



“We have the power to  
shape the people that  
children become.”

Davina Bell

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## The 'Secret Power' of Reading

- ✓ Reading narrative fiction develops a reader's sense of empathy.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Reading level at age seven is a key factor in determining whether people will go on to secure high-income jobs.<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Reading enjoyment is the best predictor of university entrance, regardless of socio-economic status.<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ Engaged reading can overcome traditional barriers to reading achievement, including gender, parental education & income.<sup>4</sup>

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## The 'Secret Power' of Reading

- ✓ Just six minutes a day can reduce stress by 68%.<sup>5</sup>
- ✓ Has positive cognitive benefits beyond just comprehension. Reading improves vocabulary, verbal intelligence and general knowledge.<sup>6</sup>
- ✓ More readers volunteer for non-profit organisations (42%) than non-readers (25%).<sup>7</sup>
- ✓ Children who have a positive attitude to reading are significantly less likely to report mental health problems.<sup>8</sup>

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### Stories Changed My Life

Teacher's Instructions: These cards can be used to help students choose a person for their 'Stories Changed My Life' research project. They are designed to be printed on card and cutout for use as a 'sticky dip'. Alternatively, provide this list to your class and let the students make their own choice.

Abraham Lincoln	Hellen Keller	Agatha Christie
J.K. Rowling	A.A. Milne	John Green
Charles Dickens	Jackie French	Richard Branson
Howard Engel	Albert Einstein	Steven Spielberg
Bill Gates	Martin Luther King Jr.	Oprah Winfrey
Edith Warton	Katherine Johnson	Malala Yousafzai

Book Week Literacy Activities © The Book Curator 2019

**Stories have the power to change lives.**

Research a person whose life has been significantly impacted by reading and/or writing. Alternatively, interview a friend or family member whose life has been changed by reading. Ask for permission to share their story with your class.

**Key life achievements**

How has reading and/or writing impacted their life?

What was the turning point?  
When/how did their life change?

Were they inspired by a particular book or writer?

How would their life be/have been different if they were not able to read?

What have you learned from their example?

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### MY SECRET POWER

Imagine you are the main character in a novel. You have a secret power that can change the world for the better, but there's a catch! You can only ever use it once...

**IS MY SECRET POWER**

What is your character name?

What is the title of the book?

How does your secret power work?

What do you want to change about the world and why?

Describe what the world is like before you use your power. Then explain what it is like afterwards. What has changed?

**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

Who/what inspired you to use your power in this way?

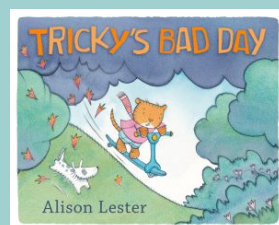
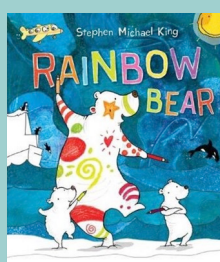
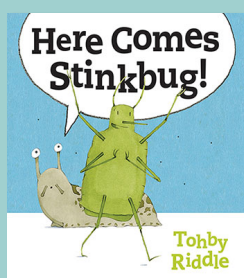
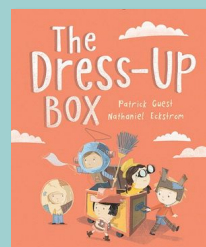
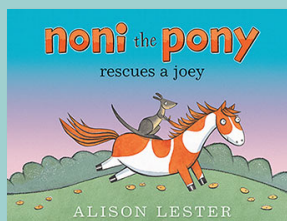
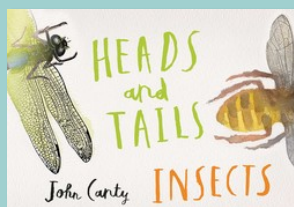
Book Week Literacy Activities © The Book Curator 2019

Creative activity designed to help kids see themselves as someone who can change the world

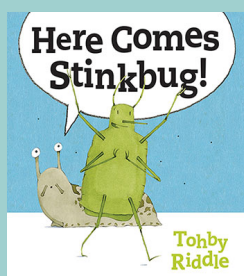
## THE Book Curator

### UNLIMITED SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

## Early Childhood (0 to 6 years)



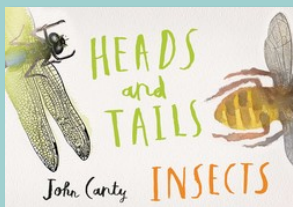
## Early Childhood



- Outstanding example of an information book
- Exquisite illustrations & production values
- Great vocabulary, use of colour, typography
- Perfect for class interaction, quiz style
- Also available: *Heads and Tails* (Animals – long listed in 2018) and *Heads and Tails: Underwater* (July 2019)

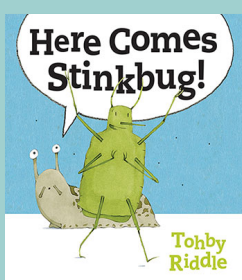
- Recognisable themes of friendship challenges and trying to 'fit in', that ultimately reinforces the value of differences.
- Fits in well with Book Week theme as Stinkbug's stink turns out to be the 'secret power' that rescues him from the clutches of the spider.

## Ideas & Activities



Create 'Memory' card game but instead of using identical cards, create cards for heads and tails that together create an insect/animal/fish or other creature. Set up a display in the library with the three books in the series and add a sign inviting students to play.

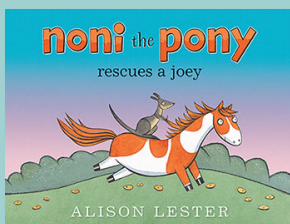
Students can use Quizlet to create their own insect flash cards, featuring interesting facts and descriptions.



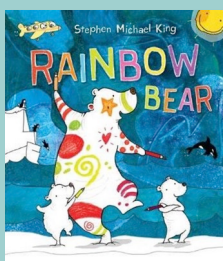
Recognisable shapes and colours make cut-outs fairly simple, add pipe cleaners for legs and antennae and create a hanging mobile.

Organise students into groups of seven, and turn the book into a play, with each playing the part of a character from the book. Even more fun if the staff dress up and perform the play for the kids as a surprise.

## Early Childhood

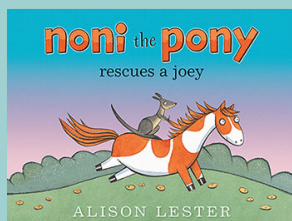


- Gentle themes of friendship, caring for others and helping those in need
- Introduces many Australian animals and their habitats
- Colourful, fun illustrations
- Series continuation
- Good read-aloud rhyme



- A polar bear returns from a trip to the city, bringing art-inspired gifts for his cubs
- The cubs use the gifts in a game that includes dad
- Positive father/child relationships
- Creativity, art, colours, patterns
- Next time he travels, family goes with him
- Note: animals from north and south poles have been mixed together (for example, penguins are from the south pole, polar bears from the north)

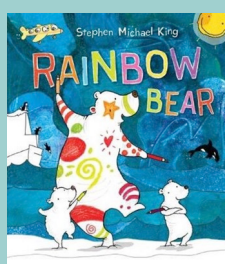
## Ideas & Activities



Rewrite the story with human characters instead of animals. How would the story change?

Text to Self: Have you ever lost your way? How did you feel? Who can you go to for help if this happens to you? (potential link to 'stranger danger')

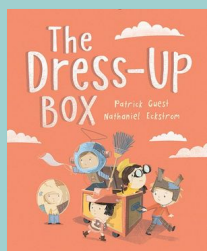
Fun stuff on Alison Lester's website includes a *Noni the Pony* picture with a lot of white space – great for colouring-in and drawing activities.



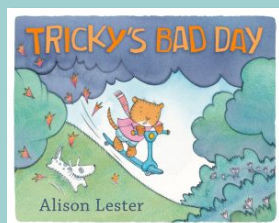
Use colourful patterned wrapping paper to cutout snowflakes and bear shapes. Use them to create your library display with coloured cardboard - white (snow) dark blue (water) and light blue (sky) as the backdrop.

Stephen Michael King has made his beautiful end paper drawings available for download from his website in A3 format.

## Early Childhood

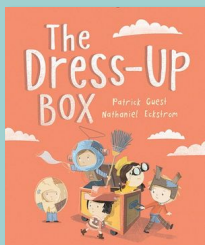


- What really makes a house a home?
- Interesting inclusion of rented and—based on description—potentially lower-socio economic housing (unusual in picture books)
- Reassuring for children who are moving house, which can be a frequent occurrence in rented accommodation
- Dress-up themes fit nicely with Book Week
- Patrick Guest had another book in 2019 longlist (*Rabby the Brave*) and *The Second Sky* was shortlisted in 2018



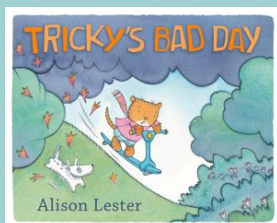
- How do you turn things around when you're experiencing a 'bad day'?
- Value of going outdoors and/or doing something different to change perspective
- Patient father / positive father/child relationship

## Ideas & Activities



Paint a large cardboard box to look like the dress-up box from the story. Fill the box with a collection of simple fancy-dress items that can easily be put on and removed – eg. Hats, feather boas, scarves, funny glasses, masks, fake noses etc.

Create a large selfie frame and invite students to wear their favourite outfit from the box, and have their photo taken. Print the photos out and display them on the wall behind the box. Vote and have a book prize for the winner.



'Turn your bad day around' poster with tips on how kids can turn a not-very-good day into a great one. Positive tips could include: going for a walk, playing outside, reading an interesting book, spending time with people you love, sharing your problems with a friend or family member, cuddling your pet, writing a story or song, designing or making something. You could invite students and staff to add their ideas to the poster.

## Early Childhood – Links

### Heads and Tails: Insects

Memory Card game rules <http://bit.ly/215nNvY> (Remember that in your version of the game, students will be matching heads and tails instead of just matching duplicate cards)  
Quizlet.com

Teaching notes: <http://berbaybooks.com/assets/uploads/teacher-notes/Heads-Tails-Teacher-Notes.pdf>

Library and playgroup session plans:

[https://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/sites/thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/files/files/title\\_resource/heads\\_and\\_shoulders\\_learning\\_time\\_toddlers.pdf](https://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/sites/thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/files/files/title_resource/heads_and_shoulders_learning_time_toddlers.pdf)

### Here Comes Stinkbug

Teaching notes: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/childrens/Here-Comes-Stinkbug-Tohby-Riddle-9781760523527>  
Author website: <https://unforgottenbytohbyriddle.wordpress.com/>

### Noni the Pony Rescues a Joey

Teaching notes: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/documents/teachers-resources/1372-nonitheponyrescuesajoe9781760293123tt>  
Author website: <https://alisonlester.com/>

### Rainbow Bear

Teaching notes: [https://resource.scholastic.com.au/resourcefiles/8568573\\_77480.pdf](https://resource.scholastic.com.au/resourcefiles/8568573_77480.pdf)

Activities from author website: <https://www.stephenmichaelking.com/activities/>

How to make snowflakes: <http://bit.ly/215WUaT>

How to draw a polar bear: <http://bit.ly/2WmqUTW>

### The Dress-Up Box

Teaching notes/author website: <https://www.patrickgussell.com.au/books/>

Illustrator website: <http://nathanieleckstrom.com>

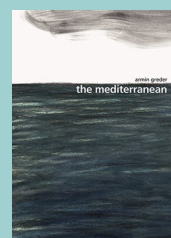
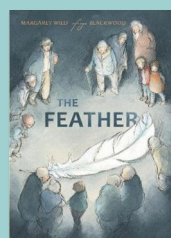
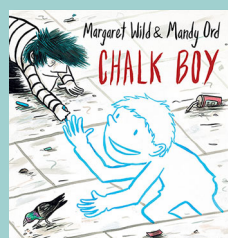
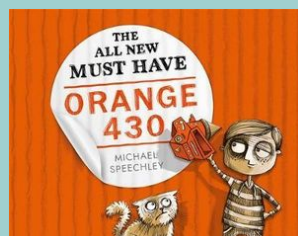
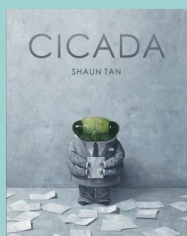
### Tricky's Bad Day

Teaching notes: [http://affirmpress.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TRICKYS-BAD-DAY\\_TEACHERS-NOTES.pdf](http://affirmpress.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TRICKYS-BAD-DAY_TEACHERS-NOTES.pdf)

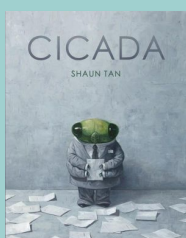
Author website: <https://alisonlester.com/>



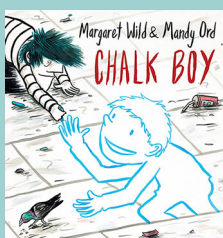
## Picture Books (0 to 18 years)



## Picture Books



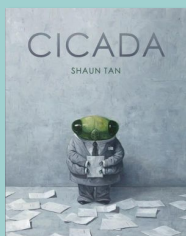
- Phenomenal illustrations and colour palette (Cicada is the only splash of colour)
- Could be a reflection on a number of important topics including: migrant workers, racial segregation, the 'rat race', bullying/exclusion
- Amazing example of symbolism and metaphors
- Suitable for older primary through to adult



- Barnaby, a street artist, uses chalk to draw a boy on the pavement who then comes to life
- Themes of protection, friendship, togetherness, kindness
- Connection between the artist and their work
- Transient nature of this art form compared with others
- Others pass by paying no attention (busy/distracted), but Barnaby's focus is completely on his art and the boy he has created



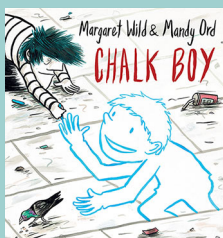
## Picture Books - Ideas & Activities



**Library Display:** Source an old keyboard and computer monitor (or paint a box to look like one). Set it up on a desk with 'in' and 'out' trays, a clock on the wall and a tent card featuring the name 'Cicada'. Hang a suit jacket on a hook behind or over the back of the chair. Display the book on the desk.

**Write a story** where the roles are reversed so the main character is a human working amongst insects and/or animals. How would the dynamics be different? How would the story end?

**Discuss:** 'Routine can either serve you or confine you'



**Read Article:** *40 Australian Street Artists you Need to Know*, then use Google Earth Tour Builder to plot the locations of their art installations

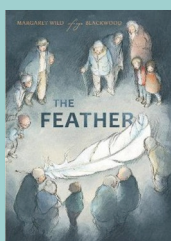
**Create:** As a class, draw your own street art pictures and then put them together in iMovie to recreate the story in the book.

**Game:** Street Art – Tate Kids

## Picture Books



- Older primary to high school/adult
- Stunning fine art illustrations and production values
- Author of *Suri's Wall* (shortlisted 2016)
- Illustrator of *Adelaide's Secret World* (shortlisted PM's Literary Award 2016)
- Strong themes of perseverance, resilience, hope, self-reliance and a reminder of the people who are cheering us on along the way



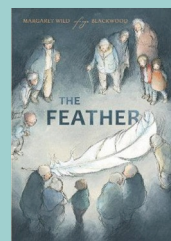
- Margaret Wild/Freya Blackwood
- Post-apocalyptic world
- In a dark world, two children find something beautiful – a huge, white, light feather
- The children value the feather for what it is, while the adults look to trap, contain and control it.
- Open to interpretation – publisher notes themes of freedom, hope, potential, life and death, expectation, suffering

## Picture Books - Ideas & Activities

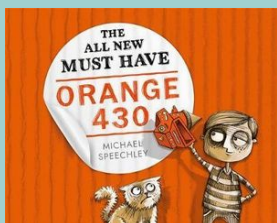


- **Library display:** Use oil or acrylic paint to create the cloudy, ethereal background seen in the book. Add a string to represent the tight rope. Cut out some paper dolls and position them so they are walking along it towards the light.
- **Writing activity:** Imagine that you are walking across the tight rope. Write a first person account detailing what you can see, how you feel while you are walking, what you're afraid of and how it feels to get to the other side.
- **Games for building resilience**

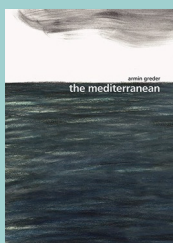
- **Library display:** Source large ostrich feathers (available at minimal cost online) and create one giant feather. Simplest as a wall display but could hang from the ceiling with a framework of chicken wire.
- **Writing activity:** Write a short story about the world Nico and Maria live in. Why is it so dark and gloomy? What do you think happened to the town that made it this way?



## Picture Books

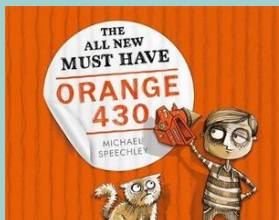


- Wonderful design, really interesting colour palette
- Mid primary to high school
- Themes include: financial literacy, value of money, mass production, peer pressure/fashion/latest and greatest, buyer's remorse, environmental impact
- Absolutely brilliant teaching resource for all ages

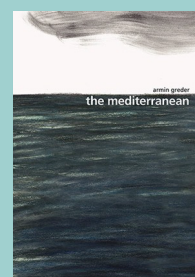


- Important topic but incredibly dark
- Definitely NOT for primary students (eating fish that have eaten dead bodies of refugees who have drowned)
- Publisher age: 12-18 years
- Opens with a single stark sentence to set the mood, then uses wordless illustrations to powerfully depict the dangers faced by refugees
- Facts included in the back

## Picture Books - Ideas & Activities



- **Library display:** Paint a large cardboard box with the same signage as the Orange 430. Add a large price tag. Find some other 'useless' objects and add price tags, with a backdrop that says 'April Fools' Sale'. Refer to pages 5 and 6 in the book for inspiration.
- **Discussion and research:** What happens to 'useless' products. Research the environmental impact of products and their packaging. How can we make a difference?
- **Mr Ripoff's Activity:** Penguin website
- **Writing activity:** Create words for each page to give the story a 'voice'. How does this change the tone or meaning of the book
- **Discuss:** Can you recall a time when you stayed silent instead of speaking up about something you knew was wrong? Do you know why you stayed silent? How do you feel about it now?
- **Library Display:** Use acrylic paint on card to recreate the front cover background. Replace the title with 'refugees' and add relevant stats from 'Global Trends at a Glance' on the UN website.



## Picture Books – Links

### Cicada

Teaching notes: <https://www.hachette.com.au/content/resources/9780734418630-teachers-resources.pdf>

Author website: <http://www.shauntan.net/books/CICADA.html>

Blog discussion questions: <https://educateempower.blog/2018/06/25/cicada-by-shaun-tan/>

Shaun Tan interview: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnls\\_mMKfoU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnls_mMKfoU)

### Chalk Boy

Teaching notes: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/childrens/Chalk-Boy-Margaret-Wild-illustrated-by-Mandy-Ord-9781760630683>

Story Box Library: <https://storyboxlibrary.com.au/stories/chalk-boy/>

Article: 40 Australian Street Artists You Need to Know - <http://bit.ly/2WxnTQZ>

Google Earth Tour Builder: <http://bit.ly/1G81n4>

Game: Street Art - Tate Kids <http://bit.ly/2LFBLYv>

### Girl on Wire

Teaching notes: [https://www.penguin.com.au/content/resources/TR\\_GirlOnWire.pdf](https://www.penguin.com.au/content/resources/TR_GirlOnWire.pdf)

Blog discussion and activities: <https://educateempower.blog/2018/06/22/girl-on-wire-by-lucy-estela-and-elise-hurst/>

Origami Paper dolls: <http://bit.ly/2Wraael>

Building Resilience in Children Using Fun Games - <http://bit.ly/2Wu6S9W>

### The Feather

Teaching notes: <http://www.lamontbooks.com.au/media/114489/publishers-notes-the-feather.pdf>

Illustrator website: [www.freyblackwood.com.au](http://www.freyblackwood.com.au)

Ostrich feathers on eBay - <http://bit.ly/2Xyzxwz>

### The All New Must Have Orange 430

Teaching notes: [https://www.penguin.com.au/content/resources/TR\\_TheAllNewMustHaveOrange430.pdf](https://www.penguin.com.au/content/resources/TR_TheAllNewMustHaveOrange430.pdf)

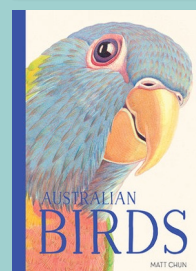
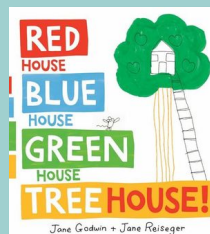
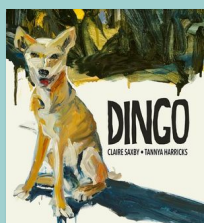
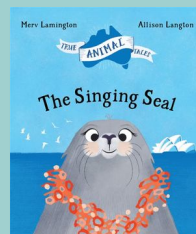
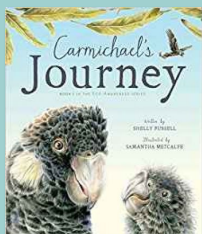
Activity pack: <https://www.penguin.com.au/activities/1915-the-all-new-must-have-orange-430-activity-pack>

### The Mediterranean

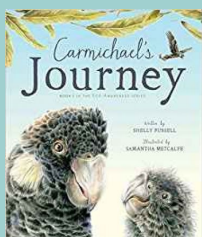
Teaching notes: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/childrens/The-Mediterranean-Armin-Greder-9781760630959>

UN Refugee Agency: <http://bit.ly/2FeELYA>

## New Illustrators

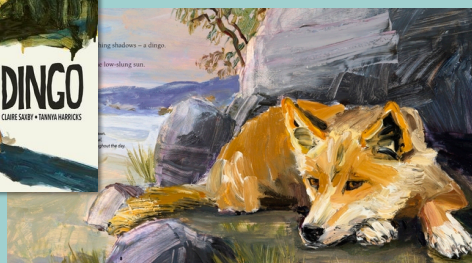
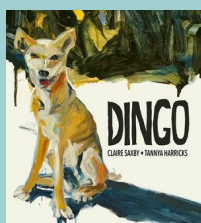


## New Illustrators

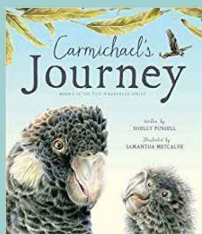


- Call to action for wildlife conservation focusing on Carnaby's Black Cockatoo
- Fictional story of Carmichael and his family highlights loss of habitat, subsequent decline in population and the measures people can take to combat deforestation and further loss of the species
- Stunning fine art pictures of the cockatoos

- Nature Storybooks – narrative non-fiction
- Narrative juxtaposed with facts in different typography.
- Tannya Harricks incredible oil paintings



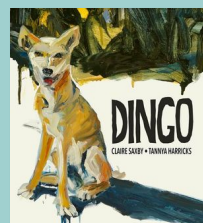
## New Illustrators– Ideas & Activities



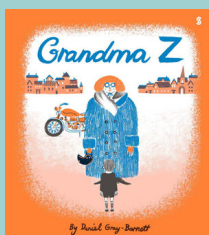
- **Research/Activity:** Research deforestation and its impact on Australian birds. Use Canva to create a poster about conservation of the Carnaby Cockatoo or another endangered bird.
- **Arts:** Create a collage representing the environment Carmichael would live in using found materials like twigs, leaves, dirt and bark.

**Writing activity:** Choose another Australian animal and write a book using the same format. Focus on its daily life and include its habitat, food source and a description of its appearance.

**Art activity/Library display:** Invite students to choose their favourite scene from *Dingo* and paint their own interpretation using the artistic techniques employed by the book's illustrator using oil or acrylic paint. Create a display wall to feature their work.



## New Illustrators

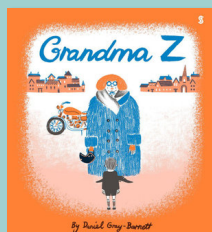


- Albert is having a very ordinary birthday in the midst of an ordinary life when Grandma Z rides into town on her motorcycle and takes him on a grand adventure
- Unusual colour palette - predominantly fluorescent orange and blue
- Minimal colour at the beginning, builds throughout
- Debut author/illustrator

- A fun, bright book that explores colours in every day life, with examples ranging from houses to birds, ice cream and more.
- Simple and creative, with child-like drawings, helps children relate to and understand colour. Look for the little mouse on each page.
- Established author Jane Godwin / debut illustrator.



## New Illustrators– Ideas & Activities

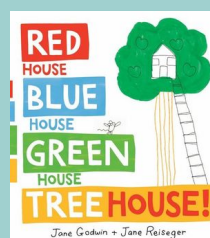


**Library display:** Create a large cardboard cake in the signature blue and orange neon colours of *Grandma Z*. Display the book on top of the cake.

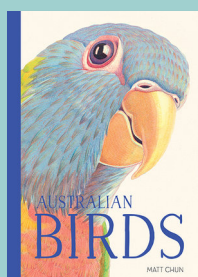
**Art:** Imagine your own unordinary birthday. Draw an unusual activity you would participate in. This could be something from the book or your own imagination. Use two strongly contrasting colours in your illustration.

**Library display:** Using large cardboard boxes, create your own cardboard house to use as a reading nook. Ask students to decorate it in the colours and style of the illustrations.

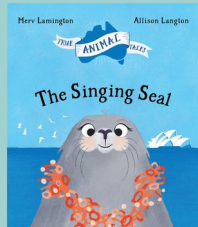
**Research:** Research the history of colour. Who invented the first colour wheel? What did this person discover about rainbows? How were his findings different to what scientists understood before this?



## New Illustrators



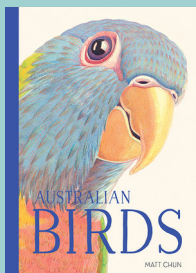
- Incredible fine art illustrations in pencil and watercolour by Matt Chun
- Outstanding production values
- Each spread features one bird, with a full page illustration on one side. There's also a few paragraphs of information about what they look like, their habitat, what they eat, what they sound like and what their families might look like.



- Sweet fictional tale of Florence the seal who wants to be a world-famous singer. Inspired by a seal who actually lives on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.
- Also available by the same duo: *Quite a Clever Quokka* and *Kung-Fu Kangaroo*



## New Illustrators– Ideas & Activities

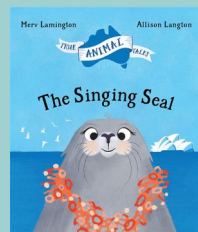


**Activity:** Create a poster about an Australian bird that was not featured in the book. Include your own drawing of the bird and factual information. Write a short paragraph (or do a 1 minute presentation) stating your case for why your bird should have been featured in the book.

**Library display:** Print your own bird posters (free downloads on Birds in Backyards website). Create a combined display with Carmichael's Journey, Australian Birds, Our Birds and any other bird titles from your collection.

**Library display:** Create a poster for Florence's performance. Base it on the poster on the last page of the book or come up with your own design (could be run as a competition).

**Activity:** Use the Draw and Tell App to create a video of Florence giving a performance.



## New Illustrators– Links

### Carmichael's Journey

Illustrator: <https://www.illustratorsaustralia.com/portfolios/samantha-metcalf/>

Author: <https://www.littlesteps.com.au/contributors/shelly-fussell/>

WWF Carnaby's Black Cockatoo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVh1vqKJK1c>

### Dingo

Walker Books: <https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/Dingo-9781925381283>

Illustrator: <http://tannys-harricks.com/>

Author: <https://clairesaxby.wordpress.com/>

Video about dingoes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0645GC333qA>

### Grandma Z

Scribe publications: <https://scribepublications.com.au/books-authors/books/grandma-z>

Author/illustrator: <https://danielgraybarnett.com/>

### Red House, Blue House, Green House, Treehouse

Teaching notes: <http://affirmpress.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/RHBHGHTEACHERS-NOTES-.pdf>

Illustrator: <http://ianereiseiger.com/>

Author: <http://www.ianegodwin.com.au/red-house>

Build a cardboard house – <https://bit.ly/2IE4SHm>

### The Singing Seal

Teaching notes: <https://affirmpress.com.au/publishing/the-singing-seal/>

Illustrator: <https://allison.myportfolio.com/>

Draw and Tell App: <http://apple.co/2VTwHQz>

### Australian Birds

Teaching notes: <https://www.pegwilliams.com.au/pdfs/teachernotes/9781760502003.pdf>

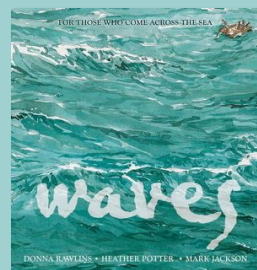
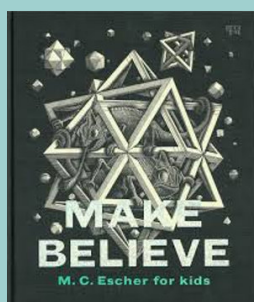
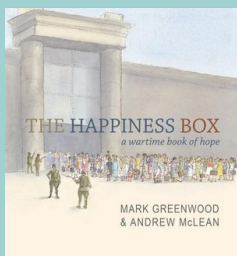
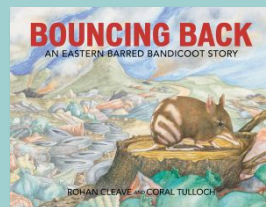
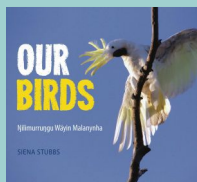
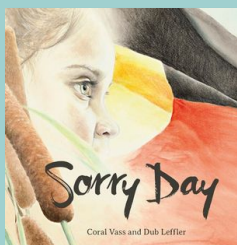
Illustrator: <http://www.mattchun.com.au/>

Author interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JrHOMIMfVg>

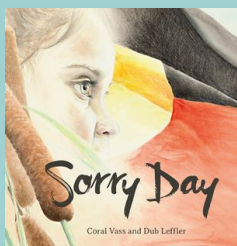
News article: <https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/5731172/matt-chun-releases-his-first-picture-book-australian-birds/>

Birds in Backyards website (free poster downloads) – <http://tinyurl.com/m6fk2s>

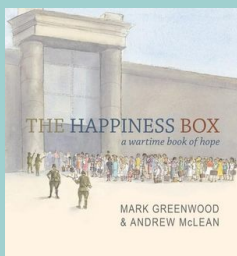
## Information Books



## Information Books

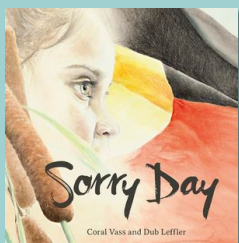


- An important and informative book reflecting on the Stolen Generation in an accessible way for primary students
- One narrative follows the children being taken in the early to mid 1900s. The other follows a young indigenous girl and her mother witnessing the 2008 speech by Kevin Rudd.



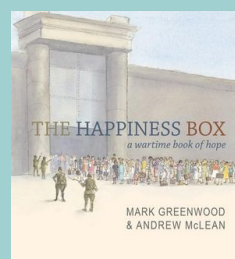
- A story of hope and perseverance
- Real story about a book written by Australian POW Sergeant Griffin in 1942. His goal was to send it to the children in Changi as a Christmas gift.
- Never made it to the children but was hidden from their captors and returned to Australia where it is considered a national treasure

## Information Books – Ideas & Activities

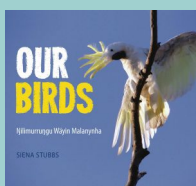


- **Activity:** Search the Tricklar News Cloud Generator for the word 'indigenous' (or another keyword) for a period of up to 4 weeks. Choose a shape, colours, font and background. Print the word clouds to create a wall display. Discuss the results.
- **Discuss:** The author and illustrator have chosen to depict two children from different generations of the same family. Why do you think they did that?

- **Library display:** Source a vibrant gift box with a lid from your local discount store and cut a postbox opening in the top. Make a sign pointing to it saying 'Happiness Box'. Have slips of coloured paper nearby and invite students to write down something that makes them happy and place it in the box.
- **Writing activity:** Research the original *The Happiness Box* (digital version available free online). Imagine you had received the book from the soldiers as a gift in a time of war. Write them a letter thanking them and talk about how the book made you feel. Include a drawing or short story to lift their spirits.

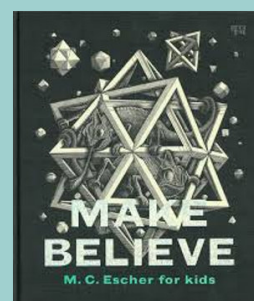


## Information Books



- Every bird is represented with a photo taken by Siena Stubbs when she was 12-years-old and named in both English and Yol(ng)u Matha.
- Stories about how the photos were taken, her favourite thing about the birds, and her childhood memories.
- Both an insight to the birds and their habits and to the culture and knowledge surrounding Stubbs as a member of the Yol(ng)u people.

- Includes a short biography of this Dutch artist and some of his well-known works
- Using riddles, activities, questions and fun facts, it explores topics such as Escher's artistic techniques, the anatomy of the human eye, what space is like and much more.
- Mind-boggling optical-illusions



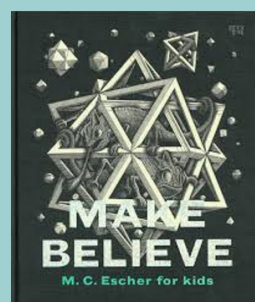
## Information Books – Ideas & Activities



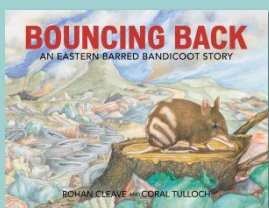
- **Activity:** Take a photo of a bird in your school grounds or your backyard. Use a photo editing app like Snapseed and a design app like Canva to create a layout like that in the book and write up some facts about the bird.
- **Research:** Choose a bird from the book and research its meaning in Indigenous culture. Find the names for your bird in different Indigenous languages.

**Library display/activity:** Using Photos For Class, print some of MC Escher's optical illusions. Put them in plain frames and hang them as a collection in the library like they would in an art gallery.

Invite students to write reviews for the artworks, talking about the techniques Escher used and what they like about the work. Print these out on cardboard and display them below the art to mimic a gallery feel.

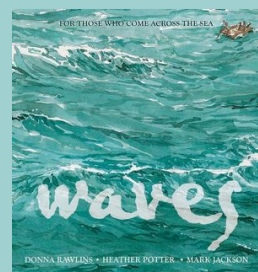


## Information Books

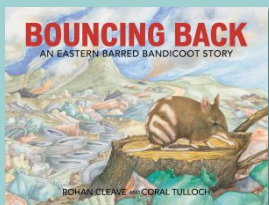


- Rare 'good news' story of animal conservation in Australia, told from the POV of an Eastern Barred Bandicoot.
- This marsupial narrator speaks directly to the reader about the history and present realities of their life, home and family.
- Reminds children that they can make a difference in the recovery efforts of endangered species

- A collection of 14 fictional stories from the POV of migrant and refugee children coming to Australia from all over the world
- Based on real-world history and events
- Highlights the challenges faced by so many who leave their homelands, whatever the reason for their journey

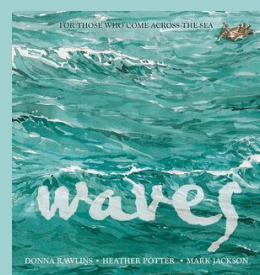


## Information Books – Ideas & Activities



**Library display:** Cut a viewing window in the front of a box and cover it with cellophane. Add a sign: 'I am one of Australia's most threatened species. Who am I?' behind the box, and put up cards with clues about the animal's habitat, lifestyle, diet, predators, and threat to survival. Inside the box place a picture of an Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

- **Activity:** Working in a small group, imagine you work for a TV 'Past News' channel. Create interview questions for one of the children featured in the book, to interview them on their arrival. Produce, direct and film the report using iMovie. Share roles so that everyone in the group has a turn in front of the camera.



## Information Books – Links

### Sorry Day

Teaching notes: <https://bit.ly/2wmRDol>

Sorry Day speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKWfP24rA>

Tricklar News Cloud Generator – <http://bit.ly/2IDWzvr>

### Our Birds

Author: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-15/yirrkala-teenager-siena-stubbs-publishes-bird-book/9641348>

Video – Yolngu Birds: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10153816012457005>

Pronunciation guide: [https://www.magabala.com/media/wysiwyg/Our\\_Birds\\_Pronunciation\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.magabala.com/media/wysiwyg/Our_Birds_Pronunciation_Guide.pdf)

Blog – ideas and activities: <https://educateempower.blog/2018/05/14/our-birds-nilimurrungu-wayin-malanynha-by-siena-stubbs/>

Snapseed app: <http://apple.co/1p5yZd9>

### Bouncing Back

Teaching notes: <https://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/notes/7771>

Q&A with Illustrator: <https://blog.publish.csiro.au/science-illustrated-coral-tulloch/>

Eastern Barred Bandicoot video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAHrMM\\_d8Fg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAHrMM_d8Fg)

### The Happiness Box

Teaching notes: <http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/images/notes/Happiness-Box-Teacher-Notes.pdf>

Author: <http://www.markgreenwood.com.au/>

Story of the original book's creation: <http://www.thehappinessbox.com.au/extraordinary-story>

Digital copy of original book: [http://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=FL1135929&embedded=true&toolbar=false](http://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=FL1135929&embedded=true&toolbar=false)

### Make Believe

Teaching notes: [https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/school\\_resource/escher-x-nendo-between-two-worlds/](https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/school_resource/escher-x-nendo-between-two-worlds/)

Video about M.C. Escher's Art: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kcc56fRtrKU>

About Escher: <https://www.mcescher.com/about/>

Photos for Class (Escher search results): <http://bit.ly/2lyUyVi>

### Waves

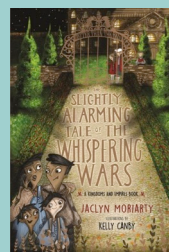
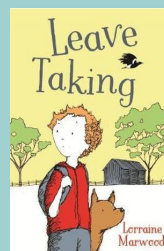
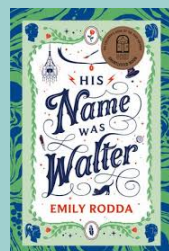
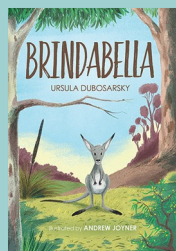
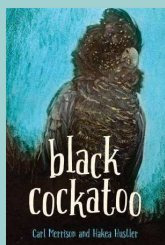
Teaching notes: <http://classroom.walkerbooks.com.au/waves/WavesTeacherNotes.PDF>

Illustrators: <http://www.jackpot-art.com/>

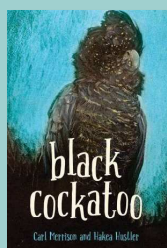
Blog – ideas and activities: <https://educateempower.blog/2018/07/04/waves-by-donna-rawlins-heather-potter-and-mark-jackson/>



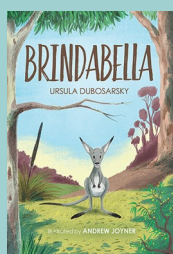
## Younger Readers (8-12 years)



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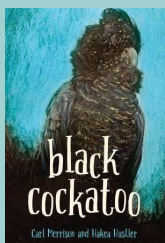
- Mia rescues a black cockatoo (injured by her brother). Her wonderings about where it has been cause her to recognise an inner stirring to expand her own horizons.
- A simple, poignant tale offering a glimpse into everyday life for those still living in communities on or close to traditional lands
- The line between tradition and customs and the pull of modern life is very apparent
- Age 9/10 to 13 years



- A pleasant, well-told story of the bond between a boy (Pender) and the orphaned joey he rescues (Brindabella).
- Animals in the story have a voice which provides a welcome touch of humour
- Portrays Pender's love for Brindabella and her desire for freedom
- Dog is accidentally shot and dies while Pender is trying to protect Brindabella from roo shooters
- Age 8 to 12 years

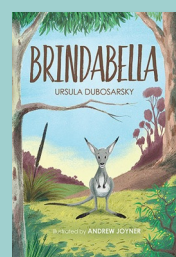


## Younger Readers – Ideas & Activities

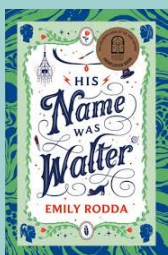


- **Library display:** Print images of the native animals featured in *Black Cockatoo* and print out the corresponding Indigenous names for these animals (available in the book's glossary). Using velcro, stick the images up on a board and leave the names to one side, allowing students to match the name to the correct animal. Reset as necessary.
- **Writing activity:** Write a short story from the black cockatoo's perspective. How does it feel being kept in a cage? What does it think of Mia and Jy? Does the bird miss its home and family?

- **Display/activity:** Use an overhead projector to draw the silhouette of Pender (a boy) and Brindabella (a kangaroo) on black cardboard. Cut them out and display them on a wall next to each other. Using neon pens, ask students to add keywords to both silhouettes, describing each character's appearance, likes, dislikes, natural habitat, key events in their life etc.
- **Activity:** Research animal captivity and have a short debate between two teams - one arguing that Brindabella should have stayed with Pender and the other arguing she should be free. Think about the difference between having Brindabella and Billy-Bob, the dog, as pets.



## Younger Readers (8-12 years)

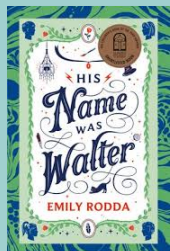


- An outstanding writer at the top of her game
- Brilliant example of a frame story (in this case a story within a story)
- In the present day two children find a handwritten book containing a fairy tale style story written by Walter.
- Ultimately the fairy tale is an allegory for what happened when Walter returned from WWII and fell in love with a bank manager's daughter. The bank manager killed him to cover up his own embezzling and blamed Walter for the thefts. Children find his body and clear his name.
- Strong supernatural themes. Ages 10 to 15 years.

- A beautifully constructed verse novel
- Following the death of Toby's younger sister Leah from cancer, his parents sell the (generational) family farm.
- Inspired by a his father's childhood map of the farm, Toby creates his own map of special places and memories and travels a goodbye tour around the property, camping in a different place each night.
- Touching, bittersweet and ultimately hopeful.
- Ages 7 to 10 years.

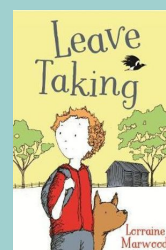


## Younger Readers – Ideas & Activities



- **Library display:** Borrow or buy a second-hand ornate mirror (search Pinterest for 'Victorian style mirror' to get ideas). If you cannot source one, print or paint the image of a frame onto cardboard and use reflective silver card for the 'mirror'. Source a fake vine with red roses (available for under \$10 online) and drape it around the frame. Finally, on the mirror write 'His Name is... '.
- **Activity:** Create your own book cover for a book about your life (My Name Is \_\_\_\_\_), inspired by the cover design of *His Name Was Walter*. Choose a colour scheme, pattern and font that reflects your personality and draw some objects/icons that represent your life.

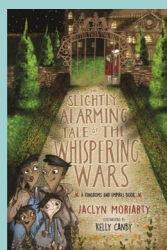
- **Library display:** Pitch a small tent or create one by draping cloth over taut rope and pegging the sides. Add a rolled-up sleeping bag and create a fake camp fire with sticks and crinkled red, yellow and orange cellophane. Include a 'Leave Taking' map in your display, alongside the book.
- **Art activity:** Create your own 'Leave Taking' map. It could be of your home/backyard, school or home town. Determine which places are important to you and mark them with keywords and little sketches.



## Younger Readers (8-12 years)



- Cassie wants to be a writer and is writing a book for her dad as a gift.
- On the surface it's about Cassie's quest to find her neighbour's missing peacocks but really about finding her way (and her courage) in a family where everyone and everything is changing.
- Older sister Diana is questioning everything and decides to practice Buddhism, father is probably bipolar, mother is having a mid-life crisis, eventually moves out and getting a boyfriend, grandfather is dying and Cassie suffers some form of depression.
- Age 10/12 years+



- Children from an orphanage start by competing with prestigious boarding school students, but ultimately band together to discover why so many kids are going missing
- Whispering kingdom has people who can control their actions and minds
- Kids saving kids (with a little help from some dragons!)
- Fun and exciting read that portrays strong messages of friendship, endurance, perseverance and strength
- Age: 10 years +

## Younger Readers – Ideas & Activities



- **Library display:** Source low-cost peacock feathers online and fan them out against a bright blue sheet of card. Add a 'Notebook for Noticing' prop and a magnifying glass.
- **Activity:** Create your own 'Notebook for Noticing' and record information over the space of a weekend. What kind of things did you notice? Did anything strange or unusual happen? Write a short story based on your detective work.

- **Library display:** Using the book cover as inspiration, use strips of gold card on a black cardboard background to create the gates of the Brathelwaite Boarding School. Add the heading 'Who will win the Whispering Wars?'
- **Activity:** If you could create your own fantasy world, what would it look like? Draw a map of your new world, giving each country/area a name. For inspiration, look at the map in the book or uses the Genesis app to kickstart your world building.



## Younger Readers– Links

### Black Cockatoo

Teaching notes: [https://www.magabala.com/media/wysiwyg/Teacher\\_Notes/Black\\_Cockatoo\\_Teacher\\_Notes.pdf](https://www.magabala.com/media/wysiwyg/Teacher_Notes/Black_Cockatoo_Teacher_Notes.pdf)

The Kimberley region: <https://www.nma.gov.au/learn/kspace/the-kimberley-1990/teacher-resources>

Study Guide: <http://hakeahustler.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Black-Cockatoo-Study-Guide.pdf>

Learning resource pack: <http://hakeahustler.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Black-Cockatoo-Learning-Resource-Package-v5.1.pdf>

### Brindabella

Teaching notes and activity sheet:

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/childrens/Brindabella-Ursula-Dubosarsky-illustrated-by-Andrew-Joyner-9781760112042>

Author: <http://ursuladubosarsky.squarespace.com/>

Illustrator: <https://www.andrewjoyner.com.au/Brindabella>

### His Name Was Walter

Teaching notes: [https://teachershub.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/His-Name-Was-Walter-Teachers-Notes\\_final.pdf](https://teachershub.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/His-Name-Was-Walter-Teachers-Notes_final.pdf)

Author: <http://www.emilyrodga.com/>

Emily Rodga – Video Interview: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1245218178950809>

Sample chapters: <https://www.harpercollins.com.au/9781460756188/his-name-was-walter/>

### Leave Taking

Teaching notes: <https://www.pegiwilliams.com.au/pdfs/teachernotes/9780702260117.pdf>

Author: <http://www.lorainemarwood.com/>

News article: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/jul/02/lord-will-i-die-how-writing-a-book-for-children-helped-me-cope-with-cancer>

### The Peacock Detectives

Teaching notes: <https://bit.ly/2LG1HTM>

Author interview: <https://www.readings.com.au/news/ganda-with-readings-children-s-book-prize-winner-carly-nugent>

Peacock feathers – <http://bit.ly/2F6s9AR>

### The Slightly Alarming Tale of the Whispering Wars

Teaching notes: <https://bit.ly/2vMCK9D>

Author: <http://jaclynmoriarty.com/>

Genesis App: <http://apple.co/2Q8bszO>

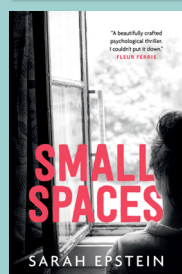
## Older Readers (12+ years)



## Older Readers (12+ years)



- Author of *Nona & Me* (Book of the Year, 2016 NT Literary Awards)
- Deals with detention of asylum seekers in Australia
- Cultural difference and multiculturalism
- Examines the 'Us vs. Them' mentality
- Content includes language, self-harm and drug use
- Age: 14 years +



- Dual narrative (then, Tash at 8 years old, vs. now, Tash at 17)
- Set in north coast of NSW
- Plays on the concept of trust and truth with an unreliable narrator (Tash)
- Tash seeks therapy after she sees her friend Mallory supposedly abducted as a child (she returns 7 days later)
- People/family incorrectly think Tash was just seeking attention – vulnerability as the result of not being believed
- Age: 14 years +

## Older Readers - Ideas & Activities

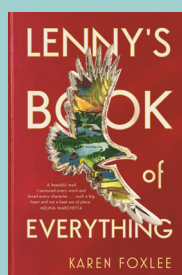


- **Writing activity:** Music is a key motif in the book. Write about a song that is important to you or that connected you to someone else.
- **Activity:** Read some of the first-hand accounts from refugees in mandatory detention on the website *Behind the Wire* and/or listen to the podcast 'The Messenger'.

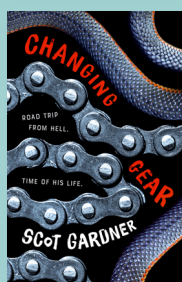


- **Discussion:** What could the title *Small Spaces* mean? Discuss literal and metaphorical interpretations.
- **Writing activity:** Write a resolution to the story using one of the red herring endings alluded to throughout the book.
- **Writing Activity:** This story was inspired by the concept of an 'invisible friend' and wondering where those friends come from. Create your own story to explain the existence of an imaginary friend (either yours or someone else's).

## Older Readers (12+ years)

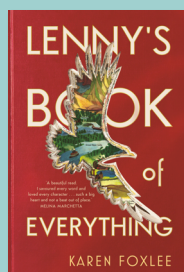


- Beautifully written, gentle rumination on family and loss
- Explores themes of disability and physical difference, family, loneliness, grief and death
- Lenny's brother has a rare and fatal form of gigantism
- Every week the family experiences the wonders of the world - beetles, birds, quasars, quartz - through encyclopaedias that are delivered to their home
- Age: 10 years to Adult

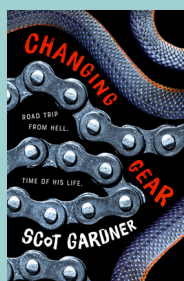


- CBCA winning author (Scot Gardner, *The Dead I Know*, 2012)
- Strong intergenerational relationship between Merrick and his grandfather
- Deals with divorce and blended families
- Philosophical themes and strong humour element
- Appeals to young male readers – frank discussions of masculinity stereotypes
- Recommended for 16+ (language, discussions of pornography etc.)

## Older Readers - Ideas & Activities

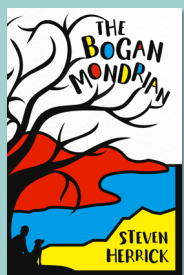


- **Writing activity:** Foxlee uses metaphor throughout *Lenny's Book of Everything*. Lenny talks about her “sadness flower” – it’s her way of describing the sadness she feels when it rains. Choose your own metaphor to communicate an emotion (eg. anger, guilt, joy).
- **Library display:** Create ‘exhibits’ or dioramas of things featured in ‘Burrel’s Build-It-At-Home Encyclopedia’.



- **Writing activity:** Write your own ‘road trip’ journey. Think about what would motivate you to make this journey, the characters you could meet on the way, and what adventures you might have.
- **Discussion:** *Changing Gear* is a first-person narrative. Discuss why the author chose this perspective and how the novel would change if it was written in third person.

## Older Readers (12+ years)



- Charlotte is from a wealthy, prominent family but father is violent
- Luke and his mum struggle to survive, but his family has given him something more valuable than money
- Great text for generating classroom discussions about class prejudice, judgement and domestic violence
- Explores themes of trust, courage and acceptance
- Content: language, alcohol and drug use
- Age: 14/15 years +

- Lyrical verse novel, outstanding writing
- Set in 1960s Australia, following a German immigrant girl whose life and family history has been filled with grief
- Lottie’s interest in death defies traditional notions of femininity
- Themes of grief, loss, identity and family
- Age: 14/15 years +





## Older Readers - Ideas & Activities



- **Activity:** Read the description of the reservoir in chapter 2, especially on pages 12–13. Sketch this scene, using evidence from the text.
- **Research and write:** Research Mondrian art. Write about why you think Luke relates to Mondrian art and compare this with your own thoughts and feelings about it.

- **Research:** Explore the history of taxidermy. Discuss its purpose. Do you see it as an art form? Why/why not?
- **Art activity:** The cover for *The Art of Taxidermy* won the Australian Book Designers Association 2019 award for best YA cover. Create your own book cover using botanical drawings.



## Older Readers– Links

### Between Us

Teaching notes: [https://www.blackincbooks.com.au/sites/default/files/Between%20Us\\_Teaching%20Notes.pdf](https://www.blackincbooks.com.au/sites/default/files/Between%20Us_Teaching%20Notes.pdf)

Author: <http://clareatkins.com.au/>

Behind the Wire: Stories from Mandatory Detention - <http://behindthewire.org.au>

The Messenger Podcast - <https://apple.co/32RqiiQ>

### Small Spaces

Teaching notes: <http://classroom.walkerbooks.com.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Small-Spaces-DG-WEB.pdf>

Author: <https://sarahpsteinbooks.com/>

### Lenny's Book of Everything

Teaching notes: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/fiction/popular-fiction/Lennys-Book-of-Everything-Karen-Foxlee-9781760528706>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Zwei8ybdP4>

Author: <https://karenfoxlee.com/>

### Changing Gear

Teaching notes: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/childrens/young-adult-fiction/Changing-Gear-Scot-Gardner-9781760631468>

Lamont teaching notes: <http://www.lamontbooks.com.au/media/120416/june-2018-secondary-notes.pdf>

Author: <http://scotgardner.com/>

Author blog post on writing: <http://thingsmadefromletters.com/blog/2018/07/04/the-tale-slapped-scot-gardner-on-writing-for-teenagers/>

### The Bogan Mondrian

Teaching notes: <https://www.uqp.uq.edu.au/store/images/Hi-RES/teachersnotes/1483/4098.pdf>

Author: <http://www.stevenherrick.com.au/>

### The Art of Taxidermy

Teaching notes:

[https://d2wzqffx6hwp.cloudfront.net/733/0a4/8c9/7330a48c9218e57a851b2497c9c5e9b0b37a1a82fbcafd0dc832a339d3de/9781925603743\\_ArtofTaxidermy\\_TN.pdf](https://d2wzqffx6hwp.cloudfront.net/733/0a4/8c9/7330a48c9218e57a851b2497c9c5e9b0b37a1a82fbcafd0dc832a339d3de/9781925603743_ArtofTaxidermy_TN.pdf)

Author: <https://www.sharonkernot.com.au/>

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2. **Reading level at age seven is a key factor in determining whether people will go on to secure high-income jobs (Bates and Ritchie, 2013).**  
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4. **Engaged reading can overcome traditional barriers to reading achievement, including gender, parental education and income (Guthrie, 2004).**  
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5. **Reading for just six minutes a day can reduce stress by 68%.**  
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6. **Reading has positive cognitive benefits beyond just comprehension. Reading improves vocabulary, verbal intelligence and general knowledge (Cunningham and Stanovich, 2001).**  
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7. **More readers volunteer for non-profit organisations (42%) than non-readers (25%) (Hill Strategies, 2008).**  
Hill Strategies. "Social Effects of Culture: Exploratory Statistical Evidence and Detailed Statistical Models". 2008. <https://hillstrategies.com/2008/09/08/social-effects-of-book-reading/>
8. **Children who have a positive attitude to reading are significantly less likely to report mental health problems (Clark and Teravainen-Goff, 2018).**  
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Thank you for participating in this webinar.

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# Stories Changed My Life

**Teacher's Instructions:** These cards can be used to help students choose a person for their 'Stories Changed My Life' research project. They are designed to be printed on card and cut-out for use as a 'lucky dip'. Alternatively, provide this list to your class and let the students make their own choice.

Abraham Lincoln	Hellen Keller	Agatha Christie
J.K.Rowling	A.A.Milne	John Green
Charles Dickens	Jackie French	Richard Branson
Howard Engel	Albert Einstein	Steven Spielberg
Bill Gates	Martin Luther King Jr.	Oprah Winfrey
Edith Warton	Katherine Johnson	Malala Yousafzai

# MY SECRET POWER

Imagine you are the main character in a novel. You have a secret power that can change the world for the better, but there's a catch! You can only ever use it once...

..... **IS MY SECRET POWER!**

What is your character name?

How does your secret power work?

What is the title of the book?

What do you want to change about the world and why?

Describe what the world is like before you use your power.  
Then explain what it is like afterwards. What has changed?

**BEFORE**

**AFTER**

Who/what inspired you to use your powers in this way? .....