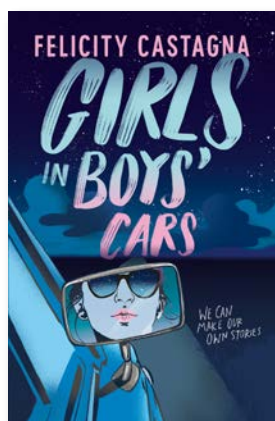




Older Readers Category

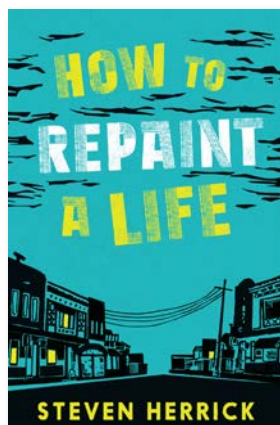


Girls in Boys' Cars

Felicity Castagna

Published by Pan Macmillan Australia | ISBN 9781760982980

This is a sophisticated story written in the first person. It delves into cultural and sexual expectations, how these change people's perception of you, and how wearing all these burdens can push you to break. The characters' search for escape and visibility demonstrates the consequences of the experienced injustices and degradation. The metafictional structure is not linear, reflecting the haphazard way we remember events, an effective and unusual method of revealing the characters' circumstances. The emotional journey each of the main characters experience feels authentic and the development of their characters is strong. The author has accurately captured the female anger towards a society which is still failing them.

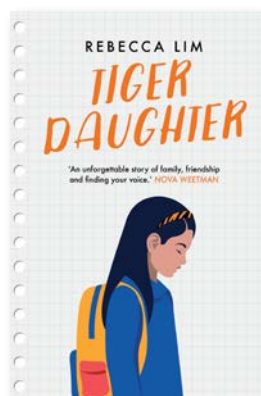


How to Repaint a Life

Steven Herrick

Published by University of Queensland Press | ISBN 9780702263156

A gentle exploration of difficult things, some universal, some specific to coming of age. Homelessness, domestic violence, misogyny and privilege are all unpacked in a way that is genuine, real and tense without ever being too overwhelming. A dramatic opening moves the story quickly along engaging readers in the outcome and the main characters lives. This is a beautiful story of contrasts; contrasting hopelessness with optimism, homelessness with family security and privilege, moral courage with revenge, old fashioned homeliness with modern chic and overall builds a picture of kindness and resourcefulness. The stunning prose captures a vivid picture of life in this small town without ever feeling overwritten. The characters are authentically written. It's compelling, honest, and heartfelt.



Tiger Daughter

Rebecca Lim

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760877644

Written with the palpable anger of being kept silenced in a cage of patriarchal injustice. A beautifully written story of the challenges and injustices of culturally based domestic violence and the injustices and effects of migrant discrimination. The strength of love, and the importance of connection to community are clear themes throughout. The book also explores, grief, cultural clash, patriarchy, racism and friendship. Youth wins out over adult indoctrination, disappointment and pessimism.

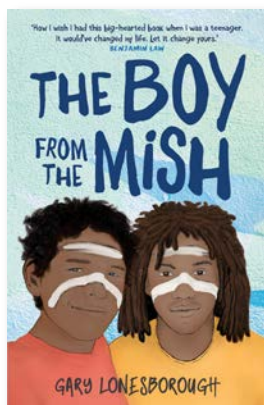


THE CHILDREN'S
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Stanley Place, South Brisbane 4101

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General enquiries: admin@cbca.org.au



The Boy from the Mish

Gary Lonesborough

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760525880

A tender, contemporary First Nation's coming of age book that speaks of the slow realisation of identity and one's place in the world. An important book in this category. Love fills its pages — family love, friendship love and romantic love, as well as love of culture. Set in an Indigenous mission, the story gives a realistic and positive insight into happy Indigenous family life. The language includes poetic descriptions of bush and countryside, and sensitive descriptions of emotions. The clash of Indigenous culture with modern Australia and the loss of culture and its impact is explored in depth.

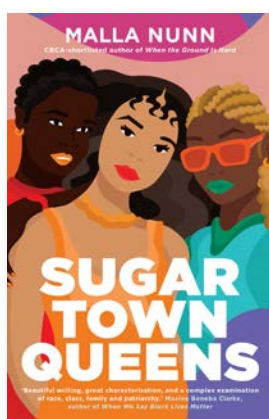


Terciel and Elinor

Garth Nix

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760878818

A great story in the fantasy genre. Written with lovely language, the story builds and the tension is created as the background to the two main characters is filled in. The world they live in is realistically created with vividly imagined details. The story manages to avoid stereotypes which are common in this genre.



Sugar Town Queens

Malla Nunn

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526832

An engaging, well-written socio-economic/family drama, exploring racism, poverty and wealth in Durban, South Africa. Well-developed and authentic with tangible differences between the city and the township. The entire cast of characters felt nuanced, with their own stories happening, and were fleshed out and full of life, each with unique reactions to the drama and for the most part managed to avoid being stereotypes. The setting was rich and well described. Despite being a setting far removed from a typical Australian teen's experience, there were enough elements in the story to relate to, while simultaneously giving insight into another way of life. The story unfolds gently and is well-paced, maintaining tension. Each twist/dramatic event happening in a realistic manner, sparking emotion, drama, and humour, creating an entirely enjoyable read. An up-lifting story of 'Ubuntu', the Zulu idea of compassion and humanity.





Younger Readers Category



Dragon Skin

Karen Foxlee

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526108

This exceptionally well-crafted novel supports the reader to grow with 10-year-old Pip and her friends. Slowly but surely as part of the development of the characters and plot they are able to free themselves from manipulative, controlling and abusive situations in a sensitive and age-appropriate way. This book cleverly deals with themes of loneliness, emotional vulnerability, neglect, verbal and physical abuse and neglect in a calm, hopeful and dignified way and never detracts from the magic found by Pip, Laura and Archie. The parallel between Pip's needs and the needs of the baby dragon is cleverly written.

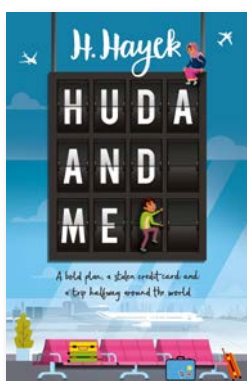


The Detective's Guide to Ocean Travel

Nicki Greenberg

Published by Affirm Press | ISBN 9781922400673

This beautifully crafted historical novel powerfully transports readers back to a 1920s adventure via a group of young children. Each character is creatively brought to life and the author's style and red herrings ensure that the reader remains glued to each page. The actions, interactions and the relationships developed within the narrative explore social class, gender roles, parent / child roles, mystery and deception. The opulent extravagance of the first class setting is consistent throughout and the reader is ushered through it seamlessly by the protagonist's sense of wonder.



Huda and Me

H. Hayek

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526023

Offering a fresh perspective of Australian life with two children from a Lebanese-Australian family running away from home, the author uses an accessible and lighthearted style even when dealing with complex topics such as racism and cultural identity. Huda and Akael were a delight to read and their family's bond was portrayed realistically: at times humorous and other times duty-bound. The alternating chapters depicting their adventures create an engaging and fast-paced tale of family, mischief and adventure perfect for this age group where problems are best faced together.





A Glasshouse of Stars

Shirley Marr

Published by Penguin Random House Australia | ISBN 9781760899547

Using the rarely seen second person point of view, Marr addresses both the reader and the protagonist in a tale of identity, belonging, social exclusion, cultural diversity and adaptation. This challenges the reader and makes the protagonist's emotions and fears direct and personal. The subtle magic of both the house and the glasshouse serves as an extension of the protagonist's emotions and provide her with hope. The story asks the reader to look beyond tragic and difficult events to a resilience that enables one to dream and addresses cultural biases, customs and expectations.



Exit Through the Gift Shop

Maryam Master (text), Astred Hicks (illustrator)

Published by Pan Macmillan Australia | ISBN 9781760983512

An amusing, sensitive and at times heart-breaking look at life through the eyes of a 12-year-old. Supported by her best friend Al, Ana openly faces her terminal cancer diagnosis and treatment, her relationship with her parents' and their new partners, whilst also coping with bullying. The characters and plot are enhanced by strategically placed illustrations, changes in font, and cleverly inserted word definitions which enable the reader to access the content in a non-confronting way. Without offering a happily ever after ending, the difficulties Ana encounters are authentically portrayed with hope, humour and positivity.



Rabbit, Soldier, Angel, Thief

Katrina Nannestad

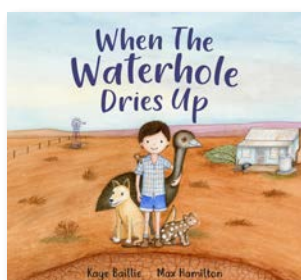
Published by ABC: An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers | ISBN 9780733341465

Inspired by a true story this book sensitively deals with the horrors, friendships, hardships and ingenuity that are the products of wartime. The four parts of the story are each foreshadowed by the motifs that Sasha collects, adding meaning to the telling. The parts are also reflected in the title enhancing the meaning-laden story full of sadness, tragedy, hope and joy. Sasha's innocence is conveyed beautifully, bringing light and joy to what could have been a very dark story. The characters are heart warming and engaging for the readers and a highlight of the story.





Early Childhood Category



When the Waterhole Dries Up

Kaye Baillie (text), Max Hamilton (illustrator)

Published by Windy Hollow Books | ISBN 9781922081971

Boisterous fun, chaotic bush animals and waterplay feature in this cumulative tale about a very dusty boy who needs a bath. The setting of the dry, red Aussie outback is clearly established, and the bath time routine will be familiar to young readers and the adults too! Watercolour double-page spreads in landscape format fill each page, inviting the reader in. There is a wonderful escalation of pace throughout the book firstly as the boy begins to undress, then the drama as each animal arrives, until bath time erupts into delightful chaos. The bath emptying of water in the ruckus, the arrival of rain and the ensuing dip in the newly filled dam combine for a satisfying conclusion. Interesting endpapers suit the theme of the book. Font styling is excellent. Young readers will fully engage with this form of nursery rhyme which encourages participation.

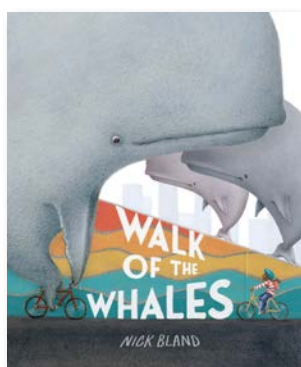


What Do You Call Your Grandma?

Ashleigh Barton (text), Martina Heiduczek (illustrator)

Published by ABC: An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers | ISBN 9780733340840

This high-production picture book is a heart-warming trip around the globe, celebrating the wonderful relationships between children and their grandmothers. Themes of family, love, culture and diversity are explored, and the mood is one of joy and celebration. Written in rhyming couplets, the illustrations marry beautifully with the text, and reveal further details about family life in homes around the world, offering opportunities to discuss cultures other than the readers' own. Each grandmother is unique, but all are portrayed as vibrant women interacting with their grandchildren in a delightful array of different activities. The appendix connecting each word for 'grandmother' to the corresponding language is well-researched and something to relish.



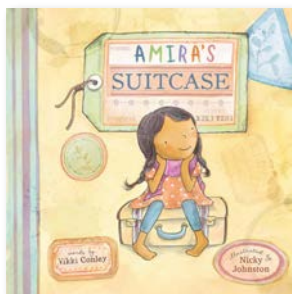
Walk of the Whales

Nick Bland

Published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing | ISBN 9781760509026

The magic and mystery of childhood imaginings are combined with the grand possibilities of illustrations, and a profound message about humanity's interconnection with the planet. This weighty message is handled with a delicate touch, rhythmic text and a balance of imagination, humour and truth. There is a touching moment when a child queries the situation and the emotion in the whale's blunt reply is beautifully framed by the tear in its eye. Less about pollution, this is a book about possibilities: the exchange of rubbish for the whales foregrounds the principle that for every action in nature, there is a consequence and there is always a fresh story and connection to discover.





Amira's Suitcase

Vikki Conley (text), Nicky Johnston (illustrator)

Published by New Frontier Publishing | ISBN 9781922326133

New beginnings, simple pleasures and hope symbolised in a growing plant and a blossoming girl are themes in this book. When Amira arrives with her suitcase to a new home she is timid, but through play she nurtures herself and heals, showing bravery, resourcefulness and kindness. Readers are invited to make connections whilst also exploring lives that may be different to their own. Colour, line, shape and texture harmonise in an expert application of watercolours. A high-quality production and symmetry between text and illustrations provides a heart-warming story. Intertextual connections may also be made to Jack and the Beanstalk.

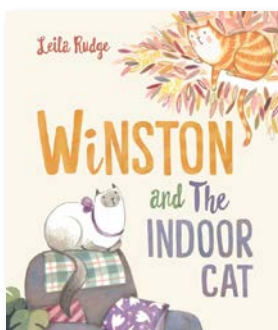


Jetty Jumping

Andrea Rowe (text), Hannah Sommerville (illustrator)

Published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing | ISBN 9781760500658

A beautifully written and highly relatable book about overcoming fears. Time and place have been carefully created to depict an Australian beach town in summer. The language is rich and descriptive, using apt vocabulary and alliteration. The eye-catching, swirling text depicts movement to mirror themes of water and the action it describes. Mood is gently constructed. The joy of the jumping girls contrasts with Milla's trepidation as she sits apart, afraid to participate in their fun yet wanting to join them. A lovely twist of plot adds momentum and motivation to the main character's actions, who overcomes her fears to finally enter the water.



Winston and the Indoor Cat

Leila Rudge

Published by Walker Books Australia | ISBN 9781760652609

Friendship and individuality are explored in this gently told story of two very different cats. Winston, the outdoor cat, tries to entice the indoor cat outside, while the indoor cat, who is comfortable with its leisurely life, tempts Winston into its world inside the house. Characterisation is developed through subtle expressions of the cats when they find themselves outside their respective normal environments. With short sentences and concise phrases, young children will delight in listening to the words while being captivated by the illustrations. Beautiful, soft watercolour and pencil illustrations vary from full-page spreads to small vignettes and the final sequence where the cats agree to disagree and find common ground is a satisfying and humorous resolution.



CBCA Book Awards 2022 Shortlist: Early Childhood Category



Picture Book Category



The Boy and the Elephant

Freya Blackwood

Published by HarperCollins Publishers | ISBN 9781460759998

This wordless book is a deeply emotional, tender, poignant and quietly affecting story which sings on so many levels. Rereading will reward the reader. There is the need to stop destruction of the natural environment alongside themes of friendship, loneliness and displacement in a world where people are too busy to see beauty in the world. The characters, settings and transitions in time are engaging, emotive and worthwhile. There are many elements in this book; young and wistful protagonist, peacock and orange colour palette used to represent home life, delicately drawn figures and sensitive use of lighting.



Blue Flower

Gabriel Evans (illustrator), Sonya Hartnett (text)

Published by Penguin Random House Australia | ISBN 9781760894450

A beautiful book exploring important themes of disliking school, self-love and being proud to be different. The book is filled with genuine emotion and has a strong central character revealed through convincing inner dialogue. Perfect pace and positioning of page turns make this an excellent read aloud. The illustrations offer delicate and nuanced explorations of character and setting; the colour palette is restrained, and colours are used in a symbolic way. This character and situation will resonate with many young readers and the overall message is inspiring. A thought-provoking book which will generate lots of discussions with children.



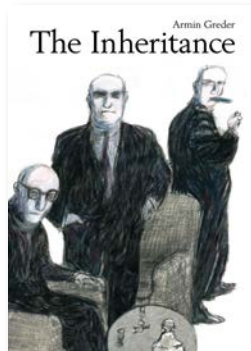
Stellarphant

James Foley

Published by Fremantle Press | ISBN 9781760990732

This story about an anthropomorphised, larger than life elephant can be read either as an ironic comment on privilege and diversity or the power of persistence. Readers will admire Stella's resilience and problem solving as she challenges the status quo of Space Command's space programme. Foley's use of humour and playfulness outweigh any dogma. Stella and her gang jump off the page with gumption and determination. The endpapers are fascinatingly informative. So much emotion is conveyed on Stella's face, through her eyes, tongue and forehead wrinkles. The fold-out page at the end is also a delightful addition. This book has the potential for lots of rich discussion around who become powerful, educated, and celebrated and who doesn't.





The Inheritance

Armin Greder

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526788

A challenging and unsettling picture book expressing the deep connection between capitalism and the state of our planet within the setting of an uber wealthy family. Bleak but beautiful compressed charcoal and pastel illustrations evoke a visceral response. In this picture book for older readers the reader is invited to sit with the metaphorical and literal darkness of this chilling tale. Many older readers will be engaged with and energised by the haunting nature of the wordless pages that don't give in to a 'happy ending' temptation. The bold use of negative space and ironic title will provoke much discussion.



Just One Bee

Christopher Nielsen (illustrator), Margrete Lamond and Anthony Bertini (text)

Published by Dirt Lane Press | ISBN 9780648023890

The language here is poetic and balanced, and the illustrations use a limited palette and stark design to create an arid effect in this flower-less dystopia. There is a strong sense of place with the environment itself developed as a key character. On the surface, this is the story of three bees who question their own power and place in creating a more sustainable future. But these characters are rich representations of climate deniers and activists in the real world and the book helps readers to consider their own role in climate change and the importance of resilience and working together to make a positive impact. The shifts in tone, from bleak and barren to vibrant fields of flowers, are affective and create a sense of hope and optimism.



Iceberg

Jess Racklyeft (illustrator), Claire Saxby (text)

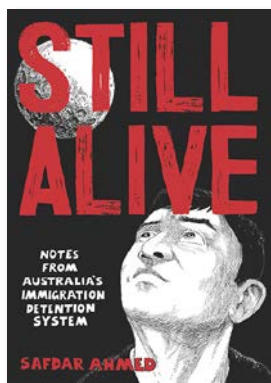
Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526047

The writing is sophisticated; facts and technical vocabulary are lyrically combined with beautiful description. The sentences are perfectly balanced, and verbs are used precisely to describe the vivid life of this icy place. The choice of artistic medium offers a perfect complement to the text; the illustrations are subtle at times and commanding at others. The use of many shades of blue beautifully reflects this icy environment and immerses readers in the Antarctic. A sense of wonder is created through transparent layers of water allowing readers to spot life above and the mysteries below the surface.





Eve Pownall Category

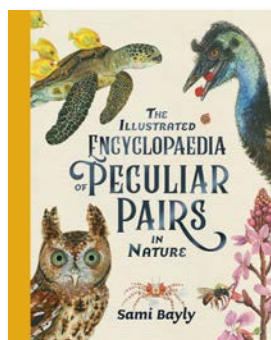


Still Alive, Notes from Australia's Immigration Detention System

Safdar Ahmed

Published by Twelve Panels Press | ISBN 9780980593730

A confronting, raw and graphic account of the history and treatment of asylum seekers and refugees under successive Australian governments. Challenging, detailed and well-researched, powerfully produced from a personal perspective — journeys from their homelands and lived experiences are interspersed with history, news events, government policy and international human rights reports and reactions. The black and white drawings, well-integrated with the text, are detailed and the inclusion of artwork by the detainees is powerful. The language is direct, occasionally didactic, and emotive at times. Metaphors (written and drawn) such as monsters, knots and chess pieces are effective in representing the detainees' stresses and traumas. There is mature content such as self-harm, executions, sexual intimacy and assault, both in written and drawn examples. The inclusion of further reading and actions will engage readers in exploring further.

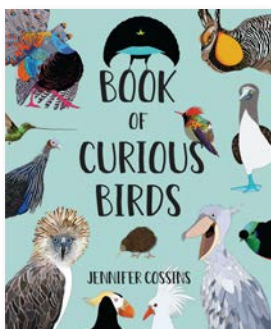


The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Peculiar Pairs in Nature

Sami Bayly

Published by Hachette Australia | ISBN 9780734420046

An exquisitely illustrated and informative encyclopaedia of curious pairings and interdependencies. Text is thoroughly researched and well organised. Each 'pair' double page includes: scientific names, a full page detailed illustration, and the 'fact' information on the other (description, peculiar pairing, conservation status, diet, location/habitat, fun facts). The language is clear, with humour in parts, and explains factual and anecdotal information effectively. High visual impact enhances engagement and appeal: including large hardback, colourful, detailed illustrations and an attached ribbon bookmark, encouraging readers to return, explore further and personalise their reading progress.



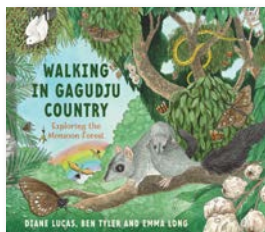
Book of Curious Birds

Jennifer Cossins

Published by Hachette Australia | ISBN 9780734420473

Lifecycles, behaviours and the conservation status of birds are presented in this high-quality reference book. The author helpfully cites the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) as her reference, which readers can then explore for themselves. Inclusion of a contents page and glossary are useful. Beautiful illustrations dominate each well-organised double-page spread including eye-catching endpapers. The facts vary for each species, relating mainly to individual peculiarities. The language is clear and a variety of different fonts and colours are used to present sections of the text, which not only helps in dividing the different types of information, maintaining rhythm and flow, but will also impact how a reader relates to the text. The imaginative presentation of this topic will engage all readers, young and old.





Walking in Gagudju Country: Exploring the Monsoon Forest

Diane Lucas and Ben Tyler (text), Emma Long (illustrator)

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760525958

Kakadu National Park is vividly presented and the setting is strongly maintained. Avatars representing the author's rambling through the forest with young friends, telling stories and imparting information are clever. The exploration is fun, the stopping, observing and listening feel genuine, all enriching reader experience. Text and dialogue are clear and detailed. The inclusion of illustrations and labels to highlight/define Indigenous terminology (lore, animal species and bush tucker) are very effective; as is the glossary, which includes useful drawings, scientific names and page references. High level production quality; visually appealing overall



The First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First Peoples

Corey Tutt (text), Blak Douglas (illustrator)

Published by Hardie Grant Publishing | ISBN 9781741177527

This well produced book introduces readers to scientific contributions of Indigenous scientists and engineers, both prior to, and since, European occupation. Engagingly presented, it opens with the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, reinforced by topic maps within each section, providing useful reference for the scientific contributions described. The text is fascinating, and draws on aspects of science across a broad range of disciplines. Indigenous language and the inclusion of stories of Indigenous scientists provides a contemporary narrative, reinforcing authenticity and relevancy to modern life. Vibrant illustrations are appealing, and the creative layout is imaginative.



Heroes, Rebels and Innovators

Karen Wyld (text), Jaelyn Biumaiwai (illustrator)

Published by Hachette Australia | ISBN 9780734419835

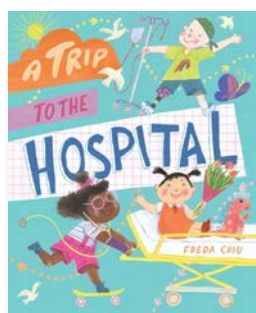
This excellently produced, highly engaging book presents Indigenous historical information about significant First Nations people that has been omitted, or is less known in traditional storytelling. Authenticity and authority of voice are established in the opening pages. Creatively, two narratives per person are provided. One is a poetic and lyrical story; the captivating language lending itself to the 'adventure' genre. This non-stereotypical information book is imaginatively presented with a striking cover; minimalist illustrations; and a high gloss, rich and earthy ochre palette, which will interest readers beyond the final page.



CBCA Book Awards 2022 Shortlist: Eve Pownall Category



New Illustrator Category

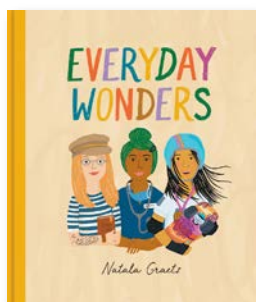


A Trip to the Hospital

Freda Chiu

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760526702

The cover of this debut picture book which depicts the main characters beaming out will do much to allay readers' fears of going to hospital. Chiu has cleverly captured the busyness and complexity of a hospital by using a mix of page layouts. Her bold style is perfectly matched to her use of mixed media such as pencils, gouache, crayons, pastels and collage. This original style allows the reader to explore the content and the artistic media on each page in detail or to read each image as a whole. Chiu quietly introduces inclusive adult and child characters in a natural way. She does not shy away from the reality of illness and injury, but her ability to convey the individual personalities of staff members will reassure readers.



Everyday Wonders

Natalia Graetz

Published by Everyday Wonders | ISBN 9780645245004

A wonderful new illustrative voice. The illustrations in this book are rich, bright and whimsical. There is a confident use of depth and texture on every page and an engaging colour palette which cleverly echoes the character of each 'everyday wonder'. Graetz, as the designer, uses each page layout well, placing her characters from left to right on alternative pages. The pages are full of detail but they never feel crowded. Graetz achieves busy and noisy, as well as and quieter more contemplative pages. The scattered objects on the last spread invite readers to revisit the text and make further discoveries.



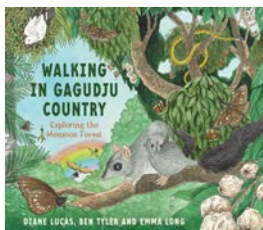
Great White Shark

Cindy Lane

Published by Walker Books Australia | ISBN 9781760651848

Lane's illustrations certainly show the power and predatory nature of sharks but she also shows the maternal side of this huge creature such as when we see the mother shark surrounded by her new pups. There is a strong sense of design, such as seeing the shark just under the surface of the water. Lane provides many perspectives from cross-section to birds-eye and uses shades of blue to show the increasing depths of the ocean. The wonderful endpapers illustrate the light shadowing across the advancing and retreating sharks at the beginning and ending of this book. Her ability to recreate the way light acts in water is extraordinary.



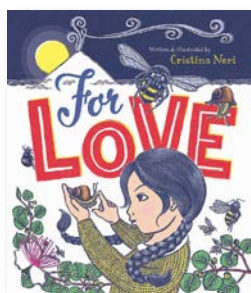


Walking in Gagudju Country: Exploring the Monsoon Forest

Emma Long

Published by Allen & Unwin | ISBN 9781760525958

As the title suggests, the illustrations in this book invite readers to explore a monsoon forest. All images, including the cover and endpapers, demand close viewing with magnified cross-sections used throughout to show further detail. There's a wonderful mix of scientific accuracy and Long's own style in the illustrations. Vibrant green tones capture the life of the forest and make the leaves appear tactile. The illustrations connect explicitly to the words in different ways throughout. Knowledge and experience of Elders and ancestors is reflected throughout, with faded images of the past and visual icons alongside Kundjeyhmi words.



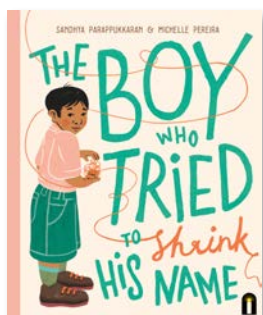
For Love

Cristina Neri

Published by Lake Press Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780655213611

This is a very assured first book. The illustrations enhance the story line — providing further information and insight into character, setting, plot and theme. The choice of medium and style is original, and the blue shades enhance the brighter reds, greens and yellows, with recurring symbols of love and nature used throughout. The overall theme is reflected in the bright red endpapers, tying to the bold red font on the front cover. The production values of this book; a dust jacket, beautiful heavy matte stock and wonderful design make this book stand out from other entries in this category.



The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name

Michelle Pereira

Published by Hardie Grant Children's

Publishing | ISBN 9781760509361

An excellent production with high-quality, very appealing retro illustrations which have been created with a limited colour palette using bold strokes and 'splattered' detail. The illustrations and text are fully entwined conveying the difficult balance between being 'different' and celebrating cultural heritage. The elegant endpapers echo this heritage while the kookaburra outside the window gives an Australian flavour to the setting. The illustrations also appeal to our senses. There is skilled use of 'white' space and the night time page made with the green hues is a very effective contrast against the orange of Zimdalamashkermishkade's name.



CBCA Book Awards 2022 Shortlist: New Illustrator Category