

# KIDS' READING GUIDE 2020 - 2021



HANDPICKED AND REVIEWED BY  
AUSTRALIA'S LEADING BOOKSELLERS

# WELCOME TO THE 2020 KIDS' READING GUIDE

Books are an important part of growing up for all our children.

*It introduces them to the many beautiful stories that come from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and illustrators and shows them the diversity of our cultures.*

*It takes them on a journey of learning right around this big country of ours, through stories and illustrations.*

*It opens up a whole new world for children, through the stories read by both parents and educators so they*

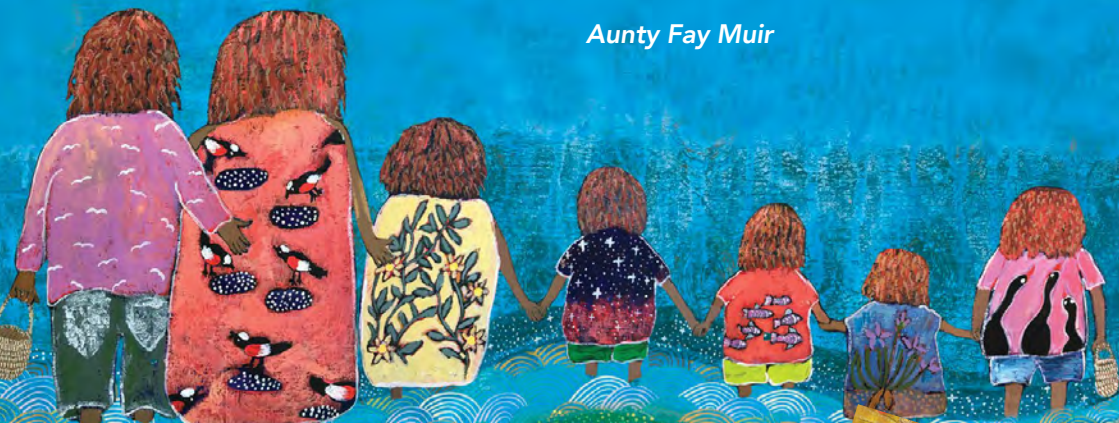
*can use their imagination to widen their curiosity and for them to want more.*

*As parents and teachers, you have a very important role to play through giving them a love of reading and discovery.*

*I say to all parents, pick up a book today and read to your child, as you are giving them a very important gift, a gift of learning and a love for a great story, don't stop there.*

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Aunty Fay Muir



## Respect

Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawson and Lisa Kennedy (Illus)



## Family

Aunty Fay Muir, Sue Lawson and Jasmine Seymour (Illus)  
HB \$24.99

Magabala's Our Place series aims to welcome children to Aboriginal culture, and these exquisite books are must-reads for picture book fans of all ages. Youngsters will love the luminous illustrations and engaging text and parents will appreciate the messages of respect and importance of family.



# BABY & TODDLER

## Welcome, Baby, to This World

Jess Racklyeft | HB \$19.99



This stunningly illustrated picture book with lovely lyrical rhyming text will make the perfect present for any newborn baby. It gently explores the child parent relationship by describing all the things, both small and grand, that they will do together. Filled with possibilities it is the perfect read aloud story.

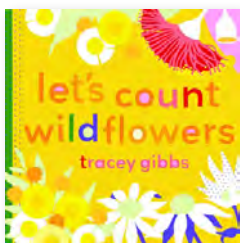


## Let's Count Wildflowers

Tracey Gibbs | BB \$14.99



This counting book with its vivid spreads of eye popping colour will be a delight to share with the very young. The native Australian wildflowers and gentle rhyming prose that accompany each page is sure to make this a firm family favourite.



## Pet

Matthew Van Fleet | HB \$35.00

A funny and interactive book featuring everyone's favourite pets! Sturdy pull tables, flaps, textures, and a fabulous pop-up finale will entertain young readers as they discover the world of possible pets to get! Sure to be a read aloud favourite for all toddlers who love animals.



# BABY & TODDLER



## Peekaboo Apple, Peekaboo Bear, Peekaboo Cow, Peekaboo Sun

Camilla Reid and Ingela P Arrenhuis | BB \$14.99

Babies love to play peekaboo and these books make the game even more fun. Every page has a slider element which you can push, pull or turn. They are brightly coloured with a mirror surprise at the end of each book.



## What's Up, Fire Truck?

Matthew Reinhart | BB \$24.99

There is so much to discover in this innovative board book. Follow the firefighters through a day at the station, lift the flaps to open the fire truck doors or unfold the ladder. Once you're done, the book folds up to become a sturdy 3D fire truck that little hands can play with!



**Lochie, age 2  
and Jackson, age 4**

## At the Dog Park

Moira Court | HB \$24.99



A great book with heaps of dogs we think we've met but can't be sure until we sniff their bottoms. The little humans in your life will enjoy recognising all the different dogs and learning about opposites. Its only failing is that somehow it doesn't feature us in it!

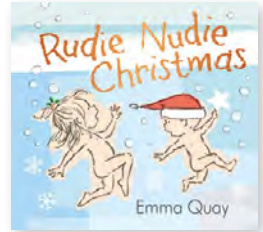


## Rudie Nudie Christmas

Emma Quay | HB \$24.99



The cheeky siblings from *Rudie Nudie* are back, singing carols, eating gingerbread and doing their nudie run through Christmas Eve. Quay's rhythmic, rhyming text and her beautiful illustrations, so full of movement, skilfully depict their joy and excitement about Christmas. Perfect for little ones at any time of year. Absolutely delightful!



## Bear in Space

Deborah Abela and Marjorie Crosby-Fairall | HB \$25.99



Bear doesn't have much in common with the other bears but that's okay, he's happy building his space rocket and heading off for solo adventures—drinking hot chocolate and looking at the stars. Then one day he meets someone else who likes the same things as him. A celebration of being your own person and the joy in finding your tribe.



## Bears Love Squares

Caryl Hart and Edward Underwood | PB \$14.99

Here is a bear who definitely loves squares. Not circles, rectangles or triangles. Just squares. This story is a fantastic way to introduce your child to shapes and colours in a fun, entertaining way. It is full of brilliant illustrations of the lovable Raccoon who tries to show Bear that there is more to the world than squares.



## Busy Beaks

Sarah Allen | HB \$19.99

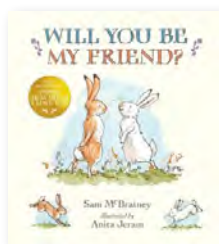


I love this book! It is so bright and colourful. There is so much for me to look at on every page. I point at all the birds and my mum tells me their names, she's even learning a thing or two about all the beautiful birds we have in Australia. My favourite are the Firetail Finches splashing in the bird bath. When my mum is done reading it, I always say, 'Again! Again!'



**Charlie, age 2**

# PICTURE BOOKS



## Will You Be My Friend?

Sam McBratney and Anita Jeram | HB \$24.99

After 25 years Big Nutbrown Hare and Little Nutbrown Hare are back. Little Nutbrown Hare is out on an adventure and finding friends along the way. This is a tender tale about the wonders of childhood, and discovering independence and special friends. Charmingly illustrated, this is the perfect companion to *Guess How Much I Love You*.



## Wombat.

Philip Bunting | HB \$17.99

The sneaky wombat from the best-selling *Mopoke* is now the star of its own book. A hilarious play on words and rhymes can be found with the many variations on the “bat” ending. How many can you come up with? This can be read again and again to the delight of children and adults.



## Sing Me the Summer

Jane Godwin and Alison Lester | HB \$24.99

Jane Godwin and Alison Lester are powerhouses of Australian kids' literature, and together they are unstoppable! This new book is a beautiful ode to Australia's changing seasons and the importance of time spent outdoors together with the ones you love. A classic in the making!



## Hello Jimmy!

Anna Walker | HB \$24.99

A very sweet and touching story about a little boy called Jack and his relationship with his father. With her stunning illustrations and simple text, Anna Walker says it best with her dedication “for the child who feels lost, may you feel found and know you are loved.”



## We Love You, Magoo

Briony Stewart | HB \$19.99

Magoo is a lovable and fun loving family dog but he is still learning the rules—he takes food from the table and rolls in the mud. Young children will delight in the rhyming adventures of Magoo and everyone will join in shouting ‘No! Magoo! This is for you’.



## How to Make a Bird

Meg McKinlay and Matt Ottley | HB \$25.99



Using hundreds of tiny, hollow bones, feathers for warmth and flight, heart, song, and dream, we watch as a bird is made. With beautiful and gentle text, expressing the wonder of creating something magical, and with stunning illustrations exploring fascinating perspectives, from tiny, intricate bird bones to vast bird's eye views, this is an exquisite book.

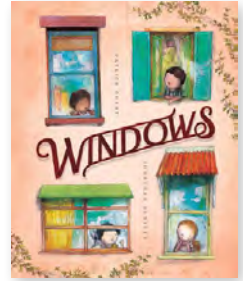


## Windows

Patrick Guest and Jonathan Bentley  
HB \$24.99



The world may be scary and strange right now but this beautiful picture book shows us that even when we are home alone in lockdown there is still joy and beauty and love to be found just outside our windows. A touching story of hope and community. The perfect picture book for our times.



## Into the Wild

Robert Vescio and Mel Armstrong | HB \$24.99

Roman loves exploring the wonders of nature, its mysteries and treasures, but something is missing. Perhaps his best surprise is finding someone to share his discoveries. A delightful picture book about the marvels that can be found in the natural world and the joys of friendship.



# PICTURE BOOKS



## Anemone is Not the Enemy

Anna McGregor | HB \$24.99



A little anemone just wants to make a friend, but he keeps accidentally stinging every fish he meets. Is there anyone in the ocean who won't be frightened of him? This is a wonderful story of friendship, with a fun educational element and incredibly cute illustrations.



## The Unwilling Twin

Freya Blackwood | HB \$24.99



This charming story is all about sibling love. With her fabulous illustrations, Freya Blackwood captures the innocent yet cheeky bond between twins Jules and George who are the same in every way. They play, do yoga together and after a long hot day at the beach and a disagreement, they can't stay mad at each other for long!



## Howl

Kat Patrick and Evie Barrow | HB \$24.99



It's been one of those days for Maggie when nothing goes right, and everything seems to be wrong. By bedtime the moon is bright and she is feeling wolfish, but she's not alone as her mum is feeling strange as well. It's nothing a little howl and prowl around the garden won't fix. This story is about coping with big feelings, and a wonderful reminder of the power of connection when we're having a difficult day, and how much better we can feel if we let ourselves be wild for a moment.



## How to be a Real Ballerina

Davina Bell and Jenny Lovlie  
HB \$24.99



Ballet is hard work but super fun. This book is super fun as well. I am a little like the girl in this book because sometimes I really want to hang upside down from the ballet bars. All the time I hate bobby pins. If you love ballet class or want to do ballet you will love this book.



**Tilda, age 4**



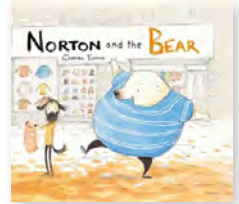


## Norton and the Bear

Gabriel Evans | HB \$25.99



Norton likes to dress differently because it makes him feel unique so he is very pleased when he finds a jumper that no one else has. But Bear really likes the jumper and much to Norton's dismay finds one just like it. A quirky story reminding us that imitation really can be the sincerest form of flattery.



## All About Fairies

Izzy Quinn | HB \$24.99



What do fairies really look like? What are their wings made from? Where can we find them? All your fairy questions will be answered in this beautifully illustrated book from the author of the bestselling *All About Mermaids*. A picture book to enchant all young fairy enthusiasts.



## The Littlest Yak

Lu Fraser and Kate Hindley | PB \$16.99

Gertie the tiny yak wants to grow up to be big and tall like the rest of her herd but one day she comes across a problem that only a very small yak can solve. This adorable picture book demonstrates that even the smallest amongst us can save the day.



## Meesha Makes Friends

Tom Percival | PB \$14.99

Meesha is great at making things but she's not great at making friends. Tom Percival is back with another wonderful, gentle story encouraging children to be brave enough to be themselves. Perfect for shy little ones needing help to navigate their social world.



## This Small Blue Dot

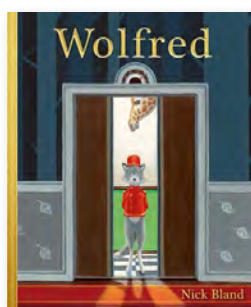
Zeno Sworder | HB \$24.99



A big sister describes what she has learnt about life so far to her new sibling. This utterly sublime picture book is full of wonder and wisdom, and is a gorgeous marriage of text and illustration. We are all caretakers of this small blue dot and we will all add to its story.



# PICTURE BOOKS

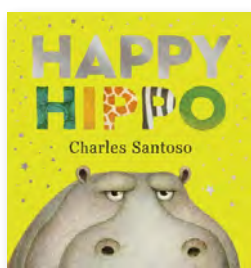


## Wolfred

Nick Bland | HB \$24.99



Wolfred works at the fanciest building in the city. He operates the lift and keeps a close, caring eye on everyone, but is not appreciated until the day trouble strikes. With lovely rhyming text, bold and beautiful illustrations, this delightful story about kindness comes from the bestselling author of the *Very Cranky Bear* books.



## Happy Hippo

Charles Santoso | HB \$17.99



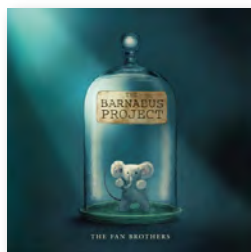
Hippo thinks that he is dull in comparison to every other animal. After trying on their unique traits, he discovers that maybe none of them suits him after all. Told in rhyming text and brightly illustrated, this is a super fun story that younger readers will love to hear being read aloud.



## The Goody

Lauren Child | HB \$24.99

Siblings Chirton and Myrtle are complete opposites; one has been labelled a 'goody' and is expected to always be good. The other is not. So, what happens if the goody is not-so-good for a day? *The Goody* is about the importance of autonomy and mindful decision-making. Perfect for perfectly imperfect children aged 4-8 years.



## The Barnabus Project

Eric Fan and Terry Fan | HB \$27.99

The inimitable Fan Brothers bring their signature illustration style to this magical tale about being true to yourself and following your dreams. Barnabus is a Failed Project who has never left the lab. With a lot of courage and determination, Barnabus and his friends set out to find freedom and acceptance in the outside world.



## What We'll Build: Plans for Our Together Future

Oliver Jeffers | HB \$24.99

A father and daughter gather tools and build a future together, they build memories to cherish and nurture them in hard times. Lovingly illustrated with an enduring message of love and hope. Oliver Jeffers beautiful illustrations bring to life the unconditional love between a parent and child and all of life's possibilities.

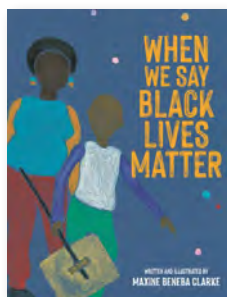


## When We Say Black Lives Matter

Maxine Beneba Clarke | HB \$26.99



Award winning author Maxine Beneba Clark has written and illustrated this gorgeous book depicting a black child's parents explaining what Black Lives Matter means to them and why Black Lives Matter. An essential book that introduces a big topic to young readers of all backgrounds.



## The Lost Library

Jess McGeachin | HB \$24.99



When Oliver finds a lost book in his bedroom he enlists the help of his neighbour Rosie to return it to where it belongs. Of course the best place to start is the local library but they soon find themselves in an underground 'Lost Library' and the only way to get home is with the help of books. A magical adventure celebrating books and libraries.



**Wolfgang, age 4**

## Too Much Stuff

Emily Gravett | HB \$26.99

I love birds and loved reading about these funny birds. They are two very silly birds and I told them they were silly every time they put more things in their nest. They don't need all that stuff. It is too much for them but they are good at sharing.





## Coming Home to Country

Bronwyn Bancroft | HB \$24.99

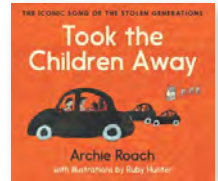
Here, in *Coming Home To Country* we find visions and feelings of “home” amongst the most spectacular painting of a rain storm you will ever see and through Bancroft’s words depicting being held by elders and spirits of Country that encompasses land, water and sky. This is a book of colour and movement that ultimately leaves you with a deep sense of peace and resolution that much can come from connecting with one’s Country.



## Took the Children Away

Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter | HB \$19.99

Uncle Archie Roach’s ‘Took the Children Away’ lyrics set to illustration mixed with a historical references. This picture book is a quintessential tool for conversations about the Stolen Generation for ages 6 and up. As important as it is heart breaking—a first insight into a bleak chapter of Australian History and ultimately a story of hope.



## Our Home, Our Heartbeat

Adam Briggs | HB \$24.99

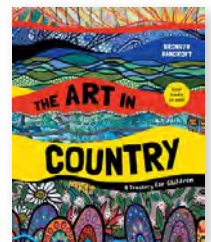
Inspired by Brigg’s hit song “The Children Came Back”, *Our Home, Our Heartbeat* celebrates the lives and achievements of prominent Indigenous Australians and includes Adam Goodes, Dan Sultan, Jessica Mauboy and Cathy Freeman amongst others. It is joyful and hopeful, and will inspire all young people to dream big and without limits.



## The Art in Country: A Treasury for Children

Bronwyn Bancroft | HB \$29.99

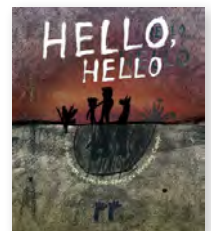
A vibrant celebration of Country through Bronwyn Bancroft’s immersive language in paint and poetry. Journey through canvases of Australia’s diverse landscapes star studded with words that will sink into your skin and soothe your mind as you read. Four books bound in this stunning collection.



## Hello, Hello

Children from the Spinifex Writing Camp and Anne James | HB \$24.99

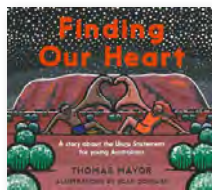
“Hello, hello, off we go...” sings the family as they head out into the dark night. They walk through the bush listening to the sounds and watching the shadows of the nocturnal animals. This is the latest project from the Indigenous Literacy Foundation’s Spinifex Writing Camp and also includes a recording of the song.



## Finding Our Heart: A Story About The Uluru Statement For Young Australians

Thomas Mayor | HB \$24.99

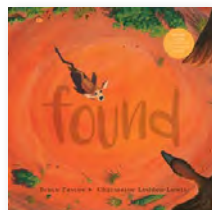
This timely and beautifully illustrated story tells how the Uluru Statement came to be. Detailing Australia's past, its rich Indigenous culture, and the journey of First Nations people to gain a voice, it is an invitation to younger readers to understand the cultural gift of the Uluru Statement through a wonderfully told story.



## Found

Bruce Pascoe and Charmaine Ledden-Lewis | HB \$24.99

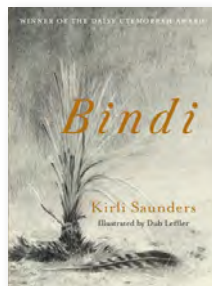
Bruce Pascoe's first children's picture book is about a little calf trying to find his family. With beautifully evocative illustrations from the winner of the Kestin Indigenous Illustrator award, Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, this story gives you a gentle way to start the conversation of the history of the Stolen Generation.



## Bindi

Kirli Saunders and Dubb Leffler | HB \$16.99

11 year old Bindi lives in a small country town and loves horses, hockey and art. Bindi's town is devastated by a bushfire, and the novel gently encourages young readers to practice environmental awareness. With beautiful black-and-white illustrations by the incredible Dub Leffler, this delightful verse novel seamlessly interweaves Gundungurra and English words. 7+



## Welcome to Country

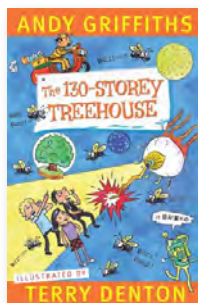
Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy  
BB \$17.99

This beautiful board book edition of *Welcome to Country* is rich and warm in culture and has wonderful illustrations. Marlie will grow up knowing her culture and having books like this is fantastic so every Australian child can learn and respect the importance of a welcome to country.



**Marlie, age 8 months**

# JUNIOR FICTION



## The 130 Storey- Treehouse

Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton | PB \$14.99



Another 13 new levels have been added to the treehouse! There's a soap bubble blaster, a GRABINATOR (it can grab anything from anywhere at any time), a toilet paper factory, an extra-terrestrial observation centre and the best bookshop-in-a-treehouse-in-a-tree-in-a-forest-in-a-book in the whole world! Well, what are you waiting for? Come on up!



## Pirate Stew

Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell | HB \$22.99

When Long John McRon, Ship's Cook, is hired as babysitter for the evening things quickly get out of hand! With a rolling, rollicking rhyme and bold, dynamic illustrations, Long John's band of buccaneers are brilliantly brought to life by the dream creative team of Gaiman and Riddell. How much do you want to be a pirate? Would you eat Pirate Stew?



## Gemma Riley and the Fashion Fiasco

Jules Van Mil | PB \$16.99



With someone trying to sabotage Gemma's fashion designer grandmother, can she find the culprit and save the day before it's too late? This is a really cute story with a fun mystery and great characters—Gemma especially is a delightful heroine. This book will be perfect for fans of the Alice Miranda series.

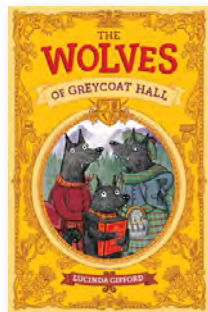


## The Wolves of Greycoat Hall

Lucinda Gifford | HB \$19.99



Most people think of wolves as wild vicious beasts, but Boris Greycoat and family are sophisticated and well educated. When they go on a holiday to Scotland they will need all their wits about them in order to defeat their ancestral enemy! This book is very sweet and whimsical and absolutely delightful!



## Scary Mary and the Stripe Spell: Monty's Island 1

## Beady Bold and the Yum Yams: Monty's Island 2

Emily Rodda and Lucinda Gifford  
PB \$14.99

Monty lives on a tiny island surrounded by a magical sea with his loyal companions Tawny the Lion, Clink the Pirate, Bunchy the Elephant and Sir Wise the Owl. Together they find themselves in the midst of many an adventure including fighting of Scary Mary the pirate captain and finding the missing Trader Jolly on 'Bring and Buy Day'. Emily Rodda has delivered a fabulous adventure series for young readers and I can't wait to read about more about Monty and his friends.



## Skunk and Badger

Amy Timberlake and Jon Klassen  
HB \$22.99

Badger always has important rock work to do. He loves rocks more than anything. He doesn't want a roommate, especially a smelly one. No one wants a skunk but there is nothing Badger can do when Skunk moves in. This book was so funny! It made me and my dad laugh so hard. My favourite part was ALL the chickens! I didn't know if Skunk and Badger were ever going to become friends, but if you want to find out then read the book.



Henry, age 6

# JUNIOR FICTION

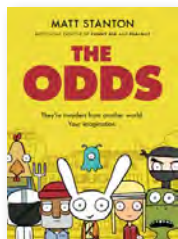


## Naughty Dragons Make Trouble!

Natalie Jane Prior | PB \$14.99



What could possibly go wrong when a family fosters two naughty dragons? Ava and Jack have their work cut out for them when Graune and Fanine, two mischievous dragons, come to live with their family. This is a great adventure story with lots of illustrations and a perfect book to read aloud or for newly confident readers.



## The Odds (The Odds #1)

Matt Stanton | PB \$14.99



Kip's quiet world is turned upside down when all her favourite characters from TV, comics and books suddenly come to life. An imaginative, touching and very funny story about belonging. This is an exciting new illustrated series from the bestselling author of *Funny Kid*.



## Cat Kid Comic Club

Dav Pilkey | HB \$17.99

*Cat Kid Comic Club* is the first book in a new graphic novel series featuring fan favorite character Lil Petey. This series of mini comics are all illustrated in different styles to inspire kid to unleash their own creativity. This new hilarious series will quickly be devoured by Pilkey fans new and old.



## Bunnygirl: The First Adventure

Holly Jayne | HB \$25.99



Bea loves superhero comics, bunnies, cute things and cereal. She wants to become a superhero to help people, but she doesn't have a costume! She saves a bunny and returns him to his friends, who gift her a super suit. Bunnygirl is born! This lovely graphic novel is quirky, charming and wonderfully kawaii.



## Willa the Wisp (The Fabled Stables Book #1)

Jonathon Auxier and Olga Demidova | HB \$19.99

Auggie is the caretaker of magical and mysterious creatures in the fabled stables. When a new stable suddenly appears Auggie finds himself on a thrilling adventure to save a Wisp from evil hunters. With delightful full-colour illustrations this is an exciting first chapter book that will have readers clamouring to know more about Auggie, his weird creatures and The Rooks.





## The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn

Kate Gordon | PB \$14.99



Wonder Quinn is an orphan living with her crow in the attic of Direleaf Hall. After years of watching and wanting to make a friend, she finally meets Mabel. They gradually become best friends but Wonder realises that Mabel has a big secret. This is told like a fairytale and is a beautiful celebration of friendship and bravery.

## What Zola Did on Monday/ Tuesday/Wednesday

Melina Marchetta and Deb Hudson  
PB \$12.99



Every day of the week is an adventure for Zola in this delightful new series. On Monday Zola and her Nonna work together in the community vegie patch and on Tuesday Zola finds herself in a spot of bother when she tries to help with Nonna's knitting. Gentle heartwarming stories with multicultural themes perfect for beginner readers.



## Aussie Kids: Meet Dooley on the Farm

Sally Odgers and Christina Booth | PB \$12.99



## Aussie Kids: Meet Matilda at the Festival

Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern and Tania McCartney  
PB \$12.99



The brilliant Aussie Kids series featuring some of Australia's best authors and highlighting Australia's many cultures and diversity. These two next books by Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern and Sally Odgers feature Mathilda and Hansuke de a Festival in the Japanese Embassy and Dooley on his outback farm.

# MIDDLE FICTION

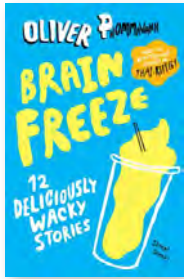


## Pierre's Not There

Ursula Dubosarsky and Christopher Nielsen | PB \$16.99



A fun, magical read from the Australian Children's Laureate, in which Lara discovers an old puppet theatre and a lost boy who must find his way to his grandmother. Several chapters written in play script lend themselves beautifully to shared reading, and children will love the stage directions and opportunities to voice the characters.



## Brain Freeze

Oliver Phommavanh | PB \$14.99



This is a wonderful and very funny collection of twelve short stories all featuring characters that need to be brave. There's a girl whose dreams are getting too big for her bed and a boy who has had one thousand names. A fabulous book full of crazy characters and lots of laughs.



## Little Jiang

Shirley Marr and Katy Jiang | PB \$14.99



*Little Jiang* is a hilarious, quirky reimagining of the old Chinese legend of the Jiangshi, a hopping zombie vampire that sucks the Chi out of you. Mei can see spirits which is particularly troublesome during Hungry Ghost month, but when Jiangshi start appearing across town her problems are just beginning. This is a laugh-out-loud tale of friendship, family and community that readers will really love to sink their teeth into!



**Daniel, age 9**

## School Rules Are Optional

Alison Hart | PB \$14.99



*School Rules Are Optional* is a dramatic book. It's a crazy book full of surprises and action. Make sure you read to the end because the last two chapters are the best. If you like animals you are in luck because there are lots of them, and there is lots of water drama. To end this review I would like to rate it five stars.





## The Boy, the Wolf and the Stars

Shivaun Plozza | PB \$16.99



Twelve-year-old Bo and his fox called Nix, live in Ulv a world full of magic. In Ulv when the dark of the night arrives evil magic flourishes. Mad, Bo's guardian, tells him of a tale of a wolf who has eaten all the stars in the sky but not until after Mad's untimely death does Bo see the danger that is coming. Bo and Nix are forced to set out on a quest to save his world from the Evil Shadow Witch who wants to destroy all the good magic in the world.



## Fly On the Wall

Remy Lai | PB \$19.99



From the critically acclaimed author of *Pie in the Sky* comes an equally lovable story. 12-year-old Henry Khoo is taking a (HIGHLY forbidden) journey halfway around the world to prove his independence to his overprotective family. A great adventure read for 8 and up.



## Beetle & The Hollowbones

Aliza Layne | PB \$22.99

This delightful graphic novel is quirky, thoughtful and charming. Beetle is a goblin-witch who longs to be trained as a sorceress. When the home of her best friend, Blob Ghost, is threatened with destruction, she must team up with her former best friend and current sorceress-in-training, Kat, to save the day.



## My Life as a Cat

Carlie Sorosiak | PB \$14.99

Leonard, an alien hoping to experience life as a human, has ended up on earth as a stray cat! Rescued by Olive, a young girl also feeling misplaced, they head off on an adventure searching for home and what it means to belong. This is a delightfully written, warm, wise and irresistibly funny story.

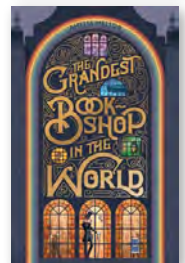


## The Grandest Bookshop in the World

Amelia Mellor | HB \$19.99



Step back in time to 1893 and the magical days of Coles Book Arcade. Can Pearl and Vally Cole save their Pa and his beloved arcade from the sinister Obscurosmith? There are codes to break and puzzles to solve in a tense race against time if they are to succeed. Highly entertaining!



# MIDDLE FICTION



## A Clock of Stars: The Shadow Moth

Francesca Gibbons and Chris Riddell | PB \$17.99

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Imogen and her little sister Marie have run off from their grandma and found themselves in the magical world of Yaroslav. The sisters are in a race against time, and have to use all their courage and intuition to return home. They are helped along the way by a spoiled prince, a dancing bear, and a grumpy hunter. Beware the skert, monsters who only come out at night! This story has everything you could ask for and more. A thrilling debut and brought to life by Chris Riddell's glorious illustrations.

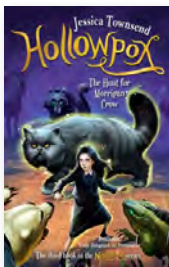


## How to Write the Soundtrack to Your Life

Fiona Hardy | PB \$16.99

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Shy songwriter Murphy has had her music stolen but SHE gets accused of plagiarism! Clearing her name involves making new friends, tracking down the song thief and finding her voice, while supporting her Dad who has a mental illness. This melodious mystery for 9-12year olds has diverse characters, good friendship choices, excellent music references, and a whole lot of heart.



## Hollowpox: The Hunt for Morrigan Crow: Nevermoor 3

Jessica Townsend | PB \$17.99

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After passing the test of loyalty, Morrigan and her fellow members of Unit 919 will now begin to learn the art of Containment and Distraction, one of the most important roles of the Wondrous Society. But there is a mysterious virus that is infecting the Wunimals, removing their soul and leaving them vicious Unimals. If only Morrigan could control wonder rather than it controlling her, maybe she can find a cure.



## The Wild Way Home

Sophie Kirtley | PB \$14.99

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When Charlie slips through time and ends up in the Stone Age he will need all his courage and ingenuity to find his way home. Together with Harby, a boy he meets in the ancient forest, Charlie navigates this strange yet familiar world. This book is beautiful and heartwarming, and very thrilling. Great fun!



## The Midnight Guardians

Ross Montgomery | PB \$18.99

Set during World War Two and the London Blitz, this is a fast paced adventure tale. Col is on a race against time to save his sister from dark forces, with the help of animal and mythic friends from his dreams. Full of folklore and legend, this story of bravery and courage will captivate young readers.



## The Carbon-Neutral Adventures of the Indefatigable Enviroteens

First Dog on the Moon | PB \$16.99



Join the Indefatigable Enviroteens on their quest to defeat Brendan the single-use plastic straw man in this hilarious environmental adventure. Andrew Marlon, better known as First Dog on the Moon, has turned his usual keen insights and political satire into a fun, entertaining adventure for budding young environmentalists.



## Glassheart

Katharine Orton | PB \$16.99

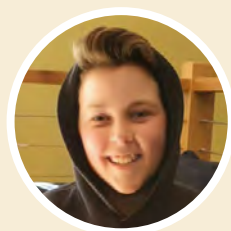
Join Nona on a magical adventure on the moors of Dartmoor in the aftermath of World War Two. With the help of shape shifters, witches and old magic, Nona has to find her courage to overcome her fears and save the world. Another beautifully atmospheric story from Katharine Orton for a child who loves an eerie mystery.



## We Are Wolves

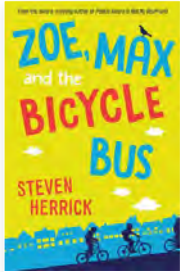
Katrina Nannestad | HB \$19.99

Liesl lives in East Prussia, proud to be German, as brave soldiers march off to war to win glorious victories for the Fuhrer. But her opinion changes when a telegram comes saying her father is missing in action. Soon after, the Russians break through the Eastern Front, and Liesl's family must flee. An outstanding book- very emotional and realistic. It pulls you in like no other book I've ever read.



**Peter, age 12**

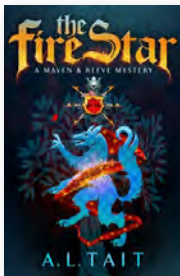
# MIDDLE FICTION



## Zoe, Max and the Bicycle Bus

Steven Herrick | PB \$16.99

Follow the kids of 5D in this uplifting verse novel as they ride to school in a bicycle bus. Encouraged by their teacher and Mr Bertoldi the lollipop man, this group of diverse individuals discover the joy of safely cycling in a group while caring for each other, the environment and the future.



## The Fire Star: A Maven & Reeve Mystery

A.L Tait | PB \$16.99



The theft of the Fire Star, a precious jewel, forces servant girl Maeve and squire Reeve to work together to find the gem. The stakes are high, for if they fail, their dreams of freedom, education and a better life will be gone forever. An adventurous tale for lovers of historical fiction. Age 9+



## Dragon Mountain

Katie Tsang & Kevin Tsang | PB \$14.99

The last thing Billy wants is to be stuck on a stupid summer camp without any of his friends. However, when Billy and his team-mates discover a magical secret hidden beneath Dragon Mountain it quickly becomes the most exciting summer ever! This is such a fun read and an exciting new series!



Lucy, age 9

## The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst

Jaclyn Moriarty | PB \$22.99

This book is so much fun and has great characters and I love the pictures all through the book. Esther Mettelstone-Staranise is very smart and brave and has to save everyone. Her dad is very cheeky and funny. I love this book! I wish I could go to Esther's school and be a Spellbinder!





## The Mummy Smugglers of Crumblin Castle

Pamela Rushby | PB \$17.99



Egyptian mummy unwrapping parties, magical ancient cats, and a journey down the Nile all take place in this historical fantasy novel. When Hattie goes to live in Crumblin Castle with her Great Uncle and Aunt little does she know how her life will change and that she will soon be on an adventure of a lifetime.



## The Theory of Hummingbirds

Michelle Kadarusman | PB \$14.99



Lifelong friends Alba and Levi both have physical challenges and a shared love of hummingbirds. Alba's desire to run in the school cross country race causes a rift between the pair that seems insurmountable. Will they overcome their differences? Friendship, difference and facing up to life's hardships are the key themes of this heart-warming story.



## The Year the Maps Changed

Danielle Binks | PB \$17.99



Fred lives in a coastal town with her grandfather, adoptive father, his girlfriend, and her son. Combine that with a new baby on the way and changing friendships at school and it doesn't feel like there's much room left for Fred. It gets even more complicated when a group of Kosovar-Albanian refugees are brought to stay just down the road and people's true colours are brought to the fore. A fabulous coming-of-age story with lots of heart.



## Across the Risen Sea

Bren MacDibble | PB \$16.99



A thrilling adventure set in a future world which has been devastated by climate change. Since the rising of the seas, the people of the Ockery islands have learnt to live in a way that minimizes their impact on the world; until strangers arrive and threaten to disrupt everything.



# YOUNG ADULT



## The Loop

Ben Oliver | PB \$17.99

Luka Kane is on death row in *The Loop*, a futuristic prison where medical experimentation and the daily ritual of the energy harvest make life a living hell. War outside causes chaos and the possibility of escape, but the rabid rats and murderous zombies cause Luka and his friends a few problems along the way!



## The Enigma Game

Elizabeth Wein | PB \$14.99

In a remote Scottish village during World War Two, friends Louisa, Jamie and Ellen accidentally become spies when they discover the codes to the fabled Enigma Machine. These are characters that you will fall in love with, and a story that will have you gripped from the very start. A truly excellent spy-thriller.



## The Left-Handed Booksellers of London

Garth Nix | PB \$24.99



Think Neil Gaiman meets Ben Aaronovitch by way of Douglas Adams with an inkling of Terry Pratchett, and you have a sliver of an idea what you're in for with this astounding gem of a novel. It's a fun, funny, fast-paced adventure with Garth Nix's signature incredible world-building. This is a must-read for book-loving teens. 14+



## Future Girl

Asphyxia | PB \$24.99



It's rare to have a book about an Australian Deaf kid. *Future Girl* describes Australian Deaf culture and the struggles of lip-reading, both of which I can relate to. I think everyone should read this engrossing novel. The page-turning plot explores a future Melbourne with food shortages. I loved it!



**Kaitlyn, age 12**



## When Rain Turns To Snow

Jane Godwin | PB \$16.99



This story of two teenagers drawn together as they navigate the hidden secrets and histories of their respective families is both moving and beautifully written. With themes of belonging, change, friendship and love, Jane Godwin writes with utter genuineness and warmth about young people finding themselves.



## Catch Me If I Fall

Barry Jonsberg | PB \$16.99



Ashleigh and Aiden are identical twins, living a sheltered life in Sydney with their mum and dad, but it's not Sydney as we know it. The Delatours twins are living in the future where wild weather can cause havoc at any moment, animals are all extinct, and food is scarce. Slowly they begin to question everything they've ever believed about themselves, their parents, and the world around them.



## The Lost Soul Atlas

Zana Fraillon | PB \$19.99



Twig awakens in the Afterlife. He must choose between a happy future in which he remembers nothing of his life or a difficult quest to regain his memories and find his missing father. Poignant and funny, this novel is perfect for the thoughtful reader.



## The Other Side of the Sky

Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner  
PB \$19.99



I initially chose this book because the title captured my imagination and the couple sitting together with the cat was emotional. The setting was very clear and it made sense in my mind of what it looked like! The two worlds in this book were quite different but seemed to fit in with the story very well. It was very romantic and I cannot wait to read the next book out because they left us on a bit of a cliff hanger! It is a classic Science Fiction romance.



Daisy, age 12

# YOUNG ADULT



## You Were Made for Me

Jenna Guillaume | PB 17.99



Teens will love this delightfully funny and uniquely Australian story. When Katie accidentally creates a gorgeous boy who is everything she has ever dreamed of she has to confront whether perfection and devotion is all it's cracked up to be. Be careful what you wish for because it might not be what you really want! 14+



## This One is Ours

Kate O'Donnell | PB \$19.99



A sweet coming of age story that earnestly explores art, culture, politics and big ideas. When 16 year old aspiring artist Sofie goes on exchange to Paris she expects to be immersed in French art and culture but she also gains insights about her desire to be involved in something bigger than herself. 14+



## Before the Beginning

Anna Morgan | PB \$19.99



Another brilliant coming of age story from Anna Morgan for teens. This is the story of a young girl finding direction and strength on the cusp of adulthood on her schoolies holiday. Grace, her brother Casper and his friends meet the beguiling Sierra who may not be all that she seems.



**Rayhaan, age 12**

## The F Team

Rawah Arja | PB \$22.95



I thought *The F Team* was a really good book. It had lots of themes that Australian children and Muslim Australians can really connect with, such as the racism, the school cliques and the group of friends that have always got your back. It educated the impact of bullying while blending it into a really funny and enjoyable book.



## The Reckless Afterlife of Harriet Stoker

Lauren James | PB \$18.99



Harriet is finishing her college photography assignment in a long-abandoned building but one misstep and she falls to her death. When she awakes her afterlife begins, filled with a group of ghosts, some friendly, some not, and each with special powers. This book is filled with chilling and sometimes unlikeable characters. It is a twisty, original and clever story. 14+



## None Shall Sleep

Ellie Marney | PB \$19.99

A cross between *Silence of the Lambs* and *Mindhunter*, this incredible novel follows two teens in 1980s America, who are contracted by the FBI to help in their search for a serial killer. Tense, creepy and utterly compelling, this book is perfect for teens aged 15+.



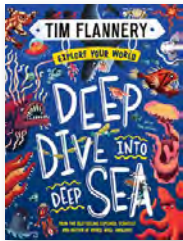
## Ruby Tuesday

Hayley Lawrence | PB \$19.99

Ruby Tuesday lives with her mother in a small country town. She feels trapped by her mother's accident and is desperately trying to find her place in the world. She loved Joey Milano but everything changed after that terrible party. This is a story about what it's like to be a girl growing up in today's world and learning to trust after being betrayed. It's also a story about music, love and friendship. 15+



# THINGS TO KNOW & DO



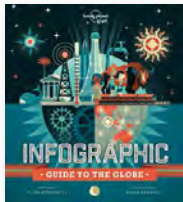
## Explore Your World: Deep Dive into Deep Sea



Tim Flannery | HB \$26.99

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Tim Flannery, one of Australia's leading scientists is back with a new book about the amazing world under the sea. Dive down deep to the bottom of the ocean and learn about all its weird and wonderful life creatures. From Goblin Sharks to Vampire Squid there is so much to discover.



## Infographic Guide to the Globe

Lonely Planet Kids | HB \$24.99

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Learn about our world through numbers in this stunningly illustrated information book. Bite-sized facts about the universe, our planet and culture are cleverly represented in fascinating, easy-to-understand graphs and charts. Did you know that the driest place on Earth is in Antarctica? Or that Australia is one of the top-five pet bird owning countries?



## Australia's Wild Weird Wonderful Weather



Stephanie Owen Reeder and Tania McCartney | HB \$24.99

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Explore all facets of Australia's extraordinary weather in this fascinating book. Discover how we forecast and measure weather, about our climate and its extremes, and be amazed by quirky weather facts. With fun and vibrant illustrations this engaging book will have everyone in the family wanting to know about the science of weather.



## Britannica All New Children's Encyclopedia: What We Know and What We Don't

Various, Christopher Lloyd and J.E. Luebering | HB \$59.99

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Explore the world of science, history, archaeology, engineering, the universe and more with trustworthy information from the team at Britannica. With bright, colourful illustrations, photographs and infographs, this book is the ultimate reference book for an inquisitive child. A beautiful gift!

## History of Rock: For Big Fans and Little Punks

Rita Nabais and Joana Raimundo | HB \$26.99

This brilliantly designed book is chock full of information for your budding musician or music fan. It has fabulous illustrations throughout and tons of information about rock and roll, bands and singers, through the decades, from Little Richard to Nine Inch Nails. One Two Three Four...

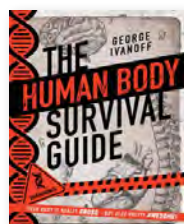


## The Human Body Survival Guide

George Ivanoff | HB \$24.99



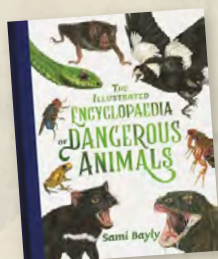
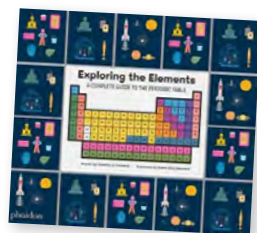
Your body is really GROSS — but also pretty AWESOME! What's the biggest organ in the human body? Does your hair continue to grow after you die? What does a healthy poo look like? *The Human Body Survival Guide* has the facts and advice you need to survive living in your body and teach you just how amazing and complex your body is.



## Exploring the Elements: A Complete Guide to the Periodic Table

Sara Gillingham and Isabel Thomas | HB \$34.95

This terrific book is a great introduction to the world of the Periodic Table. With fascinating details and stories about each element and full of vibrant graphics, it is an ideal companion for kids keen to discover or learn more about the brilliant and intriguing world of chemistry.



## The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals

Sami Bayly | HB \$32.99

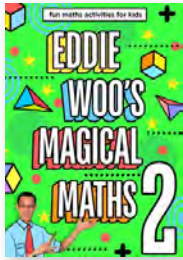


I received the *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals* for Christmas last year and loved it. Sami Bayly is fantastic at drawing and has picked some very wonderful animals in her new book. I particularly loved the Wolverine and Slow Loris. This book will make a great present again this year!



**Indy, age 8**

# THINGS TO KNOW & DO



## Eddie Woo's Magical Maths 2

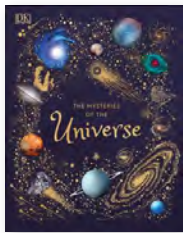
Eddie Woo | PB \$19.99



Yet again the inspiring Eddie Woo has brought us a bumper book filled with puzzle, codes and drawings that make math feel fun and not at all like the math's classes I remember at all. Fantastic for all kids who like math and surprising for some that don't because Eddie can make math magical.

## The Mysteries of the Universe

Will Gater | HB \$39.99



Travel through the vastness of space exploring black holes, planets and galaxies in this beautiful reference book from DK. See the swirling clouds of Jupiter and learn how many stars make up The Milky Way. Stunning illustrations and just the right amount of text make this the perfect introduction to the universe for younger readers.

## The Magic Carpet's Guide to Earth's Forbidden Places: See the world's best-kept secrets

Patrick Makin | HB \$42.99



This captivating book takes us inside the world's most secretive places. With fascinating insights into historical icons like the lost Amber Room, the natural wonder of the Caves of Lascaux, or Area 51 in Nevada, curious minds will greatly enjoy seeing forbidden places we've always wanted to see and know more about.



## The Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures

Stephen Krensky | HB \$34.99

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An illustrated compendium of mythical beasts which details the country of origin of each beast and whether it is celebrated or feared. From Ancient Greece to the indigenous tribes of Australia, this is the only kids' guide that tells you the history behind the mythology. Perfect for fans of Harry Potter and their fantasy tales.

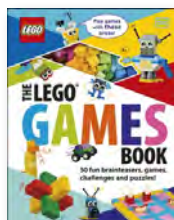


## The LEGO Games Book

Tori Kosara | HB \$29.99

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Tired of building the same old things with your LEGO? This book has all sorts of fun projects that will really change things up. With games, challenges, brain teasers and puzzles galore, this is a LEGO ideas book unlike any other. Fun for the whole family!



## Australia's Deadly Animals Bingo

Boxed \$35.00

## Poo Bingo

Boxed \$29.99

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Two new bingos that provide hours of hilarious fun for all the family. *Poo Bingo* (ages 3+) includes all sorts of fascinating information about the poo of wombats, penguins, rhinos, t-rexs and more. *Australia's Deadly Animal Bingo* for ages 6+ is a fun way to learn about our unique wildlife.



## Pierre the Maze Detective Curious Case of the Castle in the Sky

Hiro Kamigaki | HB \$29.99

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Follow Pierre the Maze Detective and his assistant, Carmen, through pages of intricate mazes. Use the clues and hidden objects you find along the way to solve the mystery of the missing Maze Egg and save the day! Part activity book, part detective story, this exquisitely drawn, completely enthralling book will keep young ones engaged for hours.



## Wreck This Picture Book

Keri Smith | HB \$24.99

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We are always telling kids not to wreck their books but this book invites them to do just that! Kids can get creative and be inspired by engaging all five senses with this fabulous book filled with ideas that will keep them entertained for a very long time.





## First Fairy Tales

Margaret Mayo  
and Helen Stephens  
HB \$29.99

Adventures abound with this new collection of nine of the best-loved classic fairy-tales from a much-loved author. Timeless favourites include Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rumpelstiltskin. Colourful illustrations bring these enchanting tales alive for a new generation. Perfect gift for every child or for the family library.



## What Are Little Girls Made Of?

Jeanne Willis | HB \$19.99

From the often-subversive and very funny pen of Jeanne Willis comes this witty nursery rhyme collection. Here she subtly re-genders common nursery rhymes to show confident and capable girls, and heart-warmingly equal boys. These hilarious rhymes, with delightful accompanying illustrations, are sure to become instant family favourites.



## Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright! – An Animal Poem For Every Day of The Year

Illustrated by Britta  
Teckentrup and Fiona Waters  
HB \$49.99

A wonderful collection of animal poems showcasing poetry from across the globe, including a number of Australia poets and animals. This is sure to become a treasured keepsake for all ages and one to read from again and again.



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The books in this guide have been chosen and reviewed by members of the ABA, booksellers who use their expertise to encourage and support reading for all ages.

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*Kids' Reading Guide*



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BOOKSELLERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**LOVE  
YOUR  
BOOKSHOP**