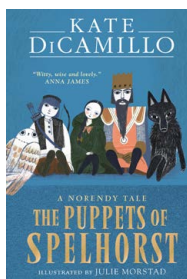
One night Rose hears a strange sound outside. When she goes to investigate, a Frost Giant hands her a stone she quickly discovers can be used for great good or great evil. This leads to an even bigger discovery that the magic of the Silver Road, a protective net cast over Ireland, is in danger of disappearing. An exciting magical fantasy adventure drawing on Celtic folklore with a modern twist.



## The Lost Library

*Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass* | PB \$16.99

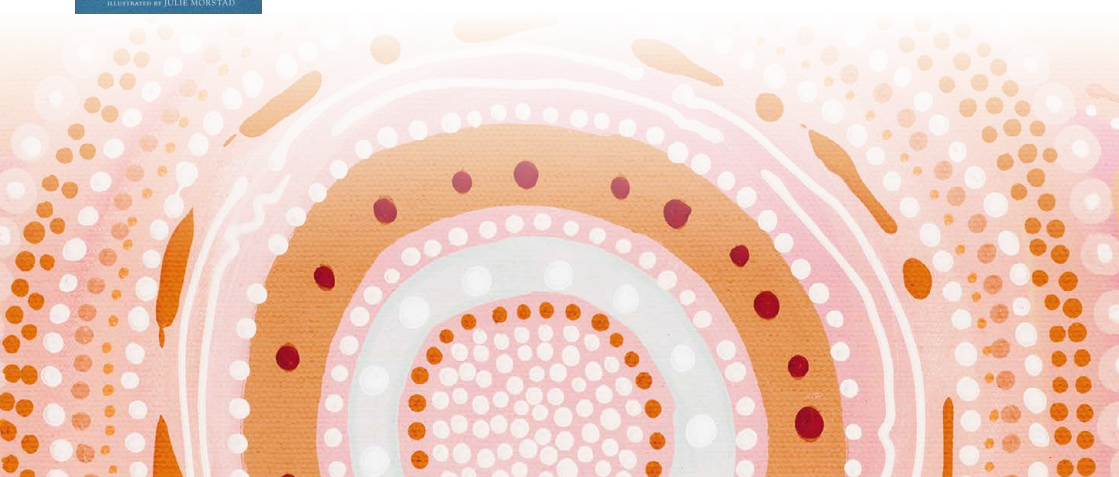
At the heart of *The Lost Library* is the mystery of the Martinville town library and how it burnt down, long before 11-year-old Evan was born. One day a small free library suddenly appears overnight on the town green. Evan borrows two books from it that contain puzzling clues about what really happened the night of the fire. With his best friend Rafe, they are determined to put the pieces together. A wholly satisfying page-turner complete with twists and turns, heartwarming characters and a few otherworldly ones as well.



## The Puppets of Spelhorst

*Kate DiCamillo and Julie Morstad (illus)* | HB \$24.99

This is an instant classic! Kate DiCamillo infuses folktale charm into this whimsical story about a group of puppets who find themselves bought for two precocious girls, but perhaps have bigger adventures in their future. Julie Morstad's delightful illustrations enhance and complement perfectly the fairytale feel of this witty and enchanting book.



# Almost Young Adult



## Scar Town

Tristan Banks | PB \$16.99

Exploring a town previously submerged underwater, three kids find a stash of cash and some bones in an old abandoned house. What follows is an unpredictable story about friendship, family and dark secrets. Tense and fast paced, I think it might be my favourite Tristan Banks book yet... and I really like them all!



Patrick  
Age 12

## Two Sparrowhawks in a Lonely Sky

Rebecca Lim | PB \$17.99

Set in 1950s rural China during the Great Leap Forward, *Two Sparrowhawks in a Lonely Sky* is the story of thirteen-year-old Fu and his younger sister Pei who leave their home in the hope of finding their father (who has been missing for almost a decade) and a better life in Melbourne. A story of courage and resilience suitable for lovers of historical fiction.



## Bite Risk

S.J. Wills | PB \$17.99

A dystopian thriller quest set in a town where adults turn into werewolves once a month. Brave Sel and his friends set out to discover the mystery behind this terrifying illness, and why the rest of the world seems to have abandoned them. It's fast-paced, twisty and clever. 12+



## The First Summer of Callie McGee

A.L. Tait | PB \$15.99

I like this book for the comedy, the mystery and a bit of romance. Two of my favourite characters were Sasha because of her sass and Callie for her wits and her talent for solving mysteries. I also like reading about someone who is my age. I think you will like this book if you like figuring out mysteries.



Lucy  
Age 12



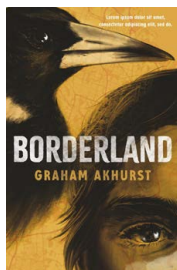


## Secret Sparrow

*Jackie French* | PB \$17.99



Jackie French has done it again! Her impeccable research combined with her narrative magic always makes for an engaging piece of historical fiction. This cross-generational story puts the spotlight on some of the forgotten women of WWI. Moving, confronting, and ultimately hopeful — this is a delightful read with a heartwarming happy ending.

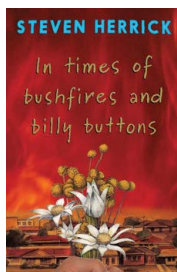


## Borderland

*Graham Akhurst* | PB \$22.99



Indigenous teenager Jono feels isolated from his life in the city and from his Country and community. Interning with a documentary crew in the western Queensland desert, Jono experiences terrifying visions that send him on a path of self-discovery. This will appeal to readers of eco thrillers and gothic horror. 15+



## In Times of Bushfires and Billy Buttons

*Steven Herrick* | PB \$19.95



Ethan's parents might be in jail for drug dealing but he has a pretty good life living with his Aunt Helen. When the new kid Joshua shows signs of experiencing abuse at home, Ethan reaches out to him in friendship. As fiery storms threaten their hometown, Ethan and his friends learn about what is truly important in life.



## Eleanor Jones is Not a Murderer

*Amy Doak* | PB \$19.99



At her new school Eleanor can't be bothered to start all over again and is reluctant to fit in. Until a new friend ends up in hospital fighting for his life after being stabbed. It turns out that Angus Marshall was also a bit of an outsider and it's up to Eleanor and her eclectic friends to help work out what happened to Angus before the killer strikes again.

## The Spider and Her Demons

*sydney khoo* | PB \$19.99



Zhi just wants to drift through school unnoticed, but that becomes impossible when the most popular girl in school witnesses her kill and eat a man. Zhi is every teenager that has ever felt trapped and a hopeful mirror into self-love. A story shimmering with demons and witches.

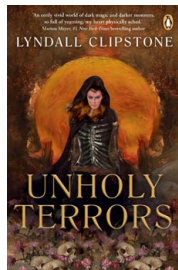


## Unholy Terrors

*Lyndall Clipstone* | PB \$19.99



Dark and lush and delicious! Girls in linen dresses overlaid with armour made from the bones of their vespertine enemies; a boy brought up to be the scariest monster; and rules and vows and sin in a tangled trap of a sensual web. The writing is evocative and lush, making this one fantasy romance you should not miss! For older readers.



## Her Radiant Curse

*Elizabeth Lim* | PB \$24.99

Sisters Vanna and Channari live in a world of half-dragons, snake gods and tiger demons. Devoted to each other, one sister is cursed and the other blessed; leading them on parallel lives of twisted friendships and guarded hearts. This is a tenacious story for any fantasy or folktale reader.



## Let's Never Speak of This Again

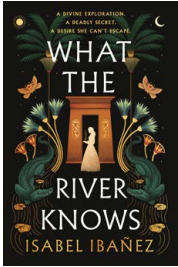
*Megan Williams* | PB \$24.99



*Let's Never Speak of This Again* is one of those rare books that feels real. Abby is flawed and relatable as she navigates the difficulties of growing up, narrating with a voice that is distinctly her own. The novel shares her journey toward healing as she forms new friendships and repairs old ones. Above all, it's a reminder to be brave, because change can come when you least expect it.

**Leah**  
Age 16

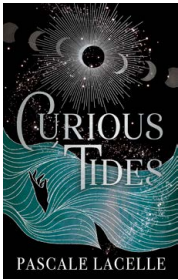




## What the River Knows

*Isabel Ibañez* | PB \$24.99

When Inez receives word of the tragic deaths of her globetrotting parents, she inherits their massive fortune and a mysterious guardian, an archaeologist working in Egypt. Looking for answers, Inez sails to Cairo, bringing her sketch pads and a golden ring her father sent to her for safekeeping before he died. A headstrong heroine, an exotic setting and a touch of magic make for a captivating read.



## Curious Tides

*Pascale Lacelle* | PB \$27.99

When Emory wakes up surrounded by her dead classmates on the shores of Aldryn College for Lunar Magics, she triggers a frightening power inside of herself. To control it, she turns to the school's most powerful and reclusive student, Baz, and sets off to understand why and how those students died.



## Thieves' Gambit

*Kayvion Lewis* | PB \$22.99

Being raised by a family of thieves means that, for Rosalyn, everything is up for grabs. But when the latest theft leads to the kidnapping of her mum, Rosalyn must gamble her life in a competition where she must face her most challenging task yet against the world's best thieves.



## Everything Under the Moon



*Michael Earp (editor)* | HB \$35.00

*Everything Under The Moon* is an outstanding collection of stories that shine a light on the beauty of queer love. From fantasy tales to space exploration, magic to mystery, this book has some of the best short stories I've ever read. Each has its own unique ways of showing the pain that comes with queer love. I highly recommend this book, and think it should be a staple on anyone's shelf.

**Peter**  
Age 15





## One Song

*A.J. Betts* | PB \$19.99



Eva's tried three times unsuccessfully to win the Triple J Unearthed High competition. Over a deadline of one weekend, four talented teens form a band to write, perform and record a winning song. What can possibly go wrong... well, just about everything! This is a fun coming of age story for music fans aged 14+.



## Betting On You

*Lynn Painter* | PB \$22.99

Charlie and Bailey first meet in a not-so-meet-cute airport situation where immediately their personalities clash. A few years later they end up working at the same amusement park where sparks fly, and they bond over their unhappiness at their divorced parents' new partners. A scheme of fake dating, secret bets, undeniable chemistry, bickering and banter ensures a lively and humorous read.



## Mall Goth

*Kate Leth* | PB \$24.99

It's 2003, and 15-year-old Liv is having trouble fitting in at high school and coping with changes at home. But she does like hanging out at the mall where she meets other goths from school and feels like she can be herself. A graphic novel full of witty dialogue that encapsulates teens navigating love, friendship and identity against the backdrop of an early 2000s mall.



## Stuck Up & Stupid

*Angourie Rice and Kate Rice* | PB \$22.99



*Stuck Up and Stupid* is a delightful Aussie take on *Pride and Prejudice*. Lily, the self-assured daughter of Lydia Bennett, spends her gap year between her island home and Hollywood, accidentally crossing paths with a proud (and handsome) movie star. This is a playful look at the foibles of family for new and old fans of Jane Austen.



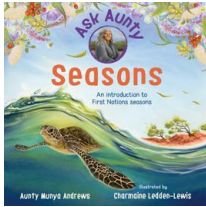
## Heartstopper Volume 5

*Alice Oseman* | PB \$24.99

The long anticipated fifth volume of the much-loved Heartstopper series. This wonderfully inclusive graphic novel series yet again brings us the sweet relationships between Charlie, Nick and their friends as they look to the future, toward university and big changes. This will be on every teen's wish list this December.



# Things to Know and Do

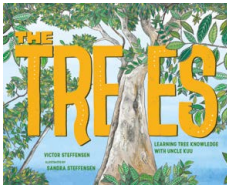


## Ask Aunty: Seasons

*Aunty Munya Andrews and Charmaine Ledden-Lewis (illus)*  
HB \$24.99



Do you know the seasons in Bardi Country? Join Aunty Munya as she describes the six First Nations seasons – lalin – in the Kimberley. See how changes in Country – booroo – signify the change in seasons. Peppered throughout with Bardi words, and enriched by vibrant illustrations, this is a wonderful introduction to the wet season – Mankal – and fat stingray season – Jalalay – and everything in between!

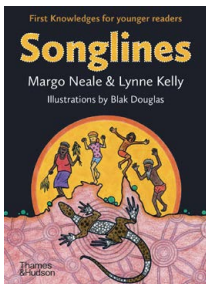


## The Trees

*Victor Steffensen and Sandra Steffensen (illus)*  
HB \$26.99



Join Uncle Kuu for a walk on Country to learn about the importance of caring for one of our most valuable resources. Find out how First Nations People look after trees and in return are rewarded with seeds, flowers, wood and more. An important lesson for all readers. Includes the lyrics to the song 'We Are The Trees' and a QR code to watch the song's YouTube video.



## Songlines: First Knowledges for Younger Readers

*Margo Neale, Lynne Kelly and Blak Douglas (illus)*  
PB \$24.99



The First Knowledges series has now been adapted for younger readers. *Songlines*, the first book in this new series, shows us all how best to care for Country, share knowledge and work towards a better future together.



## Universal Guide to the Night Sky

*Lisa Harvey-Smith and Sophie Beer (illus) | PB \$24.99*



Astrophysicist Lisa Harvey-Smith is accessible, informative and funny in this comprehensive guide to the night sky. Playful illustrations by Sophie Beer will guide you through your stargazing journey. You will learn practical tips like how to set up your telescope, as well as all about the night sky — from finding comets to gas-clouds and supernovae.

## How We Came to Be: Creatures of Camouflage and Mimicry



*Sami Bayly* | HB \$19.99

Nature at its most clever. Sami Bayly brings us the best creative creatures of camouflage. Filled with wonderful illustrations of some amazing animals who can protect themselves with colour, sound and smell. You will be left amazed how these ingenious creatures survive and thrive.



## Weird and Wonderful Nature

*Ben Hoare* | HB \$42.99

A book filled with facts about Earth's most extraordinary animals, plants and natural phenomena. Enquiring minds will pore over the detailed photographs and illustrations showing how sea cucumbers defend themselves, explaining why Mexican jumping beans jump, what really causes the northern lights and dozens of other weird and wonderful things that take place in nature.

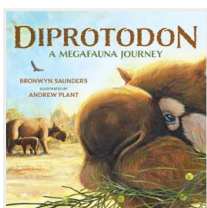


## Diprotodon: A Megafauna Journey



*Bronwyn Saunders and Andrew Plant (illus)* | HB \$24.99

Who wouldn't want to learn about the largest marsupial who ever lived? Told as an adventure story, we follow the Diprotodon as he meets other ice age giants and learns to survive on his own. Lush illustrations bring the world of Australian dinosaurs to life. This book is perfect for your curious dinosaur-loving child.



## Ultrawild



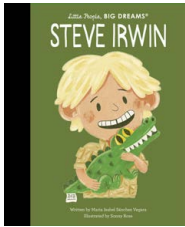
*Steve Mushin* | HB \$34.99

I really love graphic novels, I also love reading about interesting facts and cool ideas, and this book is full of all of those things and more! It is an awesome and funny book that made me wonder what life would be like if we put more plants and animals in our cities and we let scientists and artists work together to make ridiculous ideas into ultra wild, planet saving magic. Totally my new favourite book!

Rose  
Age 10



# Things to Know and Do



## Steve Irwin (Little People, Big Dreams)

*Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara and Sonny Ross (illus) | HB \$19.99*

Introduce the next generation of animal lovers to the incredible life and adventures of Steve Irwin, one of Australia's most celebrated conservationists. From caring for injured animals at his parents' wildlife sanctuary to catching his first crocodile at age 9. His legacy endures today through the Wildlife Warriors.



## Ash Barty Champion

*Ash Barty | PB \$22.99*



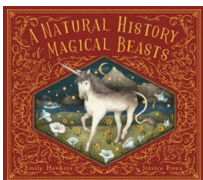
A younger readers' edition of Ash Barty's bestselling memoir which recounts her journey from the first time she picked up a tennis racquet through to winning the 2022 Australian Open. It is a story of strong family ties, the importance of teamwork even in an individual sport and having the determination to follow your dreams. A great way to inspire the next generation.



## What's The Big Idea?

*Tracey Turner and Tequitia Andrews (illus) | HB \$29.99*

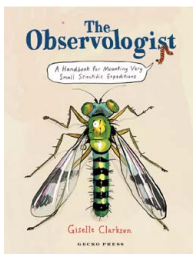
This book explains, simply, all of the world's big ideas 'isms', 'ologys' and concepts for your curious child. Bite sized explanations and bright colourful illustrations make learning about those big words they may have come across, but not understood, easy. Whether it is anthropology, feminism, or stoicism, it is all covered in a concise and informative way.



## A Natural History of Magical Beasts

*Emily Hawkins and Jessica Roux (illus) | HB \$39.99*

Perfect for any young one with a passion for mythical creatures. This book is filled with stunning watercolour art bringing us creatures from all over the world, including China, Peru and Europe. Filled with letter and diary entries, we find out about some of the most magical creatures like the Phoenix, Sasquatch, Unicorns and my favourite, the Loch Ness Monster.



## The Observologist

*Giselle Clarkson | HB \$37.99*

There is a wealth of information to be enjoyed in this fun, quirky and creative guide to the small creatures and natural wonders we find if we stop and really look at the world around us. Scientific facts are delivered with comic asides, detailed illustrations and funny stories in this fabulous book.



## The Book of Mysteries, Magic, and the Unexplained

*Tamara Macfarlane and Kristina Kister (illus) | HB \$39.99*

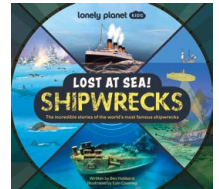
Jam-packed with fascinating information, this book traces the history of magic ritual from spells and potions to alchemy and divination, as well as investigating other mysteries of the paranormal. Everything from wizards and witches to UFOs and extraterrestrials!



## Lost at Sea! Shipwrecks

*Ben Hubbard and Eoin Coveney (illus) | HB \$29.99*

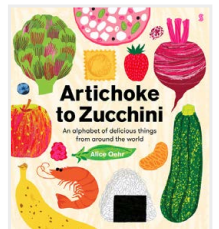
Most of us have heard about the tragic events of the sinking of the *Titanic* but did you know there are over three million shipwrecks lying on the bottom of the sea? Learn about 12 of these shipwrecks and the many daring tales of heroic escapes. Full of photos, illustrations and fascinating facts young readers will be drawn to learn more about these dramatic real-life events and the secrets of the sea.



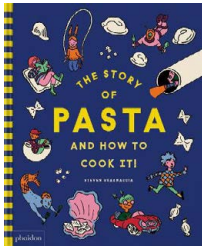
## Artichoke to Zucchini

*Alice Oehr | HB \$24.99*

This beautifully illustrated alphabet of delicious things from around the world is the perfect book for kids of all ages excited about food, culture and recipes. Loaded with fun facts and absolutely stunning illustrations, it's not only bound to get kids excited about being in the kitchen, but will no doubt encourage them to try new and exotic flavours too.



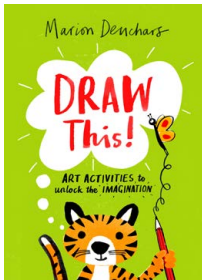
# Things to Know and Do



## The Story of Pasta... and How to Cook It!

Steven Guarnaccia | HB \$39.95

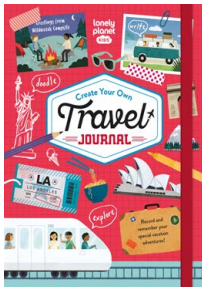
Did you know that there are 35 different pasta shapes? Learn all the names, shapes and their origin stories. Each pasta is accompanied by a simple recipe specially suited to its shape. An entertaining, fact-filled, scrumptious offering for every child interested in cooking and eating.



## Draw This!

Marion Deuchars | PB \$22.99

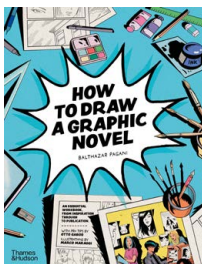
You can draw anything! Grab some pens and pencils and unleash your creativity with *Draw This!* Unlock your imagination with more than 20 different activities and prompts to learn how to draw owls, foxes and more — let your imagination run wild.



## Create Your Own Travel Journal

Lonely Planet | HB \$19.99

Holiday memories of young travellers will last a lifetime with this pocket-sized hardback perfectly designed to record jottings and doodles. It is also full of activities including drawing challenges and story prompts. It's the perfect way to encourage kids to really engage with their holiday experiences and create a wonderful memento.



## How to Draw a Graphic Novel

Balthazar Pagani and Otto Gabos | PB \$35.00

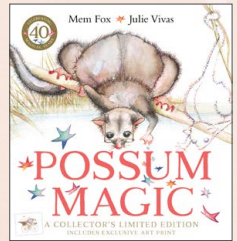
Kids who love reading graphic novels will be able to have a go at creating their own. Learn how to structure a story, develop characters, design settings and even the basics of printing, binding and digital file set-up. Includes information on cult creators and how they work, as well as a recommended reading list of famous graphic novels and comic books.

# Anniversary Editions

## **Possum Magic** 40th Anniversary Edition with Art Print

*Mem Fox and Julie Vivas (illus) | HB \$39.99*

For 40 magical years *Possum Magic* has captivated and enchanted children and adults alike. Mem Fox's lovable characters, little Hush and Grandma Poss, together with Julie Vivas' exquisite illustrations, weave a story of pure magic. Continuously in print since it was first published by Omnibus Books in 1983, *Possum Magic* has been embraced as a timeless Australian tale.



## **Rowan of Rin: The Journey** 30th Anniversary Edition

*Emily Rodda | HB \$39.99*

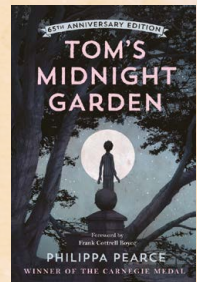
All five books in a special deluxe edition of the award-winning *Rowan of Rin* series, from much-loved master storyteller Emily Rodda, author of the *Deltora Quest* series. The well that supplies water to the village of Rin has dried up and young Rowan is one of the seven villagers tasked with discovering the cause of the problem, but Rowan is timid and far from the adventuring type. A classic introduction to the fantasy quest for young readers that reminds us that not all heroes look the same.



## **Tom's Midnight Garden** 65th Anniversary Edition

*Philippa Pearce | HB \$27.95 PB \$16.95*

When Tom is sent to stay at his aunt and uncle's house he resigns himself to endless weeks of boredom. One night as he is lying awake he hears the grandfather clock strike thirteen! This leads to a magical discovery – a gorgeous garden and in it a girl called Hatty who seems to come from a different time. There's a reason this book has been a favourite for over half a century.



## **Skellig** 25th Anniversary Illustrated Edition

*David Almond | HB \$26.99*

When Michael undergoes huge stresses in his life – moving house and the life-threatening illness of his new baby sister – he finds solace and wonder in his new neighbour Mina and the old angel-like creature he finds living in the garage. Full of quirk, this is a beautiful, award-winning novel that abounds with love. It is odd, heartbreaking, heartwarming and delightful. Happy 25th Anniversary Skellig!





## What You Need to Be Warm

Neil Gaiman | HB \$19.99

An extraordinary lyrical poem about what represents warmth and, in the refugee experience, the warmth of being welcomed somewhere.



## Whale of a Time

Lou Peacock and Matt Hunt (illus) HB \$45.00

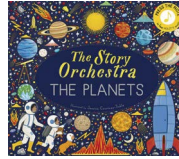
This beautiful hardcover edition is the perfect way to bring in a poem to each day of your child's year. Some will make you giggle, and some will make you cry (with laughter!).



## Three Tasks for a Dragon

Eoin Colfer and P. J. Lynch (illus) | HB \$32.99

The legendary dragon Lasvarg has captured the maiden Cethlenn. Young Prince Lir must embark on a perilous quest to get her back. A classic dragon quest with a modern twist.



## The Planets (Story Orchestra)

Jessica Courtney Tickle HB \$29.99


A new edition in the ever-popular Story Orchestra series. The story of Gustave Holst's *The Planets* is told through the eyes of Tim and Helen as they magically travel into the solar system.


# BookPeople


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The books in this guide have been chosen and reviewed by members of the Australian Booksellers Association (now BookPeople), who use their expertise to support reading for all ages.

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