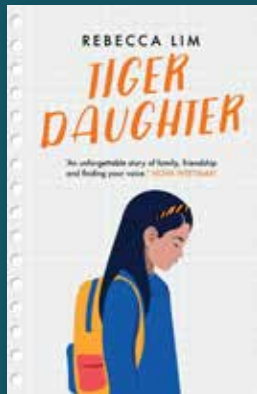




The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Years Awards 2022

Book of the Year Award: Older Readers



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.

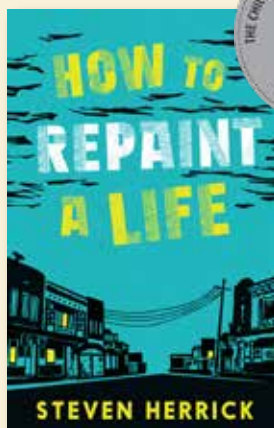


Girls in Boys' Cars

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.



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Book of the Year Award: Younger Readers



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.



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.



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.



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The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Years Awards 2022

Book of the Year Award: Early Childhood

Jetty Jumping

Andrea Rowe (text), Hannah Sommerville (illustrator)
Published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing | ISBN 9781760500658



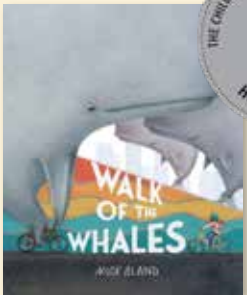
A beautifully written and highly relatable book about overcoming fears. Time and place have been carefully created to depict an Australian beach town in summer. The language is rich and descriptive, using apt vocabulary and alliteration. The eye-catching, swirling text depicts movement to mirror themes 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.



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.



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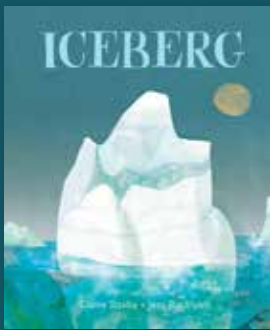
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The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Years Awards 2022

Picture Book of the Year



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.



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.



Just One Bee

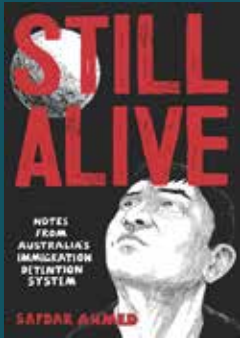
Christopher Nielsen (illustrator), Margrete Lamond and Anthony Bertini (text)
Published by Dirt Lane Press | ISBN 9780648023890

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.



The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Years Awards 2022

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.



Heroes, Rebels and Innovators

Karen Wyld (text), Jaelyn Biunaiwai (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.



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CBCA Award for New Illustrator



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 Zimdalamashkermishkada's name.



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