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Children's Rights Guide
Frankfurt 2024

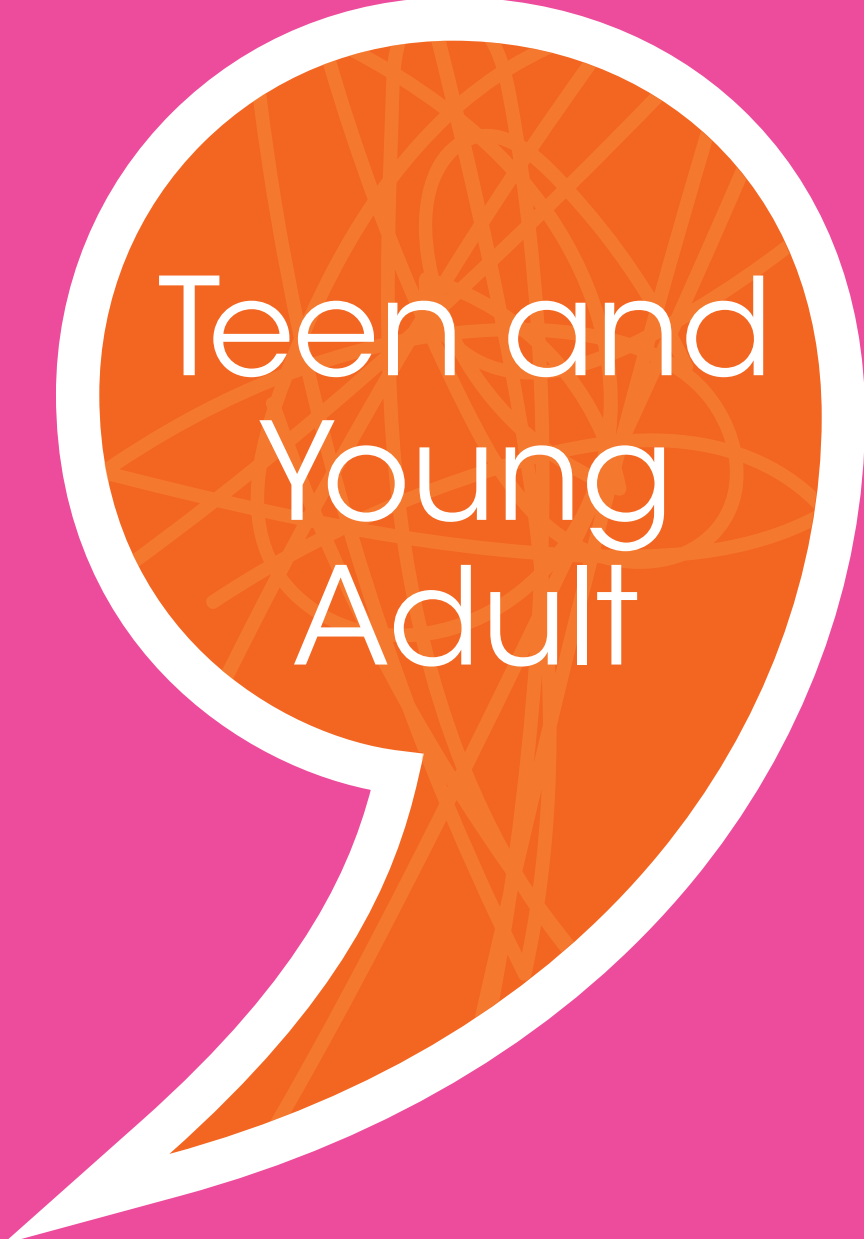


Contents

Cover image from *I Wonder* by Philip Bunting
Walker Books Australia



TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT
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Teen and
Young
Adult

How to be Normal

ANGE CRAWFORD



Takes the tropes of YA and adds another layer – the need to escape a home environment governed by coercive control

Astrid is about to start her last year of high school. But it's also her first. She's been homeschooled for the past few years; her protective mother doing everything she can to keep the peace; to keep life to the tightly controlled routine and standards set by Astrid's father.

But Astrid's father has lost his job; her mother needs to go to work, Astrid needs to go school. Her father needs to find new ways to keep both his wife and daughter under his supervision.

At school Astrid adapts to an enlarged world and the dynamics of friendship and finds new strengths and new parts of herself – coming of age and coming out – finding her place, and finding out who she really is.

ANGE CRAWFORD is a queer writer and editor with a Bachelor of Social Science and a Master of Arts in Writing. She has published digital poetry, reviews, fiction and feature articles, and contributed volunteer editorial work for *Asymptote* and the *Lifted Brow*. This is her debut novel.

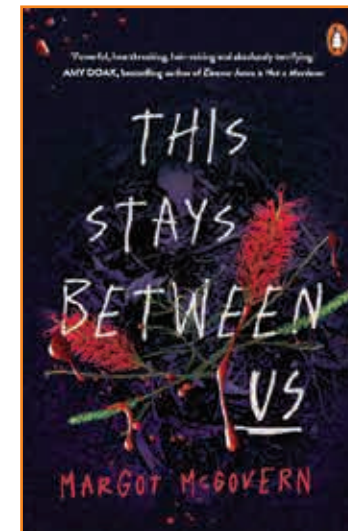
Why this book?

- Ange Crawford knows her audience, she is her audience. She's a queer, neurodivergent author who knows that survival requires community, friendship, and celebration no matter how old you are.
- Strong and contained cast of characters, from Astrid and her parents to her brother who fled years ago, to neighbours who look away, and to new friends and experiences.
- Explores coercive control, challenging family dynamics and queer identity with insight, humour and pathos.
- Winner of the inaugural Walker Books Manuscript Prize
- Themes include coercive control, coming of age, and finding yourself
- Author authentically deals with timely issues with insight and sympathy

PUB DATE: February 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia
RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

This Stays Between Us

MARGOT MCGOVERN



Edgy and subversive, this dark YA novel combines late 90's slasher vibes with the elevated themes of prestige horror

Shelley dreads the upcoming school camp. Always the outsider, being the new girl amplifies her unease. But when séances and ghostly tales unfold at the camp, her buried past resurfaces, haunting her.

Mack anticipates awkward days ahead. After an unexpected kiss with her best friend, Raffi, the two girls aren't speaking.

Priya, on the other hand, eagerly awaits camp's first night when she plans to take the next step with her boyfriend.

Yet, when Raffi orchestrates a séance, invoking the spirit of Smiling Jack, events take a chilling twist.

Mysterious noises, shadowy figures, and flowers left on pillowcases unravel the girls' reality.

Is a ghost truly haunting them, or is something more sinister at play?

MARGOT MCGOVERN is a YA and horror author based in Adelaide, South Australia. Margot's debut YA novel, *Neverland*, was shortlisted for the Text Prize and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature. *This Stays Between Us* is her second novel.

Why this book?

- Supernatural and horror are right on trend, particularly for the teen and YA audience
- Shelley's past, in particular, adds a touch of *Carrie* and explores the supernatural as means for high school revenge
- Combining elements of mystery, horror, and drama, this is a gripping narrative that keeps readers on the edge of their seats.
- The séance and ghostly occurrences provide a thrilling and suspenseful atmosphere
- Each character has a unique and relatable storyline. Shelley's struggle with being an outsider, Mack's complicated feelings after the kiss, and Priya's decision to sleep with her boyfriend add relatability

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

Return to Sender

LAUREN DRAPER

New to Rights Guide



This layered and compelling cozy mystery is all about found family, first love, and one town's tragedies, perfect for fans of Melina Marchetta, Kristin Dwyer, and Nina LaCour.

After three years away, seventeen-year-old Brodie McKellon has returned to live with her eccentric grandmother above the last remaining Dead Letter Office – the place letters go when no one is left to claim them.

Soon, Brodie is consumed by an unsolved mystery – the unclaimed letters of a group of teens who seemed to vanish many years ago – while also attempting to reconcile with her former best friends, Elliot and Levi.

As the trio is drawn into the riddle of the dead letter writers, they discover that the past is never truly past, and that it's never too late for old wrongs to be put right . . .

LAUREN DRAPER is a graduate of RMIT's Professional Writing and Editing program and now works in publishing. Her debut novel, *The Museum of Broken Things*, was acquired after it was shortlisted in the 2020 Text Prize, and went on to be shortlisted for The Readings Prize and Indie Book Awards, and longlisted for the CBCA Book of the Year (Older Readers).

Why this book?

- An intriguing central mystery involving unclaimed letters and a group of vanished teens
- The Dead Letter Office is such a great setting adding a twist to the story
- Lauren Draper excels in creating well-developed, relatable characters
- Tackles a range of important issues such as loyalty, family secrets, domestic violence, and grief, providing depth and resonance for reader
- 'Draws a full cast of richly detailed and well-developed characters. . . The well-crafted dialogue moves the story along and the funny banter, especially between the three friends, shows the authenticity of their long-standing friendship and genuine interest in each other.' *Books+Publishing*

PUB DATE: July 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Pan Macmillan Australia
PRIMARY AGENT: Annabel Barker Agency • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation
RIGHTS SOLD: North America (HarperCollins)

Stuck Up and Stupid

ANGOURIE RICE & KATE RICE



A modern reimagining of *Pride and Prejudice* full of swoon-worthy romance, sharp and witty humour and Hollywood glamour.

The quiet coastal community of Pippi Beach is rocked when a party of young Hollywood movie stars and influencers arrives for the summer.

While most of the locals are thrilled, Lily finds the Hollywood types superficial and arrogant – especially Dorian Khan, the most famous of them all. Lily's opinion is confirmed by handsome backpacker Alex, who has quite the story about Dorian's past.

On a holiday to Los Angeles, Lily stays with family friend Wilson. Lily is in turns amused and appalled by the excesses of the movie business, and more than a little surprised when Dorian Khan seeks her out.

Could they actually become friends?
 Has she been what she hopes never to be ... stupid?

ANGOURIE RICE is an actor with international feature film and television credits, including *The Last He Thing He Told Me*, *Mean Girls* and *Mare of Easttown*. Angourie also writes, produces and hosts a literary podcast, *The Community Library*. KATE RICE is an AWGIE award-winning playwright. Her work has been commissioned by Melbourne City of Literature, Deckchair Theatre and Barking Gecko Theatre.

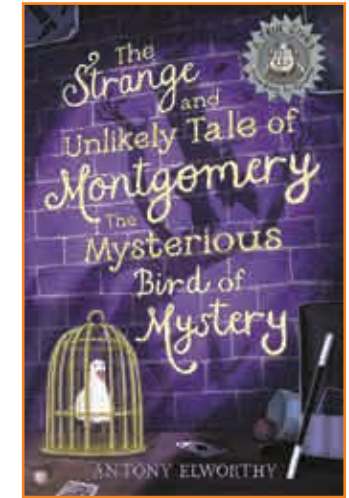
Why this book?

- Sun-soaked Australia meets LA romance from a mother-daughter writing duo and a rising star of Hollywood
- Italian rights sold in a pre-empt
- Massive buzz around the North American publication with a cover reveal in *People Magazine*
- Simultaneous publication in North America and the UK
- A fresh, contemporary reimagining of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*
- Filled with sharp, witty humour and heartfelt moments, capturing the spirit of Austen's original satire while updating it for contemporary audiences

PUB DATE: November 2023 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia
RIGHTS HELD: Translation
RIGHTS SOLD: North America (Candlewick), United Kingdom (Walker Books), Italy (Piemme)

Middle Grade - Series

The Strange and Unlikely Tale of Montgomery, the Mysterious Bird of Mystery ANTONY ELWORTHY



From the animator of *The Corpse Bride*, *Coraline* and *Isle of Dogs*, comes a hilarious, illustrated tale of magic, mystery and revenge.

Gramps likes to entertain his grandson with tall tales of his youth.

He was known as The Astounding Alfredo. Alfredo's signature trick, for which he is renowned throughout the land, is a spectacular dove-out-of-the-hat routine. Everybody loves this trick, except the dove, whose name is Montgomery, The Mysterious Bird of Mystery.

Eventually Montgomery manages to snatch Alfredo's wand and reverse the trick so that Alfredo is transformed into a dove and sucked through the ether into Montgomery's backstage birdcage ... and stuck there forever!

Or until he can outsmart a very smart, very dastardly dove.

ANTONY ELWORTHY is an illustrator, animator and children's book author who has worked on critically acclaimed television and Oscar-winning feature film productions around the world. His most recent film credit was Lead Stop Motion Animator on *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio*. He was also Lead Animator for Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs* and Tim Burton's *Frankenweenie* as well as Animator on *Coraline* and *Corpse Bride*. He is currently Director of Animation on *Sauvages*, a new film by Claude Barras.

Why this book?

- The relationship between Gramps and his grandson, is so, so wonderful
- Reminiscent of *The Princess Bride* with layers of charm and nostalgia
- Antony Elworthy has worked as Animator and Lead Animator on high-profile films directed by Tim Burton and Wes Anderson
- As you'd expect with Antony Elworthy's background in animation and illustration, readers will find this descriptive and imaginative

The
Extraordinary
Misadventures of
Lake and Birdy
(and their remarkable fortitude)
DAMIEN LEITH



A darkly comic debut novel for fans of *Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events*, *Matilda* and *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*.

This is a story so strange; it might almost be unbelievable ...

Sisters Lake and Birdy are latest arrivals at the Charitable Home for Poor Unfortunates Touched by Tragic Circumstances.

And if you think that sounds bad, that's just the beginning. Luck is not on the sisters side, it seems. Or is it? Depending on the way you look at it, together these sisters are capable of surviving everything and anything.

But it is going to take all of Lake and Birdy's courage to face their biggest misfortune of all: the dreadful, the awful, the terrible ... Miss MacGregor.

A darkly comic, fantastic and fantastical tale, with only a few embellishments, the very odd exaggeration, and much to enjoy.

DAMIEN LEITH is a multi-talented singer/songwriter. Born in Ireland, he moved to Australia and became an Australian citizen. In 2006 Damien won *Australian Idol*. He is the author of two novels for adults, *One More Time* and *Remember June*. *The Extraordinary Misadventures of Lake and Birdy (and their remarkable fortitude)* is his first novel for young readers.

Why this book?

- Two sisters, one dreadful home, endless misfortunes!
- A page turning misadventure, full of twists, turns and surprises
- Told by a friendly, informative and occasionally, unreliable, narrator
- Dark humour and whimsical storytelling
- Lake and Birdy are resilient and resourceful and all-round gorgeous characters!
- Damien Leith is not only a celebrated singer-songwriter but also an accomplished author

cover art
to come

The Secret
Detectives
Club
KATE GORDON

The Three Investigators meets *Scooby-Doo* for a fresh generation of aspiring detectives, featuring neurodiverse characters who bring a different perspective to sleuthing

Rocko Jarvis, the least cool kid in Table Cape Bay, faces a challenge: how to turn his luck around. With best friend Cosmo, they've tried every club – movies, Chinese checkers, even a pink polo shirt club.

But when Mingus Reid, the town's second coolest kid, unexpectedly joins their Scrabble club, everything changes. Mingus, Rocko, and Cosmo share a love for the Trio of Sleuths books. They ditch Scrabble for a new mission: become real detectives.

Enter PD Watkins, a renowned author seeking solace at Hindmarsh Hall – the 'haunted house on the hill'. But strange occurrences disrupt his writing retreat.

The boys, fuelled by admiration for their favourite author, vow to uncover the truth and *The Secret Detectives Club* is born.

Soon, they'll face more mysteries than they ever imagined.

In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. Kate's books include *Writing Clementine*, *Girl Running*, *Boy Falling* and *The Heartsong of Wonder Quinn*. In 2021 she won CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for *Aster's Good, Right Things* and in 2023, *Xavier in the Meantime* was shortlisted in the same category.

Why this book?

- Rocko, Cosmo and Mingus are characters that many kids can relate to. Their quest to find their place and turn their luck around is a universal theme
- There's a light hearted humour here, and the friendship between the boys provides the heart of the story
- Author is known for her brilliant characters and dialogue
- First in a series

Jungle Escape

NATHAN LUFF



From acclaimed author Nathan Luff – a new middle grade adventure full of action, danger, creepy crawlies and lots of laughs!

Dear Evolution

If the bird you have made is too big to fly, it is TOO BIG
– FULL STOP!

Yours, Branson Hawthorne Esquire.

Branson is being sent to an exclusive retreat in a rainforest that promises poolside luxury, cuisine interior decoration classes.

But, when they arrive learn they've been duped! The building is in ruins, the bathroom's covered in slime, and the pool is empty.

The owners have lured the kids to Jungle Escape as free labour to restore the resort.

They need to find a way out of this hell hole and the Rainforest.

Will they be able to escape this jungle, or will they end up as cassowary – or crocodile – lunch?

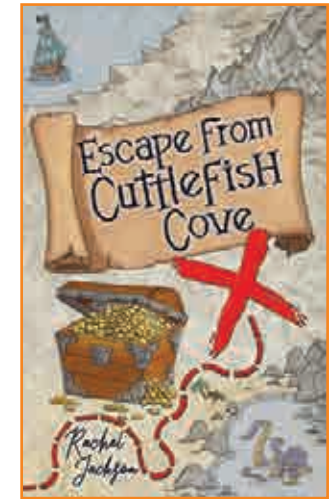
NATHAN LUFF is the author of *The Nerd Herd* series and the middle grade novels *Chicken Stu* and *Bad Grammar*. Nathan writes plays for young audiences and works part time as a primary school teacher specialising in creative writing and the performing arts.

Why this book?

- From well-known author, Nathan Luff, comes a hilarious, action-filled adventure story where not everything is as it seems.
- The combination of humour, engaging illustrations, and relatable characters and complete silliness will especially appeal to reluctant readers
- Nathan's characters are underdogs who face and overcome challenges
- Themes of friendship, teamwork, and resilience
- *The Nerd Herd* series (Scholastic Australia) has been published in Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic and China

Escape From Cuttlefish Cove

RACHEL JACKSON



Sure, it looks like an ordinary book. But it's not. In this book, the pirates could actually end your adventure!

You see, in this book YOU are the main character and YOU decide what happens next in the story.

If you aren't careful, you could find your story ending at the point of a pirate's cutlass or walking the plank over shark infested waters! Or maybe you'll discover that you're the Pirate Captain, and rich beyond your wildest dreams.

In fact, there are sixty-four different ways your story could end. Keep track of how many stories you've finished by using The Checklist at the back of the book. Then start a new story – either from the very beginning or jump right into a new adventure using the page numbers on The Checklist.

Have courage – only the bravest reader will be able to solve all the mysteries of Cuttlefish Cove.

You've been warned! Think carefully before you go any further. Do you have what it takes to Escape from Cuttlefish Cove?

RACHEL JACKSON is a senior intelligence analyst – just like in her books – she looks for clues, solves puzzles and explores options to help the good guys win the day. *Escape from Cuttlefish Cove* is her debut novel.

Why this book?

- First in a series
- 64 story paths!
- Puts readers in control, allowing them to choose their own path and make decisions that shape the story, making each reading experience unique.
- A threat of pirates, shark-infested waters, and hidden treasures,
- An epic, interactive pirate adventure
- 'Debut author Rachel Jackson knocks it out of the park with *Escape from Cuttlefish Cove*' Books+Publishing

Down the Plot Hole

ANNALEISE BYRD



A fun-filled fractured fairytale adventure series in a very surprising Grimm world.

'There's a word missing.' Terry pointed to the book. 'The maid plucked the ... ready for the spit.' He flipped back a page. 'It said she was sitting beside a black hen, right?'

It was true. The words 'black hen' were gone. All that remained was a larger-than-usual space.

A gap. An emptiness. A hole.

A hole ... in the plot.

Basil Beedon and Terry Clegg are once again reading from *The Complete Fairytales of the Brothers Grimm*, but this time, words – well, chickens – are disappearing!

Realising their friends are in grave danger of being sucked into oblivion by the plot holes, they go back into the fairytale world to warn them.

But what they discover there is not what they expected. It's up to Basil and Terry to find out what's going on, and how to stop all the plot holes from destroying everything ... including their way home.

ANNALEISE BYRD writes picture books, poetry, short stories and middle grade fiction. Her favourite stories nearly always involve kids having grand adventures with no grown-ups in sight!

Why this book?

- Funny, clever, with two likeable main characters and a savvy plot. This series straddles the reluctant reader/literary reader market - so perfect for all readers 9+
- A middle-grade take on Jasper Fforde's Thursday Next series
- The concept of being transported into a fairy tale through a plot hole is imaginative and oh so much fun
- Subtly promotes the value of reading and teamwork. Terry's growing appreciation for books and Basil's newfound respect for princesses can inspire young viewers to embrace reading and challenge stereotypes
- Two books to date in series

PUB DATE: March 2024 / April 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Chaos

ANDREW CRANNA



A chaotically hilarious illustrated middle-grade novel, with multiple reader-choice paths of ridiculous adventure

Chaos Theory: the scientific theory that a single occurrence, no matter how small, can change the course of the universe forever.

Bodhi, Jemima and Kevin the pig are often making decisions without thinking about the consequences. Will you help them make the right choices? The fate of their world, and ours, depends on it!

Dive into this outrageously funny multi-path adventure story where our three heroes stumble upon Grandpa's famous Amazonian Chili Collection. But this is not any ordinary chili collection and the two kids, and their pig are about to find out just how powerful they are.

ANDREW CRANNA Studied Primary Education, travelled the world teaching, later gaining a master's degree in art education, he currently teaches at Sydney Grammar Prep.

Why this book?

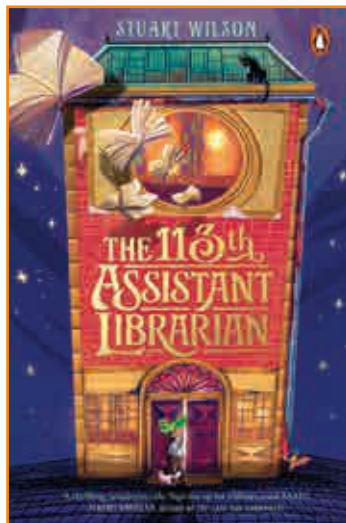
- A wonderfully hilarious adventure story, where the reader can choose the outcome. Whatever the choice, laughs are guaranteed
- This comical, fully illustrated, interactive adventure will hold the attention of reluctant readers and enthusiastic readers alike – keeping them entertained, engaged and laughing to the end
- Andy Griffiths meets Dav Pilkey in this middle-grade graphic novel
- Perfect for readers of *Dog Man*, *Bad Guys*, *Just Disgusting* and the *You Choose* series.

PUB DATE: June 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The 113th Assistant Librarian

STUART WILSON



If you liked *The Grandest Bookshop in the World* or *The Book of Wondrous Possibilities*, you'll love this fantasy adventure story where books have power, cats are more than they seem, and the library is the most dangerous place in the city . . .

Oliver Wormwood wants to be like his older sisters and apprenticed to one of the heroic Trades.

Instead, Hieronymus Finch-Thackeray picks him as the new Assistant Librarian. But, on his very first day, Hieronymus dies of a heart attack before explaining how the library works.

The library is enormous and borrowers come thick and fast: the mages need their spell books, the historians are desperate for their versions of the truth, while the scientists argue about classification systems. His only companions are nine library cats – that hinder as often as they help.

Then Oliver discovers that the tools in his Librarian's bandolier have magical properties, and that he needs to learn just how much power lies between the covers of books.

STUART WILSON is the author of the Prometheus High series.

Why this book?

- Oliver needs to learn fast . . . if he wants to live longer than the 112 assistant librarians before him.
- 'This one's for you, book lovers. A thrilling, wondrous read about the power of books and those who keep them. Sign me up for a library card ASAP!' Jeremy Lachlan (*The Jane Doe Chronicles*)
- An adventure story with deeper coming-of-age themes that all kids will relate to – how to live up to the high expectations you set for yourself
- Backed by a MAJOR publicity and marketing campaign by Penguin Random House Australia

11 Ruby Road: 1900 & 11 Ruby Road: 1925

CHARLOTTE BARKLA



Number 11 Ruby Road is a house that has stood for over one hundred years with many different occupants. If only the walls could talk.

It is 1900 and Dorothy and her family have just moved to a new house at 11 Ruby Road.

Ruby Road is a busy street, bustling with activity – families and children, noisy carts and animals. The house is close enough to see the city and very different from the rural life Dorothy has known. Best of all, it has a secret writing room that only she knows about. Dorothy has big plans for her new neighbourhood – she wants to put on a play and write it herself.

As Dorothy delves deeper into her new neighbourhood, she uncovers more than just the joys of her secret writing room.

There are mysteries to unravel, secrets to discover, and lessons to learn about the fascinating time she finds herself growing up in.

CHARLOTTE BARKLA worked as a civil engineer and physics teacher before rediscovering her love for children's literature. Charlotte's books have been translated in multiple languages and shortlisted for awards.

Why this book?

- Dorothy's ambition to write and put on a play showcases creativity and determination – a young Miles Franklin!
- The secret writing room adds an element of intrigue – very Virginia Woolfe
- A rich historical backdrop, offering young viewers a glimpse into a different era with its unique challenges and charm; educational value without sacrificing story and characterisation
- First of a series; *11 Ruby Road: 1925* is set in the same house, but decades later featuring a young boy with dreams to start a jazz club at 11 Ruby Road

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Penguin Random House Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Melanie Ostell Literary • **RIGHTS HELD:** Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: France (Editions Larousse) in two book deal, Japan (Tokyo Sogensha), Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)

PUB DATE: March 2024 / September 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Middle Grade - Stand Alone

Two Sparrowhawks in a Lonely Sky

REBECCA LIM

New to
Rights
Guide



What if you were forced to set sail for a country that didn't want you, to meet a father you couldn't remember?

Thirteen-year-old Fu, his younger sister, Pei, and their mother live in a small rural community in Southern China that is already enduring harsh conditions when it is collectivised as part of Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward campaign that ultimately led to economic disaster, widespread famine and millions of deaths.

After tragedy strikes, and threatened with separation, Fu and Pei set out on a perilous journey across countries and oceans to find their father, who left for Australia almost a decade ago. With nothing to guide them but a photograph and some documents in a language they cannot read, they must draw on all their courage and tenacity just to survive - and perhaps forge a better life for themselves.

Winner, Young People's History Prize, NSW Premier's History Awards, 2024

Winner, Book Links Award for Children's Historical Fiction, 2024
Shortlisted, Margaret and Colin Roderick Literary Award, 2024
Shortlisted, Children's Literature Prize, Prime Minister's Literary Awards, 2024

REBECCA LIM is an award-winning Australian writer, illustrator and editor and the author of over twenty books, including *Tiger Daughter*, *The Astrologer's Daughter* (a Kirkus Best Book and CBCA Notable Book) and the bestselling *Mercy*.

Why this book?

- After their family encounters terrible hardship in rural China, siblings Fu and Pei must draw on all their resilience and courage as they embark on a dangerous journey towards a better life.
- An unforgettable story of family, resilience and the complex Asian-Australian experience from the esteemed author of *Tiger Daughter*, winner of the CBCA Book of the year for Older Readers.
- *Tiger Daughter* published in North America by Delacorte
- 'This exciting and immediately engaging story is rich in memorable characters, full of tension, moments of tenderness and high emotion, with a deep, challenging core questioning our beliefs and prejudices.' *StoryLinks*

Small Acts

KATE GORDON &
KATE FOSTER



From acclaimed authors Kate Foster and Kate Gordon, a special story about being kind to others ... and yourself.

Josh wants a friend but he doesn't know how to find somewhere to belong.

Ollie wants to express herself but doesn't want to be noticed.

Small Acts introduces two kids with great hearts who know that helping others can start with one small act of kindness. Josh has a plan to start with just that. So does Ollie. What Josh and Ollie don't know yet is that they need each other to make their plans work.

A book about being kind to others and yourself, and searching for those moments when you can brighten someone's day and leave things a bit better than you found them.

KATE FOSTER is passionate about encouraging and teaching a wider understanding of autism and mental illness via positive approach and representation. In 2009, KATE GORDON won a Varuna fellowship and hasn't stopped writing since. In 2021 she won the prestigious CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers for her novel *Aster's Good, Right Things*.

Why this book?

- Written in alternating chapters by each of the main characters, Josh and Ollie
- A story about leaving things in life better than you found them and helping those around you.
- The first collaboration between two bestselling and award-winning neurodiverse authors
- A gorgeous story that will appeal to readers of Katrina Nannestad, Pip Harry, Rebecca Lim
- An important story that encourages kindness and finding your place and people in the world.

Six Summers of Tash and Leopold

DANIELLE BINKS



A new middle-grade novel for anyone who enjoys a big, hopeful, coming-of-age middle-grade book that features complicated families and life-changing summers.

Alytash and Leopold – Tash and Leo – are neighbours who used to be best friends, but aren't anymore, for reasons that Leo doesn't entirely understand. But now it's the last week of Year Six and Tash is standing in Leo's front yard with a misdelivered letter – and a favour to ask.

It's a request that will set off a chain of events in their neighbourhood.

As they solve an unfolding mystery and help Ms Shepparson, a reclusive neighbour with a tragic past, Tash and Leo each has to confront fault lines in their own recent histories and families.

They will discover that friendships can grow and change, that bravery takes many forms, and that, most of all – whatever the future holds – friends and family are what matter.

DANIELLE BINKS is a writer, literary agent and lecturer in creative writing at RMIT University. Her debut novel, *The Year the Maps Changed*, was a CBCA Notable Book for Younger Readers and shortlisted for the Readings Children's Book Prize. She is also the author of *The Monster of Her Age*.

Why this book?

- Perfect for anyone who enjoys a big, hopeful, coming-of-age middle-grade book that features complicated families and life-changing summers
- Addresses the issue of school refusal which is becoming increasingly prevalent and discussed
- Both Leo and Tash are compelling characters. Leo is sensitive, big-hearted and missing his father who is recovering from addiction. Tash is vibrant in fluro colours and with a love of manga, but dealing with her own issues following illness
- 'Friendship, family and finding your way. This book perfectly captures the complex world of being twelve. I loved it.' Nova Wheetman

Hazel's Treehouse

ZANNI LOUISE &
JUDY WATSON



Acclaimed author, Zanni Louise and illustrator Judy Watson have created 'an Australian Winnie-the-Pooh with a collection of warm and whimsical stories in a beautifully produced hardback edition.

Hazel is nine years old, as long as her bunk bed and as kind as a marshmallow.

She and her friends – Odette, a pademelon, Walter the wombat, Tiny, a honey possum and Poky – an echidna who changes colour depending on Hazel's mood – live together in a treehouse in the bush.

Every day brings new adventures, sometimes mistakes . . . and always, always, imagination and friendship.

ZANNI LOUISE has written 30 books for children, including picture books and junior fiction. Her books have been described as quirky, warm and funny, and are sold in many foreign territories. She's been twice listed in the CBCA Notables, and her picture book *Archie and the Bear* was selected for the highly prestigious international children's catalogue: *The White Ravens*. Judy Watson's first picture book won the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Fiction. She has illustrated over 20 books for children.

Why this book?

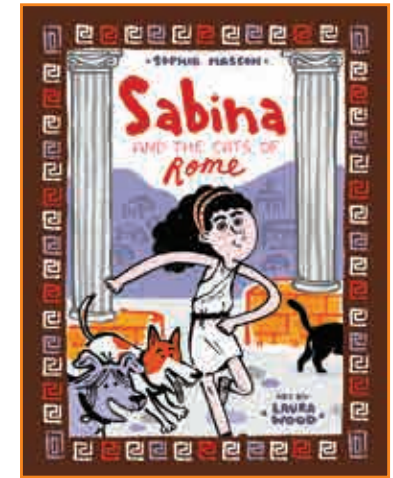
- *Winnie-the-Pooh* meets *Snugglypot* and *Cuddlepie* in this collection of heartwarming and whimsical stories set in the Australian bush
- Delightful, whimsical celebration of childhood
- Acclaimed author, Zanni Louise has twice been recognised in the CBCA Notables lists.
- Perfect as a read-aloud book, stories can be read stand alone or all together
- Charming line illustrations, reminiscent of EH Shepard's classic drawings for *Winnie-the-Pooh*, from celebrated illustrator Judy Watson
- Luxury gift edition, in hard cover

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Sabina and the Cats of Rome

SOPHIE MASSON



This light-hearted fantasy will transport you to ancient Rome. Dive into a world where cats talk, heroes rise, and extraordinary adventures await!

One afternoon, Sabina ventures into the wild part of her garden, where anything can happen.

But on this extraordinary afternoon, Sabina discovers something unexpected perched in a tree – it's a cat! And not just any cat, but a princess! Cleo, the only daughter of the King of the Cats in Rome, and she possesses the incredible ability to speak both cat and human languages.

There's trouble afoot. A wicked spell has been cast on the princess's father, and she desperately needs Sabina's help to save him.

Sabina teams up with Cleo and with the help of Major and Minor, they embark on a race against time. Their mission: to find help for the King of the Cats before it's too late.

SOPHIE MASSON is the award-winning author of over 90 books for children, young adults and adults, many of which have been published internationally. In 2019, Sophie received an AM (Member, General Division) award in the Order of Australia honours list. LAURA WOOD has illustrated many books, for both Italian and Australian publishers.

Why this book?

- A princess cat who can speak both cat and human languages, is a magical and whimsical touch
- Sabina and Cleo have a clear mission. With the inclusion of Sabina's dogs, Major and Minor, we have a dynamic team that readers can cheer for
- The plot's central quest to save the King of the Cats from the King of the Rats and a wicked spell provides plenty of humour, adventure and suspense

PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Christmas Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Legend of the Lighthouse Moon

HELEN EDWARDS



A dazzling tale of family, resilience and the enduring magic of the sea.

In 1970, 13-year-old Mona McKenna lives at Cape Willoughby lighthouse with her grandparents, eight-year-old brother Albert, and their dog Biscuit. They help maintain the lighthouse, but two people are missing: their mother, lost in a tragic night, and their father, whose absence remains a mystery.

Mona, struggling with type 1 diabetes, finds solace in collecting beach flotsam and caring for a sea lion pup.

As they care for the pup, Mona and Albert uncover a family secret about their father's disappearance.

When the lighthouse is threatened, they must unite to protect their home and the sea lions.

Can they keep their family secret, protect the sea lions, and save their lighthouse home?

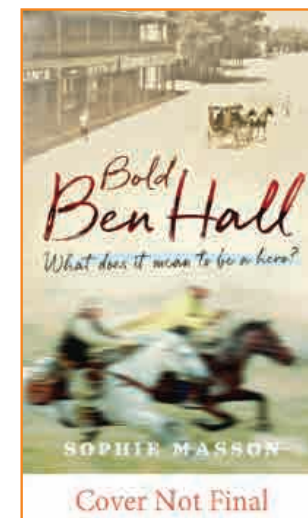
Dr HELEN EDWARDS writes diverse stories of nature, magic and history. She likes to include characters in her stories who are neurodivergent and/or who live with physical and mental health conditions, out in the world, having adventures. Her debut novel, *The Rebels of Mount Buffalo*, was published by Riveted Press in 2023.

Why this book?

- Tackles profound themes such as loss, family secrets, and the challenges of living with type 1 diabetes
- Highlights the importance of protecting endangered sea lions and the natural environment
- The isolated lighthouse on Kangaroo Island provides a unique and atmospheric setting
- Author's use of memories and flashbacks seamlessly weaves past and present

Bold Ben Hall

SOPHIE MASSON



A compelling historical fiction adventure, set during the Australian gold rush. When bushrangers were feared, and legendary. Sophie Masson asks what makes a hero, or a villain? Lily and her parents are travelling performers are delayed in Canowindra, just as famous bushranger Ben Hall and his gang – who has pulled off the biggest gold robbery ever – arrive.

The gang hold everyone in town hostage. But instead of threats, hold a strange, giant three-day party, and Lily is in enthralled. She writes a secret play *Bold Ben Hall* and dreams of sending it to a famous theatre company in Sydney or Melbourne.

Meanwhile, in Forbes, stable boy Sam works for Sir Frederick Pottinger, Hall's nemesis. When Lily and Sam meet, the two are soon at loggerheads about their heroes determined to prove the other wrong.

SOPHIE MASSON is author of more than 100 books novels for young people adults. Her work is published worldwide. *My Australian Story: The Hunt for Ned Kelly* (2011) won NSW Premier's Literary Awards; Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature. Her bestselling adult title, *The Paris Cooking School*, was written under the name Sophie Beaumont.

Why this book?

- A new middle grade historical fiction series called 'Our History' by Sophie Masson, one of Australia's most prolific and awarded writers of historical fiction for young readers
- A gripping story of Ben Hall - one of Australia's most famous, notorious and legendary bushrangers - who in 1862 pulled off the biggest, boldest gold robbery ever.
- Asks important questions: what is a hero, what is a villain, and how do we decide which is which; and how do we separate fact from fiction?

Junior Series

The Something Terrible series

SALLY BARTON &
CHRISTOPHER
NIELSEN



Tim Tie-Your-Shoelaces!

Tim Mulligan lives at 25 Rufus Street. You might be surprised to know that is his name, because most people think his name is Tim Tie-your-shoelaces.

But no matter how many people tell him, or how often, Tim never ties his shoelaces. One morning, just as Tim was leaving for school, his mum called, 'Tim! Tie your shoelaces. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Becky Brush-Your-Hair!

Becky Culpepper lives at 25 Rufus Street. You might be surprised to know that is her name, because most people think her name is Becky Brush-your-hair.

But no matter how many people tell her, or how often, Becky never brushes her hair. One morning, just as Becky was leaving for school, her mum called, 'Becky! Brush your hair. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

Wanda Wear-Your-Glasses!

Wanda Hushberry lives at 25 Rufus Street. You might be surprised to know that is her name, because most people think her name is Wanda Wear-your-glasses.

But no matter how many people tell her, or how often, Wanda never wears her glasses. One morning, just as Wanda is leaving for school, her mum called, 'Wanda! Wear your glasses. Something terrible could happen!' This is the story of the something terrible that did.

SALLY BARTON previously worked for the police but was happiest at her job in a public library while she finished her degree in Legal Studies. CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN is an Australian author/illustrator specialising in bringing joy and wonder to children through his art and storytelling.

Why this book?

- Roald Dahl meets *Round the Twist* meets *The Treehouse* in this hilarious series about the misadventures, mayhem, mistakes and mess of the terrible somethings that happen in Rufus Street.
- The series' premise of kids ignoring their parents' advice and facing hilarious consequences is both funny and relatable.
- Each character has a unique quirk that leads to their misadventures.
- While primarily entertaining, the series subtly teaches lessons about listening to advice and the consequences of ignoring it.
- Easy-reading stories full of illustrations and emphasis words that will keep any reluctant or avid reader engaged.

Hairbrain Saves the Ocean

DANNY KATZ & MITCH VANE



Junior fiction from the best-selling creators of Little Lunch. Hairbrain has lots of ideas. Unfortunately, Hairbrain's ideas are a bit ... hairbrained. Even the good ones.

This is a story about how I came up with a MASSIVELY brainy plan to CLEAN UP all the disgusting pollution on the beach to help save the whole WORLD!!!!!!

(And also save my whole school holidays)

(Which is not as important as saving the world, I know)

(But thought I'd mention it anyway)

(In case you guys are interested)

DANNY KATZ is the author of many books for kids and adults. After failed careers as a musician, comedian and car-washer, he turned to writing and became a columnist for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

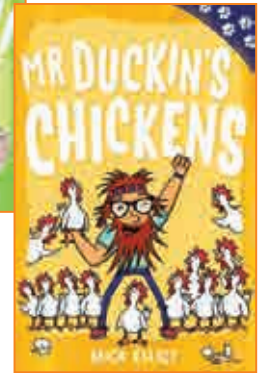
MITCH VANE is a multi-disciplinary artist creating quirky, humorous characters with watercolour and her scratchy dip pen and her distinctive, energetic style.

Why this book?

- Hilarious new illustrated junior fiction from the best-selling creators of *Little Lunch*
- Laugh out loud first title in a new series featuring Hairbrain and Hairbrain's little sister Zammi – who always saves the day
- Witty and relatable writing style incorporating subtle environmental messages, kindness, and social responsibility
- Highly illustrated, in Mitch Vane's signature style
- Much-loved series *Little Lunch* series has been adapted as the highly acclaimed 28 episode TV show currently available on Netflix

The Paw Prints series

DANNY KATZ & MITCH VANE/MITCH ELLIOT



Making tracks with reading! A series for emerging readers, written and illustrated by some of the funniest creators.

Dog People, Ugh! Danny Katz & Mitch Vane

Dog people, ugh. They want to pat dogs play with dogs, cuddle dogs, talk to their dogs, jog with their dogs, kiss their dogs.

How they're happy to carry around dog poop in little plastic bags like they've just gone shopping at a poop-supermarket.

Yuck. I don't get it.

A tail, umm, tale, of someone who doesn't get dogs, or get people who get dogs. Until they do.

Mr Duckin's Chickens Mick Elliott

Meet Mr Duckins. Not only is he the funniest, silliest strangest, year 4 teacher in the universe (with a tattoo to prove it), he's also the most EPIC.

That's because Mr Duckins isn't like other teachers.

He doesn't believe in tests. Or homework.

Or opening doors before he runs through them.

But when he hatches a plan to break the WORLD RECORD for eating THE MOST EGGS IN A DAY, Mr Duckins and his loyal class of misfits embark on a chicken-filled adventure that could turn rotten.

Why this book?

- Paw Prints is Walker's new series to encourage new readers with fun stories, from their favourite creators
- A cracking 3000-word comedy-adventure for emerging readers, featuring laugh-out-loud cartoon illustrations in the style of *Squidge Dibley*, *WeirDo*, *Tom Gates* and *The 13 Storey Treehouse*.
- Designed to face both trade and educational markets, with recognisable and consistent 'paw print' branding.

Junkyard Fairies series

EDWINA WYATT & LAUREN O'HARA



Fur, Tip and Nug are junkyard fairies. They live in a chipped, China teapot at the bottom of the junkyard. They are messy, bossy and never eat their vegetables.

Junkyard Fairies 1: Dig Deep

With the help of a burping toad, a sleeping giant and a monstrous caterpillar, the junkyard fairies can find a way to fix just about anything. Join them as they navigate life at the bottom of the heap, making rusty magic and turning trash into treasure.

Junkyard Fairies 2: Set Sail

On a quest to find their new home, the fairies and their friends sail down the junkyard river on the back of a turtle called Old.

Join them as they navigate life on the river, meet new friends and learn what makes a home.

Junkyard Fairies 3

Determined not to sleep through winter in their picnic basket home, the fairies fill their days with sled races, making junk soup and rescuing an abominable snowrat.

Join them as they navigate life in the chill of winter, wait for the thaw of spring, and learn about letting go.

EDWINA WYATT is an awardwinning Australian children's author. LAUREN O'HARA is an illustrator from the north of England, and among her many titles, she is the illustrator of *Madame Badobedab* by Sophie Dahl.

Why this book?

- A series full of magic and charm from Edwina Wyatt, author of the *Magnolia Moon* series, and Lauren O'Hara, co-creator of *Frindelswyde*
- Edwina and Lauren are experts in weaving charm and magic for junior fiction
- A magical, whimsical world of fairies, with an edge!
- Beautifully published as a hardback first edition

Ella and the Amazing Frog Orchestra

CASSY POLIMENI & HYKIE BREEZE



The story of a girl, a frog and a rescue mission, without a prince or princess in sight.

Did you know frogs can find their way home?

It's called a 'homing instinct' . . . no matter where they are, they know where they belong.

I think I know how frogs feel . . .

Eight-year-old Ella hates her new house. She wants to be back in her old house with her best friend Viv next door.

But then she discovers a secret pond in her neighbour's backyard inhabited by an orchestra of frogs.

At her new school she befriends Mai and learns about the class frog bog project.

New friends and frog expeditions make Ella feel at home, but when a development threatens the pond, Ella and Mai must come up with a plan to save the frogs before it's too late.

CASSY POLIMENI is a Melbourne-based children's author with a passion for the environment. Cassy was awarded an Australian Society of Authors/Copyright Australia mentorship to develop her junior fiction series.

HYKIE BREEZE is a Hong Kong born graphic designer and illustrator living in Sydney.

Why this book?

- Themes of moving to a new place, making new friends, and finding a sense of belonging
- Highlights the importance of environmental conservation and the impact of development on natural habitats
- Ella and Mai are strong, proactive characters who take initiative to solve problems.
- The secret pond, the orchestra of frogs, and the various frog expeditions is brought to life by Cassy's gorgeous writing and Hykie's illustrations

Evie P and Me

PETRA JAMES & ANDREW JOYNER



An unforgettable character at the heart of a story filled with imagination and adventure.

Evie P, the air-explorer has arrived for her first day at school, her unusual life spent in an air balloon has left her bereft of “ordinary” experiences, like classrooms, and friends, but she is full of quirk, adventure, and above all, inspiration.

This story celebrates imagination, language, the joy of finding a sparkly new friend, and the art of play. With timeless illustrations by Andrew Joyner.

Why this book?

- A story celebrating the power of imagination, perfect for young readers
- Delightfully illustrated by internationally acclaimed illustrator of Dr Seuss’ Horse Museum, Andrew Joyner.
- Celebrates language and the importance of play an aspirational story of friendship and connection
- Evie P is an unforgettable character with a unique background. Her quirks and adventurous spirit will captivate readers of all ages

PETRA JAMES has written several fiction titles for children such as *The Most Ungrateful Girl in the World* and the seven books in the Arkie Sparkle series. ANDREW JOYNER is an award-winning illustrator from South Australia. Since his first picture book in 2009, *The Terrible Plop*, written by Ursula Dubosarsky, his books have been published in over 25 countries.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The PD McPem series

ANNA BATTESE & RUTH-MARY SMITH



A blend of humour, curiosity, and clever problem solving, makes this the perfect series for young readers who love a good mystery

PD McPem and the Baffling Beach Bandit

PD and her classmates are all set for a day of sun and sea, but the excitement takes an unexpected

turn when they discover somebody has sunk the lifeboats.

As Detective PD McPem and her team investigate, they unravel a trail of chaos – bananas missing, food scattered, and the bell from Mr Li’s ice cream trike is missing.

The culprit? A brown shaggy dog, according to a witness.

Can PD and her friends find the real rascal before Scooter gets the blame?

Grab your detective gear and get ready for a beach day like no other!

Why this book?

- PD McPem is a young, enthusiastic detective who can find a mystery anywhere – think *Thursday Murder Club* for kids!
- Filled with humour and whimsical elements, including PD’s interactions with her clever canine assistant, Scooter
- Celebrate intergenerational relationships, such as PD’s bond with her grandparents.
- Each book presents a new mystery for PD to solve
- Great supporting characters including PD’s new desk mate Theodora Putkins

ANNA BATTESE spends her days writing stories that appeal to the kind of kid she was – eternally up to mischief. RUTH-MARY SMITH is an illustrator specialising in sweet and whimsical illustrations. From her home studio, she works in digital media and occasionally dabbles in watercolours.

PUB DATE: May 2022 / July 2022 / June 2024 / October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Graphic Novels

Hover Car Racer

MATTHEW REILLY &
JOHN HANNA



Matthew Reilly's blockbuster novel *Hover Car Racer* explodes off the page as a thrilling new graphic novel, brilliantly illustrated by John Hanna.

Never give up. Never say die.

Meet Jason Chaser, hover car racer. He's won himself a place at the International Race School, where racers either make it on to the Pro Circuit – or they crash and burn.

But he's an outsider. He's younger than the other racers. His car, the Argonaut, is older.

And on top of that, someone doesn't want him to succeed at the School and will do anything to stop him.

Now Jason Chaser isn't just fighting for his place on the starting line, he's racing for his life.

MATTHEW REILLY's books are published in over 20 languages with worldwide sales of more than 8 million copies. *Interceptor*, directed by Matthew and co-written with Stuart Beattie, streamed on Netflix in 2022 and was number 1 around the world with over 100 million hours viewed.

JOHN HANNA is the writer and artist behind *Midnight Runners Comics*.

Why this book?

- Matthew Reilly's page-turning, speeddefying, bestselling YA novel brilliantly realised as a graphic novel – the perfect format for this adrenaline-fuelled, action-packed story!
- Set in a world where hover car racing is the most popular and thrilling sport, Jason dreams of becoming a top racer.
- Think the intensely popular F1 with sci-fi elements aimed at teen boys (arguably the biggest viewers of F1!).
- Matthew Reilly is a *New York Times* bestselling author, published in 20 territories with sales of over 8,000,000 copies.
- The original edition of *Hover Car Racer* was published in North America, Korea, Italy, Sweden, Portugal, Germany, Bulgaria and Denmark

PUB DATE: November 2024 • PUBLISHER: Pan Macmillan Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

SoXxiety

TAM TEOW



Drawing inspirations from films such as *Her*, *Idiocracy* and *Blade Runner*, Tam Teow creates a mood and atmosphere oscillating between despair and fragile hope

In a melancholic present-day concrete jungle resides tech addicts of all different kinds, surrounded by never-ending skyscrapers and the incessant flashing of neon signs and lit up screens.

At night they return to lonely isolation, in soulless, utilitarian apartments, where all they have to turn to is more of the same. Spiralling further into depression and anxiety, consuming more but never being nourished, one man is so diminished that he shrinks, becoming less and less until he eventually falls through the grate on a roadside drain.

In that mysterious underworld – a dark land filled with strange plants and unusual creatures – a metamorphosis begins. And when the man eventually returns to the world above, a seed travels with him.

A seed of community.

A seed of hope.

TAM TEOW is an artist based in Australia with interests in narrative and emotionally themed work. Her aim is to create art that inspires the imagination. Tamlyn has worked in design, as a scenic and concept artist and props painter on various film/TV productions (the most recent being *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*) and art installations.

Why this book?

- An incredibly profound, multi-layered and subversive almost-wordless graphic novel
- Explores the destructive impact that dopamine addiction, fuelled by technology, has on our mental health
- Evocative art reminiscent of Shaun Tan and Armin Greder and while dark, it is ultimately hopeful and encouraging that a return to human connection really is possible
- This is the type of unusual work that stops people in their tracks
- *SoXxiety* would make a thought-provoking and unique animated short about a topic that is very much in the headlines – the impact of social media and technology on our wellbeing and mental health

PUB DATE: 2025 • PUBLISHER: Riveted Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

Get Your Story Straight

BRIAR ROLFE



In a twist on the fake wedding romance trope, the adventures of Henry, a young trans man out to everyone except his conservative Christian parents

When Henry realises his best shot at accessing top surgery is faking an engagement to his friend Cooper, he learns it isn't easy to plan a wedding – even a fake one. His mum wants to control everything, his dad is convinced that nonbinary Cooper is a closeted gay man, Henry might be developing feelings for his fake fiancé – and the Australian Government has just announced the 2017 Marriage Equality plebiscite.

Is the cost of staying closeted worth the pain of coming out? What does a fake wedding mean if you're not allowed to have a real one? And is a person really torn to pieces by a crocodile in North Queensland every three months?

BRIAR ROLFE is a non-binary illustrator, comic artist and graphic designer who was shortlisted for a Ledger Award in 2017, and highly commended by the Kat Muscat Fellowship in 2020. Briar has spent the last five years of their practice involved in the Melbourne indie comics scene, where they have built a large body of work focusing on genre bending and format-pushing comedy stories.

Why this book?

- Truly unique – a transgender love letter to the romcom genre
- *Heartbreaker* meets *Heartbreak High!*
- Inspired by the classic fake romances from *As You Like It* to *She's The Man* and *The Proposal*
- Underlines the irony that false identities and fake relationships part of everyday life if you grow up in the closet
- Book rights sold to US publisher before its Australian debut

PUB DATE: September 2026 • PUBLISHER: Hachette Australia

PRIMARY AGENT: Jacinta di Mase Management • RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

RIGHTS SOLD: WEL (excl ANZ, Spanish and Dutch (Levine Querido))

Ducky the Spy

SEAN E AVERY



Laugh-out-loud who-dunnit ridiculousness in this new graphic novel series from Sean E Avery

Ducky the Spy: Expect the Unexpected (Book 1)

Ducky works as a spy on Mr Pig's farm, with his friend, a ditzzy donkey called Donny. Ducky's mission is to find the thief who is stealing from Mr Pig's food trough. But then Ducky and Donny are tasked with a harder ask - confronting the cat gang. Luckily Gretta the Inventor is on hand to help.

Ducky the Spy: Pumpkin Patch Panic (Book 2)

Ducky the Spy and Donny the Donkey are tasked with a protect and deliver mission. Mr Pig's prize pumpkin, Brunhilde (Hildy for short) needs to arrive safely at the Big Veggie contest. Unfortunately, Hildy is destroyed and Ducky has to think on his feet to replace it before the competition begins.

Why this book?

- Hilariously funny and full of absurdity and (for the grown-ups) evokes nostalgia for the Looney Tunes cartoons
- Quacktastically wonderful Ducky and his sidekick, gastro-challenged Donny are on the case and full of inventiveness and misguided intentions
- No matter how badly they mess up in the beginning and how frustrated their boss, Mr Pig, becomes, they always manage to save the day
- Visual gags (fart jokes galore!)
- Perfect for fans of Aaron Blabey and Dav Pilkey

SEAN E AVERY is a teacher, writer-illustrator, sculptor and designer. He's best known as the writer-illustrator of beloved children's picture books, *All Monkeys Love Bananas* and *Harold and Grace*. Internationally, he's best known as a sculptor who uses CDs and DVDs to create breathtaking works of art that reside in galleries and private collections all around the world.

Picture Books

The Letter Writer

BINNY TALIB



A story of fears, friendship and a little bit of outer space.

Jasper has just moved to a new school and feels invisible.

Next door Juniper is afraid of creatures lurking in the shadows at night.

When Juniper writes a letter to the night creatures, it mysteriously lands on Jasper's bed. Jasper knows what he must do.

Why this book?

- Captivating, contemporary and whimsical illustration style combined with a winning narrative
- Multi-award winning author and illustrator
- Binny is known for crafting engaging narratives that entertain children as much as adults
- The perfect gift book for children or adult
- Celebrates the joy and solace of connection; and the lost art of letter writing
- Themes of feeling alone, facing fears and finding friendship
- Binny's books have been published widely internationally

BINNY TALIB is an award-winning author/illustrator with a whimsical, contemporary style and has illustrated over 30 books. Binny also creates Wallpaper, cushions, and porcelain mugs for grownups. Her wallpaper is produced with Milton and King and her Mugs are produced by the German porcelain maker Konitz.

PUB DATE: September 2025 • PUBLISHER: Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



One Day

SHIRLEY MARR & MICHAEL SPEECHLEY

Award winning creators Shirley Marr and Michael Speechley have created a remarkable, unforgettable celebration of LIFE

Early one morning, a mayfly takes flight.

Her one day is the day, and is a day filled with possibility – with things to do, places to see, and friends to meet.

Join her as she makes the most of every single moment, marvelling at what her life has to offer.

An inspiring story about living life to the fullest . . . and seizing the day, every day.



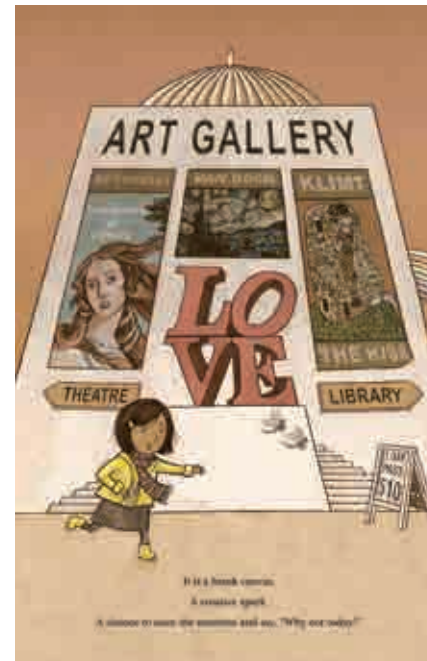
Why this book?

- Encourages readers to seize the day and live life to the fullest, making it a perfect read for both children and adults who need a reminder to appreciate every moment
- A winning combination – Shirley Marr is known for her lyrical storytelling, and illustrated by Michael Speechley, whose work is intricate, detailed and full of hidden elements
- Presented in a large “calendar” format
- Stunningly illustrated, with humour and visual puns and clues
- A celebration of the joy and possibility of life.

SHIRLEY MARR is the author of the award winning *A Glasshouse of Stars*, which won the CBCA Book of the Year for Younger Readers 2022. She is the author of two picture books with Walker Books, *One Day* and the forthcoming *Where the Heart Is*, both illustrated by Michael Speechley. MICHAEL SPEECHLEY has been a graphic designer and high school art teacher. His first picture book, *The All New Must Have Orange 430* was shortlisted and awarded as an Honour Book in the Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Children’s Book of the Year Award in 2019.

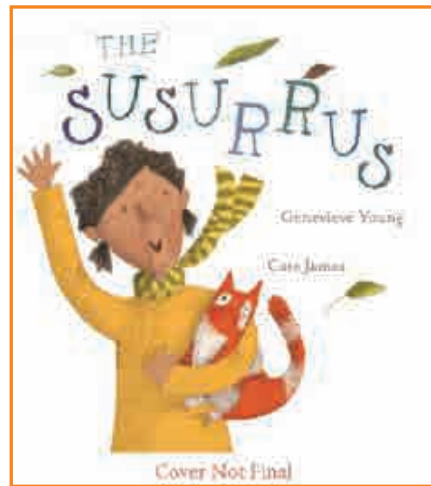
PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** North America (Candlewick)



The Susurrus

GENEVIEVE YOUNG &
GATE JAMES



A celebration of the things we can hear.
We can't see them, but we can imagine!

'Listen. Can you hear the susurrus?' said Grandma.

'What's a susurrus?' asked Frankie.

Frankie doesn't know what a susurrus is. She knows it not it's not a platypus, an octopus, or even a kind of saurus.

So, Frankie searches for the susurrus, while her friend Andy has suggestions as to what a susurrus might be. Everyone has a go at guessing what a susurrus is. But no one has ever seen one.

What is a susurrus? Frankie now knows. Do you?

Why this book?

- A whimsical celebration of the sound of language and the language of sound
- Explores imagination, the things we know exist but can't see in delightful readaloud prose
- Anthropomorphic story-telling
- Charming characters and full of surprises and room for a reader to make their own guesses about what a susurrus is, and what it might look like.

GENEVIEVE YOUNG enjoys creating heart-warming and humorous stories. CATE JAMES is a full-time illustrator who has illustrated over 30 books for publishers in the UK, US and Australia and was awarded the Penguin Random House Illustrators' Showcase Award in 2019.

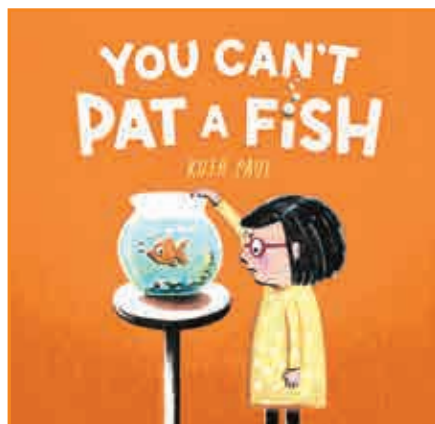
PUB DATE: July 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



You Can't Pat a Fish

RUTH PAUL



A joyful rhyming Suessian romp that puts a playful twist on getting a pet.

If it's wet, it isn't a pet!

You can play with a puppy and snuggle a bunny, but as much as you wish, you can't pat a fish.

A visit to the pet shop is just the beginning of this delightful, insightful and fun-filled story of not getting what you wished for!

Why this book?

- Funny, fresh, unexpected and a perfect read-aloud
- Reminiscent of the best of Dr Seuss' classic picture books
- From award-winning and internationally celebrated creator, Ruth Paul For any and every child who wishes for a pet of their own
- (To confirm: A fish can absolutely be a pet!)

RUTH PAUL is an award-winning writer and illustrator of children's picture books, and a New Zealand Arts Laureate (2019). Her books have been published in ANZ, North America, the United Kingdom and translated into five languages including Chinese (simplified characters) and Korean. She has twice won the Picture Book Award at the New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

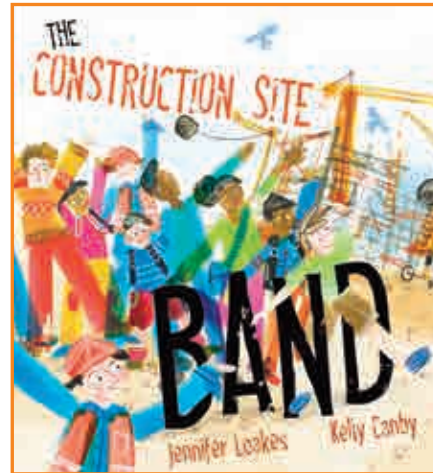
PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



The Construction Site Band

JENNIFER LOAKES &
KELLY CANBY



The construction site band is ready.

It's time for the day to begin.

A delightfully noisy book that celebrates the all the noise and colour of city life.

'I enjoyed thinking about how the machinery sounds would interact with people's day. Perhaps one of the most special things for me about this book, is the idea that people can hear music in their lives, if they listen closely and use their imagination.' Jennifer Loakes

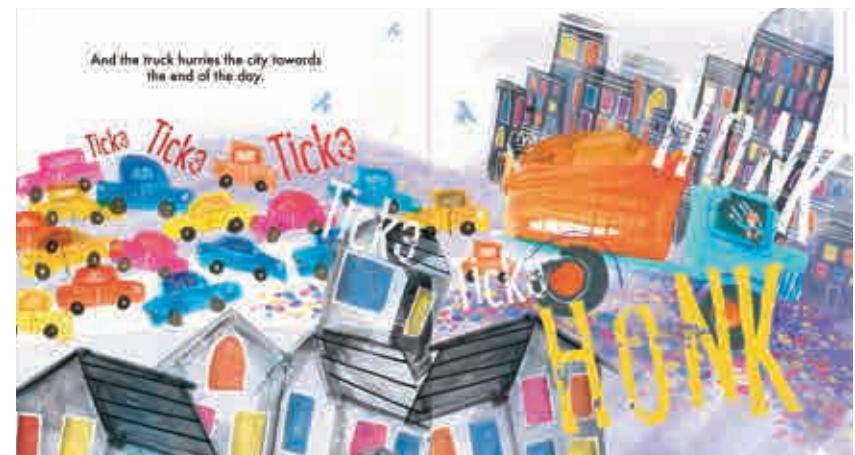
Why this book?

- Fun noisy read aloud for young children
- A celebration of the activity in the city.
- A look at the way people live with the sound of machinery in their lives.
- Kelly Canby won the CBCA Book of the Year award for her book *Timeless*

JENNIFER LOAKES is an internationally published children's author. *The Construction Site Band* is her fourth book with Windy Hollow Books. KELLY CANBY is an award-winning, internationally published, illustrator and author of over two dozen books for children.

PUB DATE: March 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Windy Hollow Books

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



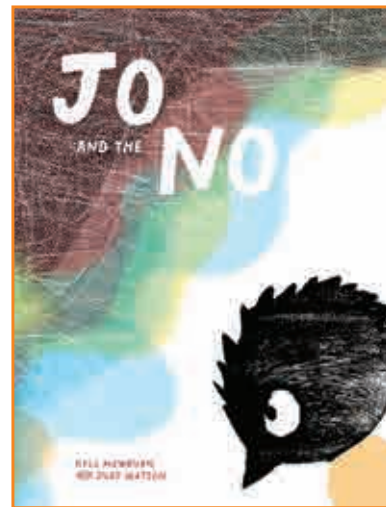
Jo and the No

KYLE MEWBURN &
JUDY WATSON

A gentle fable about overcoming our inner fears and resistance.

Jo has come across a No.

It will not let them pass,
no matter how hard they try to get under, over,
through or around it.

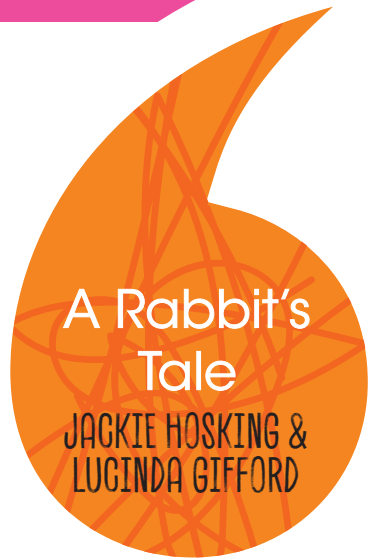


Why this book?

- Featuring a non-binary character and written by a transgender author
- Jo's encounter with the immovable "No" is a metaphor for the obstacles everyone faces
- Provides an opportunity for parents and educators to discuss important topics such as gender identity, anxiety and depression



KYLE MEWBURN titles have been translated into eighteen languages and won a multitude of awards, including NZ Children's Book of the Year. JUDY WATSON has illustrated over twenty books and her illustration has been shortlisted for and won several awards.



A quirky alphabet book full of fun, laughter, pets and hilarious word play.

A quirky, funny and clever alphabet book with a twist - with bright and colourful illustrations by much loved illustrator Lucinda Gifford

A is for... A rabbit.

B is for... Buy this book!

A hilarious alphabet story - for anyone who ever wanted a pet ... and for everyone who loves a wonderful tail, um, tale with a twist!

Why this book?

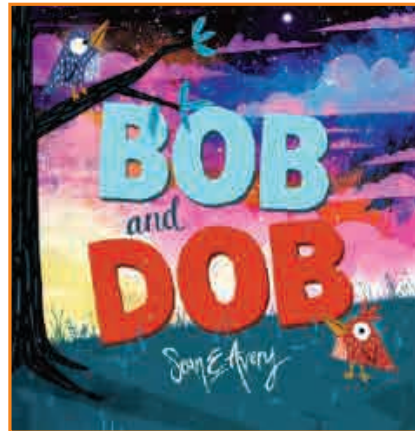
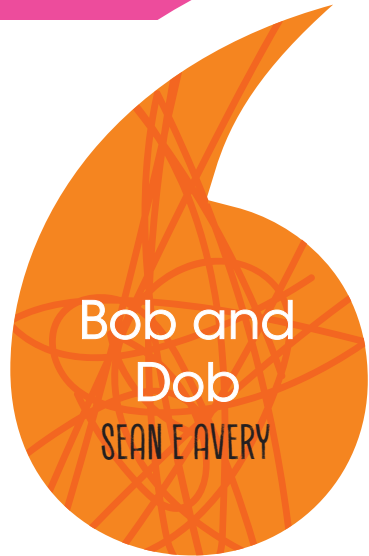
- A quirky alphabet book full of fun, laughter, pets and hilarious word play.
- From best-selling comedic picture book author Jackie Hosking
- Gorgeous and funny illustrations by Lucinda Gifford, much loved and awarded author illustrator.

JACKIE HOSKING is the author of *The Croc and the Platypus* and *An Amazing Australian Road Trip*. Jackie loves to write in rhyme and when she's not writing in rhyme she enjoys helping others with their rhyme. LUCINDA GIFFORD is the author and illustrator of many well-loved children's books. She has illustrated over 30 books, eight of which she has also written.

PUB DATE: July 2025 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation





A hilarious new take on tall tales and 'crying wolf' from the award-winning creator of *Frank's Red Hat* and *Ducky the Spy*

There once was a small bird called Bob.

Bob had a brother called Dob. Dob was also a small bird. A small bird who enjoyed telling tall tales.

Especially tall tales that get his brother Bob into trouble.

A hilarious story of brothers in a spot of bother

The perfect book to explore and celebrate the playfulness and pitfalls of sibling relationships

Why this book?

- New picture book from the award-winning creator of *Frank's Red Hat*
- Sean E Avery is fast becoming one of Australia's –and more importantly kids' – favourite creators
- Funny, silly and relatable story – that appeals to both kids and their parents
- Perfect book to explore and celebrate the playfulness and pitfalls of sibling relationships
- *Frank's Red Hat* was published in the United Kingdom, North America, Korea, Denmark, Germany and France.

SEAN E AVERY is a teacher, writer-illustrator, sculptor and designer. He's best known as the writer-illustrator of well-loved children's picture books, *All Monkeys Love Bananas* and *Harold and Grace*. Internationally, he's best known as a sculptor who uses CDs and DVDs to create breathtaking works of art that reside in galleries and private collections all around the world.

PUB DATE: May 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: United Kingdom, Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** North America (Candlewick Press)



Dob would do.

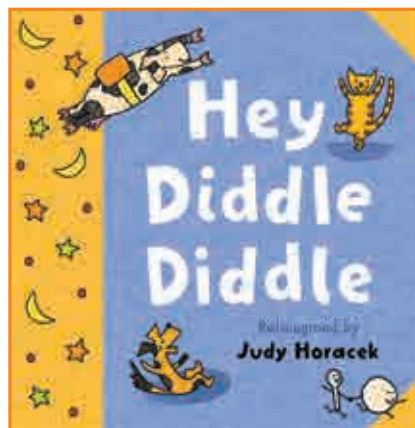


Bob was delighted.



Hey Diddle Diddle

JUDY HORACEK



A favourite nursery rhyme, re-imagined by the co-creator of the much loved and internationally bestselling *Where is the Green Sheep?* featuring Judy's instantly recognisable art and humour

Hey Diddle Diddle is an English nursery rhyme that has been loved and sung by generations for centuries. Judy Horacek reimagines this favourite rhyme with her trademark wit and whimsy.

Hey Diddle Diddle is the first of a series of reimagined rhymes by Judy Horacek with *Hickory Dickory Dock* and *Row Row Row Your Boat* to follow.

Why this book?

- From best-selling creator Judy Horacek
- First of a series of "re-imagined rhymes"
- Featuring Judy Horacek's instantly recognisable art and humour
- Nursery rhymes create cognitive skills - teaching how language works and improving memory, concentration, spatial intelligence.
- Beautifully produced in hardback, the perfect gift

JUDY HORACEK is a cartoonist, author and illustrator. When a tiny green sheep caught the eye of author Mem Fox, it became the internationally bestselling picture book *Where is the Green Sheep?*. Judy has since published five picture book collaborations with Mem Fox, including nursery rhyme storybooks *Good Night, Sleep Tight* and *Bonnie and Ben Rhyme Again*, as well as four of her own solo titles.

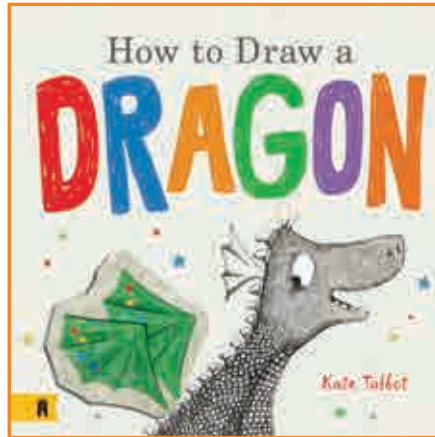
PUB DATE: October 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



How to Draw a Dragon

KATE TALBOT



What is the 'right' way to draw a dragon?

Everybody knows what a dragon looks like.

Don't they?

Dragons have wings.

Dragons breathe fire.

Maybe dragons wear rollerskates?

And shoot marshmallows from their tails!

How to Draw a Dragon showcases a humorous conversation between a parent and a child, highlighting their attempts to find the 'perfect' way to draw a dragon.

As rules and opinions start to restrict their artistic expression, they stumble upon a valuable lesson: the key ingredient to creativity lies in embracing one's unique perspective and breaking free from constraints.

Why this book?

- A glorious celebration of creativity, imagination and collaboration
- A very funny and inventive celebration of the art of compromise
- A hilarious exploration of imagination, creativity and teamwork, perfect to share with children who love drawing . . . or having opinions.
- Will inspire you to get out the pencils and paper - whether you are 5 or 105!

KATE TALBOT has a passion for quirky stories. She has a degree in filmmaking and spent several years as a film producer. In 2011, she made the shift to children's writing and illustration after moving to Germany with her Spanish husband. She now lives in New Zealand.

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Allen & Unwin

PRIMARY AGENT: Sarah McKenzie Literary Management • **RIGHTS HELD:** WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



It doesn't
LOOK like a dragon.
A dragon looks more like...



Is that so?

YES!
And a **DRAGON**
has...



But this dragon can't fly.
If it can't fly,
it's **NOT** a dragon.

It's a **DINOSAUR**.

I hadn't thought of that.

ALSO, a dragon...



Philip Bunting – author/illustrator of award-winning titles *Mopoke* and *Not Cute* – introduces the most enigmatic creature in the Australian bush – the DROPBEAR!

They say Dropbear is mean,
Dropbear is savage.

But They are the gossips.

Meet Dropbear, if you dare,
and decide for yourself!

cover art
to come

Why this book?

- Beautiful hardback edition with a stunning limited palette
- A hilarious introduction to the enigmatic legend of the Australian bush – Dropbear!
- From Philip Bunting, creator of internationally acclaimed fiction and non-fiction including *Mopoke*, *Not Cute*, *Give Me Some Space! How Did I Get Here?*, *The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants*, and *I Wonder*.

PHILIP BUNTING's work deliberately encourages playful interaction between the reader and child, allowing his books to create a platform for genuine intergenerational engagement, and fun. Philip's books have been translated into multiple languages, with rights sold in 38 territories to date. Since his first title was published in 2017, Philip has received accolades from around the world.

PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** North America (Charlesbridge)



Happy Birthday, Little Wombat

CHARLES FUGE



An internationally bestselling series now
over 20 years old with over **1 million**
copies sold globally

It's Little Wombat's birthday!

His friends plan to make it the best day ever.
They have a few surprises planned for Little
Wombat and he cannot wait to experience them all.

Well, almost all . . .

An endearing story of how friendship makes
birthdays so much better. Especially if there's
a boat!

Why this book?

- Garnered international recognition for its warm and humorous depiction of an iconic marsupial
- Beloved for its gentle storytelling, beautiful illustrations, and the heartwarming lessons it imparts to young readers.
- Each book highlights themes of friendship, curiosity, and the joys of exploration.
- Adorable illustrations and charming stories – total comfort viewing!
- The lovable wombat and his friends all have distinct personalities which could be expanded upon
- People have grown up with this series, and are now having children of their own

CHARLES FUGE's interest in wildlife translated into the drawing of animals. He won the Macmillan Prize in 1988 for *Bush Vark's First Day Out*, which won the Mother Goose Award the following year. He has since illustrated a raft of picture books including *Sometimes I Like to Curl Up in a Ball* which was runner-up for the Kate Greenaway Medal 2001.

PUB DATE: February 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation

The Little Wombat series follows the charming adventures of a young wombat and his friends in the Australian bush.

Found You Little Wombat

Pub date: May 2021

Little Wombat loves playing hide-and-seek with his friends, even though he doesn't understand all the rules of the game. So when it's his turn to look, he hides again, then calls out "Two, TEN" and opens his eyes.

Swim, Little Wombat, Swim

Pub date: September 2021

Little Wombat is so excited! He's found a fun new friend to play with who walks strangely, has a funny little face and, most amazingly of all, can swim like a fish in the water! But when Platypus tries teaching Little Wombat to swim, Rabbit and Koala begin to wonder if wombats should, after all, stick to dry land!

Watch Out, Little Wombat

Pub date: December 2021

Little Wombat is hunting the bunyip – a mythical creature said to inhabit swamps, bogs, and riverbeds. He's convinced Bunyip exists, even if his friends Rabbit and Koala don't agree. So Little Wombat sets off alone to find the muddy monster...

Little Wombat's Easter Surprise

Pub date: February 2022

Little Wombat is busy collecting eggs on his Easter hunt when he sees Rabbit hop by wearing a special Easter Bunny costume. It's such a good costume that the tail and nose won't come even off – but wait, is that really Rabbit? Or is it his new friend, Bilby?

Where to, Little Wombat?

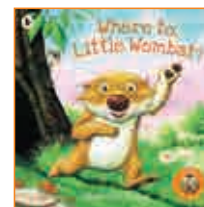
Pub date: July 2022

Little Wombat is tired of living in his burrow, and so sets out to see what kind of homes his other friends live in. Koala, Frog, and Mole invite him to live with them, but wombats can't climb trees or walk on lily pads or live under rocks with the ants – none of these homes seem to be quite right for a little wombat!

Merry Christmas, Little Wombat

Pub date: October 2024

It's Christmas and Little Wombat and his friends are so excited to celebrate! They have a fun-filled Christmas day planned with carols, decorating and, of course, a big Christmas lunch at the beach. But with no Christmas tree in sight, the friends find something, or someone, else to decorate!



Grandmas in Grand Cars

MICK ELLIOTT



From bestselling author-illustrator, Mick Elliott, comes a gorgeous celebration of grandmas!

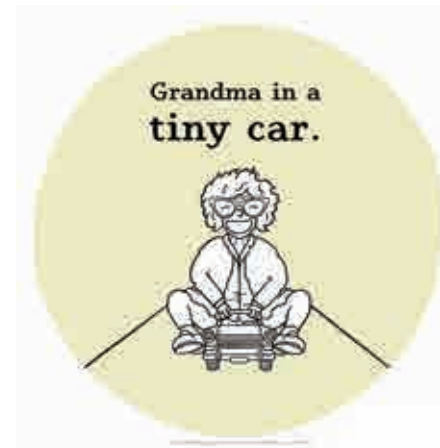
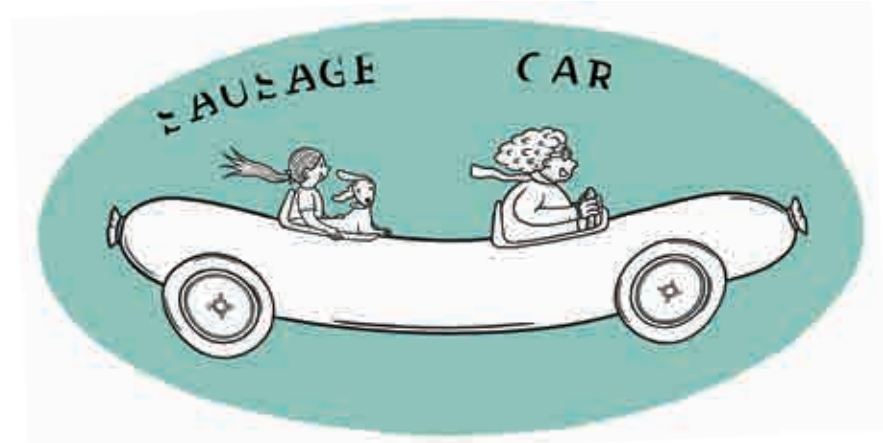
Look at all the Grandmas in their grand cars!

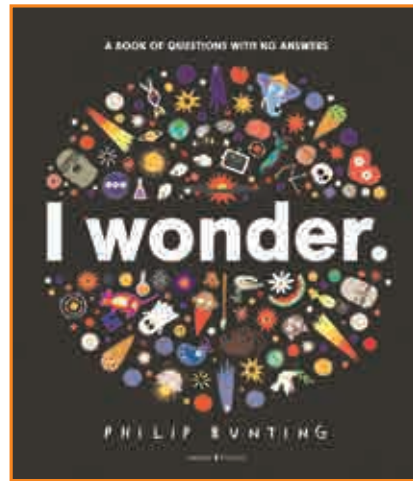
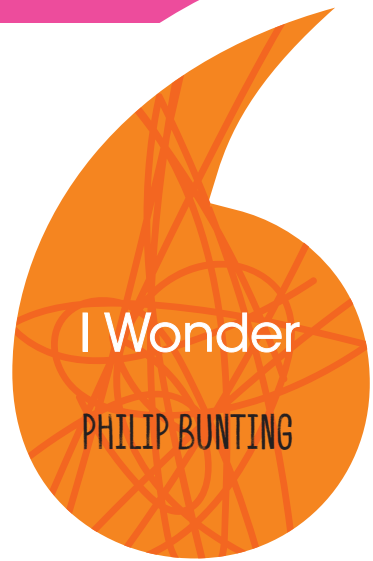
A glorious, grand-full and glee-full celebration of all the different grandmas and their grand cars!

Why this book?

- A joyful picture book celebrating the relationship between grandmas and their grandchildren; full of fun, mischief, laughter and some very grand cars!
- Perfect for Grandparent's Day, special occasions or just to celebrate a grandma!
- Aimed at new parents through to grandparents as a read-along experience to treasure with young children . . . and the not so young.
- Celebrates the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren
- A delightful follow-up to Mick Elliott's *Dads and Dogs* and *Mums and Mogs!*

MICK ELLIOTT is an author, illustrator, TV producer, screenwriter and literacy ambassador. His illustrated middle grade series, *Squidge Dibley*, has been sold into six international territories. Mick has written and produced acclaimed children's programs for Nickelodeon, the Sesame Workshop, Channel TEN and the ABC.





Celebrating that the very act of wondering is what drives us towards knowledge, from internationally bestselling author – and the master of questions without answers – Philip Bunting

I wonder if there is life out there ...

I wonder what love is ...

From the meaning of life to a cure for the hiccups, *I Wonder* explores a few of the things that lie just beyond the edges of our understanding. Questions to which we have no answers (yet)

‘While *I Wonder* is a collection of questions to which we have no answer, it is ultimately a book created to celebrate the joy of intellectual exploration – encouraging the reader to take a second look at what’s going on behind their eyes, and in the world around them.

I Wonder tracks through many non-fiction topics, tip-toeing around physics, biology, neuroscience, art and more. The through-line that intersects these disparate disciplines is, of course, Wonder.’ Phillip Bunting

PHILIP BUNTING’s work deliberately encourages playful interaction between the reader and child, allowing his books to create a platform for genuine intergenerational engagement, and fun. Philip’s books have been translated into multiple languages, with rights sold in 38 territories to date. Since his first title was published in 2017, Philip has received accolades from around the world.

Why this book?

- From Philip Bunting, best-selling, multi-award winning creator of internationally acclaimed titles *Mopoke*, *The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants* and *The Gentle Genius of Trees*
- Philip’s books have become a perennial favourite, in Australia and internationally
- Echoing the big questions often asked by children, exploring them in an accessible and humorous way
- Offers the possibility of hope to young readers - that they might find the answers through the power of wonder
- Stunning illustrations and infographics



PUB DATE: September 2025 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: North America, Translation • **RIGHTS SOLD:** Germany (Mixtvision), Italy (Panini), Portugal (Penguin Random House Portugal (BookSmile) and Brazil (Vergara Y Riba)

Tilly in a Tangle

MARGRETE LAMOND &
MONTY LEE



When things go wrong, following our instinct yields unexpected results.

Tilly works hard at keeping her boat shipshape, striving to retain the approval of those around her, following their advice and conforming to their opinions.

But when disaster strikes, and her friends are called to act instead of administering advice, Tilly discovers her own way of doing things works best – for both her and her friends.

Why this book?

- Tilly's journey from seeking approval to discovering her own strengths is a powerful message of self-reliance and confidence
- Independence, problem-solving, and the importance of being true to oneself
- Monty Lee's quirky and playful illustrations bring the story to life

MARGRETE LAMOND is a multi-award-winning picture-book author and an acclaimed publisher of picture books. Margrete holds a master's degree in visual storytelling and runs advanced courses for illustrators and authors. MONTY LEE is an artist and illustrator whose quirky, playful style has earned her an international following. Her work has been featured in prestigious international illustration magazines.

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Westwords / Dirt Lane Press

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Willow's Gumboots

BEVERLY McWILLIAMS &
HÉLÈNE MAGISSON



A delightful story for anyone who has ever had a favourite piece of clothing.

Willow loved her gumboots. She wore them wherever she went. The gumboots were there in the garden, at the beach and even at parties.

But one day Willow discovered that something was wrong with her beloved gumboot.

Why this book?

- Highlights the importance of reusing and cherishing items, promoting a sustainable mindset
- Willow's journey with her gumboots can inspire children to think creatively about how to repair and repurpose their own beloved items, fostering a culture of sustainability
- Features stunning, vibrant illustrations
- Delightful and heartwarming story

BEVERLEY McWILLIAMS is a children's author from South Australia with a passion for historical fiction.

Her debut picture book *Born to Fly* was a CBCA notable book. HÉLÈNE MAGISSON is a critically acclaimed illustrator of many books for children. Before Hélène turned to book illustration, she trained in the art of medieval illumination.



Like a Gannet

KIRSTEN EALAND & DEB HUDSON



Aim for the stars, or in this case the highest diving board!

Francie can glide like a swan, dabble like a duck and cut through the water like a cormorant.

So, when she sees her older cousins diving like gannets from the high diving board, she wants to do it too.

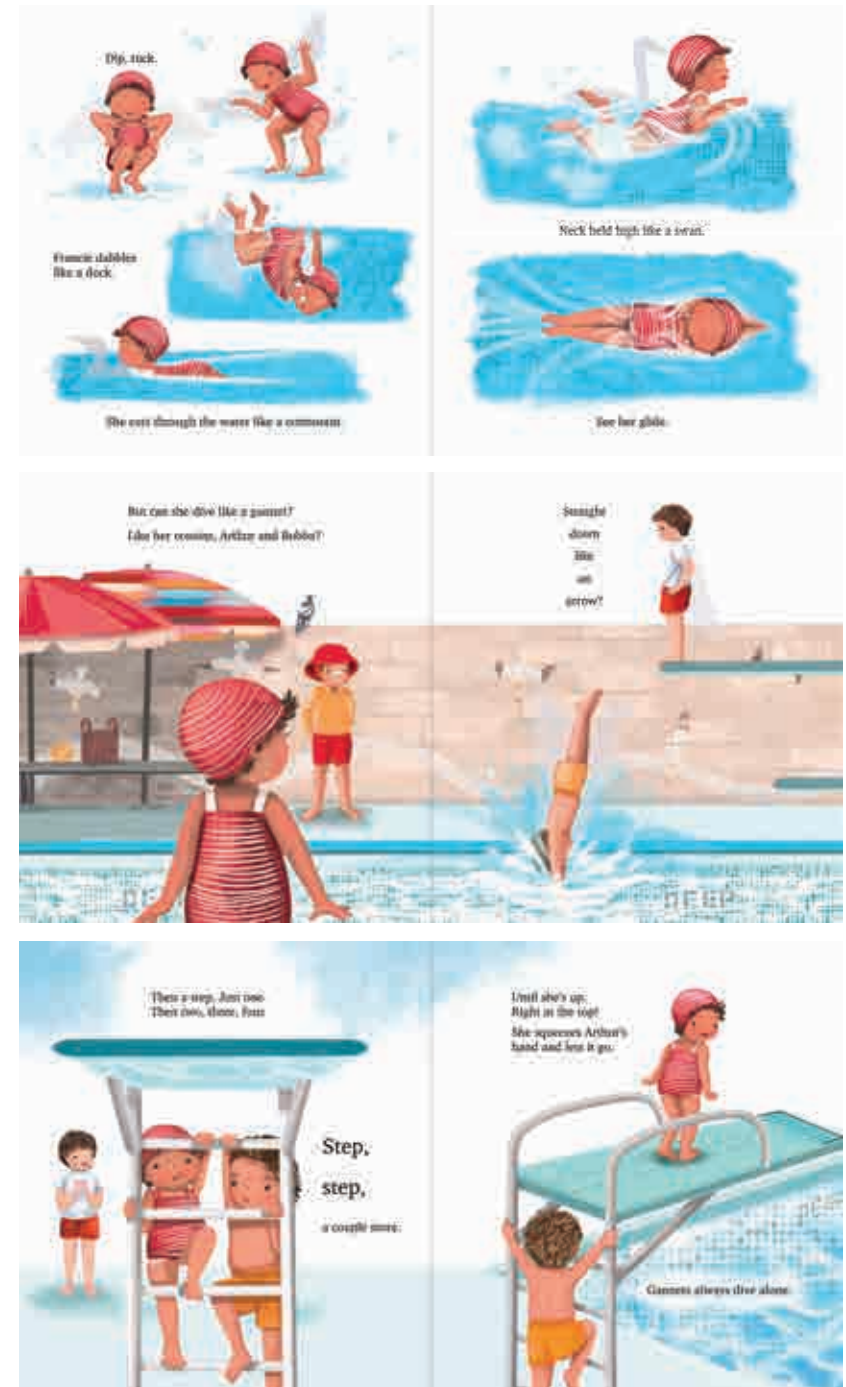
But can she be a gannet if she cannot even dive?

Francie faces the challenge in her own way in this joyous celebration of summer days at the pool, cousins and one little fledgling who wants to be a gannet.

Why this book?

- A fresh take on a first experience story, it depicts the joy of swimming and the universal excitement and apprehension of that first time on the diving board
- An inspiring tale of courage and perseverance
- An ideal summer read, perfect for poolside storytime or as a gift for young swimmers and adventurers
- Francie's older cousins serve as positive role models, encouraging her to push her limits and try new things

KIRSTEN EALAND spent long summer hours in the pool pretending to be a dolphin or a mermaid and has always wished she could dive like a gannet. DEB HUDSON finds joy in creating illustrations that celebrate life, growth and wonder, highlight all the beauty around, especially the tiny unnoticed details.



Little Axel's Axolotl

JULIETTE MACIVER &
CHRISTOPHER
NIELSEN



Funny, charming, disarming and full of surprising adventure featuring one of our most unusually endearing creatures.

This is Axel's axolotl. Hi ho, Harris Aristotle!

Harris Aristotle is a much-loved axolotl. Axel attends to his every wish and want and need and feeds him with the finest cheese and warms him with the warmest of hats. Axel's fishy feet never touch the ground.

But despite his life of ease, Harris has a secret dream ... and hatches a secret and daring scheme.

Harris is about to surprise everyone!

Why this book?

- Harris Aristotle, the axolotl, is an unusually charming and lovable character
- Filled with funny and disarming moments
- Harris's secret and daring scheme is a hoot!
- Christopher Nielsen's vintage design adds a unique and nostalgic charm
- Joyous read-aloud text, with a twist!

JULIETTE MACIVER's picture books are regularly shortlisted for awards and named as Storylines Notable Books. Her work has been published internationally. CHRISTOPHER NIELSEN's illustrations flow forth from a love of vintage design. He was shortlisted in 2018 for the CBCA Crichton Award for best new illustrator in children's book illustration.

PUB DATE: November 2024 • **PUBLISHER:** Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



He's never felt the mid night breeze
chill his skin on his knees.
He's had on trees Norwegian cheese
and leads a life of languid ease.



Harris covets Axel's axolotl.
Hi ho, Harris Aristotle!

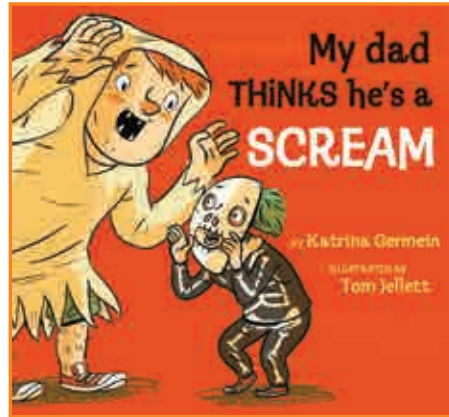


Yes, Axel loves his axolotl.
They pack a lunch and thermos bottle
and walk each day to Lake Besottle,
where Axel anchors round a wattle ...

and up goes Harris Aristotle,
pilot of his flying shortsie,
he tides upon the winds full throttle!

He's quite the boldest axolotl

My Dad
Thinks He's a
Scream
KATRINA GERMEIN &
TOM JELLETT



From the bestselling team Katrina Germein and Tom Jellett, the spookiest addition to the 'My Dad' series. Guaranteed to put you in good spirits!

Dad's ghoul, calm and collected and he takes scare of that trick-or-treating business in this dead funny booooo-k.

Because when you've got it, haunt it.

Come on in.

The ghost is clear!

My dad thinks he's funny.

Why this book?

- Bestselling series – over 150,000 copies sold and counting!
- Family focused – great for reading aloud with the children
- Targeting the Halloween market, with Halloween-themed jokes and illustrations
- Inaugural title of the series, *My Dad Thinks He's Funny*, was Highly Commended in the Prime Minister's Literary Awards 2011; shortlisted in the Reading and Enjoying Australian Literature (REAL) Awards 2011; Highly Commended in the Australian Book Design Awards, 2011.

KATRINA GERMEIN is a bestselling picture book author. Katrina's book, *Big Rain Coming*, has remained continuously in print since first published in 1999. For over twenty years TOM JELLETT has illustrated bestselling books for children. Tom was recently included in the Editorial and Book category for *Illustrators 61*, and exhibited at the Society of Illustrators, New York in 2019.

PUB DATE: October 2024 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ), Translation



Mini and Milo Series

VENITA DIMOS &
NATASHIA CURTIN

About the series

This popular series features two adorably endearing leads: Mini, an elephant, and her best friend Milo, a rabbit who wants to be a magician.

The stories combine the emotional satisfaction and the entertaining appeal of *Bluey*, the recognition of the depth of children's intellect, curiosity and feelings and the keys to manage through relatable characters, an approach mastered for decades by Fred Rogers, and an abundance of visual humour.

All texts have been written as discrete titles so that they can stand alone, out of order. The stories work on several levels, providing reading enjoyment at face value, but the plots and characters are layered to maximise the opportunity for children to learn resilience and conflict intelligence.

There are currently six titles in the series, with more stories to come.



#1 Teeny Tiny Voice

Pub Date: March 2023

Mini is an elephant ... and not really mini at all. But she has a tiny house, a tiny bedroom, and a tiny best friend who dreams of being a magician. She also has a big secret – she hears a tiny invisible voice that sometimes causes big trouble.

Can Mini learn to manage the invisible mischief maker?

KEY SKILL: Positive self-talk

#2 The Big Flappy Ears

Pub date: September 2023

Mini's ears are bigger than big and huger than huge ... but she has a problem. They aren't very good at listening. When Mini misses out on the excursion, she tries everything she can to fix her ears – even pegging them up, so that they look like her best friend Milo's ears. But nothing works. Eventually she realises that maybe her ears aren't the real issue after all.

KEY SKILL: LISTENING

#3 Elephants Can't Jump!

Pub date: March 2024

Mini's best friend Milo always gives the best presents.

But when Mini's birthday comes around, she is very unhappy with Milo's present. A trampoline? What was Milo thinking? Mini is so cross she can't even speak to him. Instead, she does everything she can to hide from him. Which is quite hard, when you are an elephant. Mini eventually realises that sometimes what you avoid might be the answer you needed all along.

KEY SKILL: COMMUNICATION

#4 The Last Plum

Pub date: September 2024

Mini is wild about plums, and even wilder about winning.

She is about to enter her plum pie into the Annual Delicious and Delightful Cooking Competition, and discovers that she is one plum short. Luckily, her friend Milo loves plums too. Will Mini manage to make her plum pie, or will she find that she needs to find another, very special, ingredient?

KEY SKILL: COMPETITION

#5 Elephants Never Forget

Pub date: March 2025

Mini has the best memory in the whole animal kingdom. She remembers the good stuff, the bad stuff and everything in between. And because Mini remembers everything, she also remembers mistakes. Usually other people's mistakes. So when her best friend Milo accidentally loses Mr Cuddles, Mini has to learn how to forgive ... and forget.

KEY SKILL: FORGIVENESS

#6 Room for One

Pub date: August 2025

Mini's dream boat was no ordinary boat. It was silky, snuggly and soft. But when Mini's best friend Milo wants to get on board, Mini doesn't want to share. When she gets cross, things go wrong, and she discovers her boat, and her friendship, is heading in the wrong direction. Can Mini find a way to fix it?

KEY SKILL: SHARING

PUBLISHER: Walker Books
Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ),
Translation

For over 20 years, VENITA DIMOS has helped thousands of people solve complex problems and navigate difficult times in their lives. She is passionate about empowering children with the skills and resilience to navigate the inevitable curveballs that life throws at them. NATASHIA CURTIN is the award-winning author and illustrator of *Vernon the Penguin*.

31-and-a-half things to know ... as you grow
MEG MCKINLAY & NICKY JOHNSTON



An evocative and relatable guide for readers navigating 'big school' independence

Award-winning author Meg McKinlay provides thoughtful age-appropriate scenarios for children with burgeoning independence:

how to make a friend, and be one

standing up for yourself

the importance of looking up ... and winding down.

In the style of *Always Never Always*, in a new perfect pairing where the co-creators work in tandem, an idea introduced with charming illustrations from much-loved illustrator Nicky Johnston rounding out the response.

Why this book?

- Hardback luxury edition – the perfect gift for anyone who is growing up!
- Guidance for anyone taking new steps – like moving to a new neighbourhood, starting school, a new class
- Award-winning author Meg McKinlay provides thoughtful age-appropriate scenarios for children with burgeoning independence.
- A new perfect pairing of award-winning and beloved creators
- Universal themes of friendship, self-confidence, and mindfulness
- Provides practical advice and guidance

MEG MCKINLAY is the author of eighteen books ranging from picture books and young adult fiction through to poetry for adults. NICKY JOHNSTON is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator with several bestselling titles published in Australia and internationally.

PUB DATE: October 2024 • PUBLISHER: Walker Books Australia

RIGHTS HELD: WEL (excl ANZ)



The Kids Who Rescued Easter

JACKIE HOSKING &
NATHANIEL ECKSTROM

Creators of *An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree* and *When Santa Got Stuck in a Gum Tree*, comes an Easter adventure full of laughs, friendship and surprises.

It's Easter time and the Easter bunny has lost his eggs!

But not to worry, as all the neighbourhood kids are here to help.

Or so they think.

Paired with Nathaniel Eckstrom's charming illustrations, this is the perfect book to celebrate Easter.

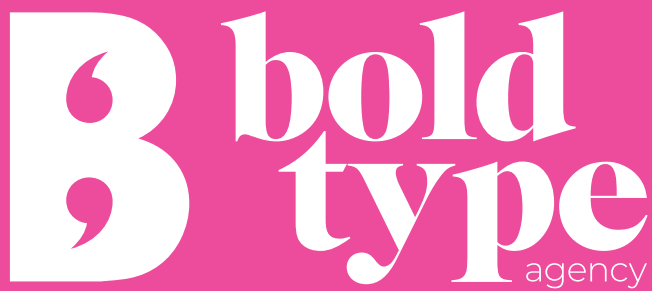
JACKIE HOSKING is the author of *The Croc and the Platypus* and *An Amazing Australian Road Trip*. Jackie loves to write in rhyme and when she's not writing in rhyme she enjoys helping others with their rhyme. NATHANIEL ECKSTROM has worked on a number of children's picture books including *Stubborn Stanley*, *The Hole Idea*, *Roadtrip* and *The Dress-Box*. His previous titles with Walker Books include *Duck!*, written by Meg McKinlay, and *Ten Little Figs*, written by Rhian Williams.



Why this book?

- The Easter Bunny has dropped his eggs! The kids in the neighbourhood gather to save the day ... but are they really helping?
- A deliciously sweet – and hilarious – spin on an iconic tale, from the best-selling team behind *An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree*.
- An egg-citing and sweet picture book from well-known and well-loved pairing, Jackie Hosking and Nathaniel Eckstrom.
- Over 20,000 copies of *An Aussie Christmas Gum Tree* have sold to date.
- Jackie Hosking has reimaged an Australian classic, *The Man From Snowy River*, into a fun and entertaining Easter adventure story.





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