



KIDS' CORNER

May 2023

Volume 7 No. 4

ISSN 2652 8339 ON-LINE

ISSN 2652 8320 PRINT

Stories that COLLIDE

Legends and journeys

Story starters

Now for nature



Illustration by Shane Tholen

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST ILLUSTRATOR –



SHANE THOLEN
getunco@yahoo.com.au

Hi, I'm Shane.
Let me tell you a bit about this month's
KIDS' CORNER cover:

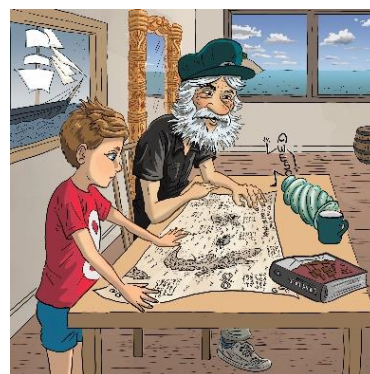


This is a scene from a bit over halfway through the book **lam Awesome, Who Are You?** Earlier in the book, lam finds a treasure map which makes him realise he needs to go on an adventure. It's a difficult journey and lam doesn't believe in himself at first. This is symbolised in the illustration: He and M (who used to bully him) are staring into a pool of water but they can't see their reflections. Why can't they see themselves? Later, lam needs to decode ancient symbols to find his way.

I loved drawing the beautiful scenery in the book which is based on the forests and lakes on the coast of New South Wales. Personally, I love walking in nature and looking at all the amazing things you can find there, like the unfolding of a fern leaf, a glittering rock, or a termite-eaten log. I hope you appreciate the details in the picture. My style of drawing is inspired from Japanese anime and manga. I usually sketch in pencil, scan it and use the computer to colour in. The lam Awesome character was designed by Damon McDonald, the author.

I have loved drawing for as long as I remember, and I hope I get more book illustration opportunities in the future. I think pictures can help the reader reflect on ideas they get from stories.

If there's one thing I would really love to achieve, it would be to inspire you to get into nature and draw something. SO, next time you go for a walk, remember your notebook and pencil!



Here is my website which also includes game design:

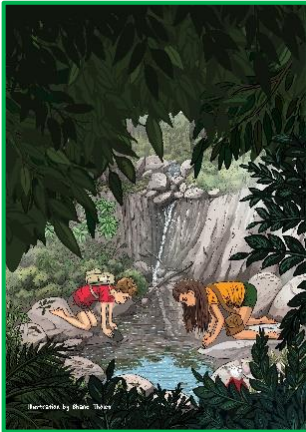
[S. B. THOLEN – Illustrator, writer, creator](http://www.shanetholen.com.au)

Read more about lam in this issue of KC in the section

JOURNEYS, LEGENDS, and IDENTITY



Welcome to KIDS' CORNER



Shane Tholen's unique cover shows part of the quest of lam and "M", characters in the book, "**I am Awesome, Who are you?** created by **Damon McDonald**. Shane's picture has surprises. Can you help Morrie find the special character made up entirely of letters? How would you explain why the images of the kids in the illustration aren't reflected? The book includes lots of special illustrations plus poetry and quotations that progress the story through its stages.

The cover of **KC** also sets the scene for other new books that explore **JOURNEYS, LEGENDS, and IDENTITY**.

KC for May also:

- shares ideas from our **COLLIDE** judges **Deb Abela, Tristan Bancks** and **Nathan Luff** to help you read the 2023 CBCA Notable books and create a book trailer;
- features details about the intricate collages for **Jeannie Baker's** new book, **Desert Jungle**, which is currently on exhibition at the Penrith Regional Gallery; and
- reminds us about more of the **Story Starters** from CBCA artists and illustrators that are based on the photos related to the CBCA Book Week theme – **READ, GROW, INSPIRE**.

Happy reading always. Cheers - Morrie and Jackie



**READ a BOOK from the
CBCA 2023 NOTABLES**

<https://cbca.org.au/notables-2023>

and then

COLLIDE

to make a book trailer

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/collide-book-trailers>



COUNTDOWN TO COLLIDE 2023

FEBRUARY 28 2023 CBCA Notable books announced. **COLLIDE** is based on the CBCA Notables

APRIL 2023 **COLLIDE** competition opens

JULY 21 Trailers due to CBCA NSW

AUGUST 11 Online exhibition of shortlisted trailers commences on August 11, 2023

AUGUST 18 Winner in each category announced & shown on the CBCA NSW Branch website.

READ the BOOK. WATCH the MOVIE. READ the BOOK. MAKE the TRAILER

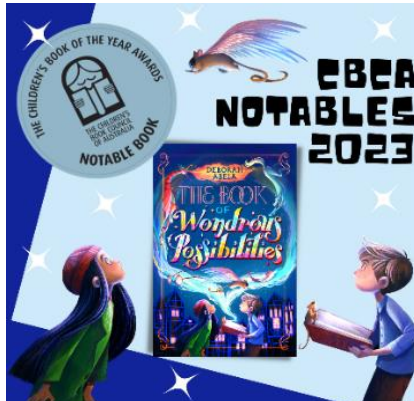
See the latest books from our judges:

DEB ABELA * TRISTAN BANCKS * NATHAN LUFF



DEB ABELA

<https://www.deborahabela.com/>



**BOOK OF
WONDROUS
POSSIBILITIES**

(Penguin)

Trailers

<https://www.deborahabela.com/videos>

Questions AND Answers from DEB:

What is THE BOOK OF WONDROUS POSSIBILITIES about?

Arlo Goodman lives with his Uncle Avery and his pet mouse, Herbert, in a run-down flat above their bookshop. When a girl called Lisette bursts into the shop and begs him to hide her from a murderer, Arlo's life changes forever.

Where did the idea come from?

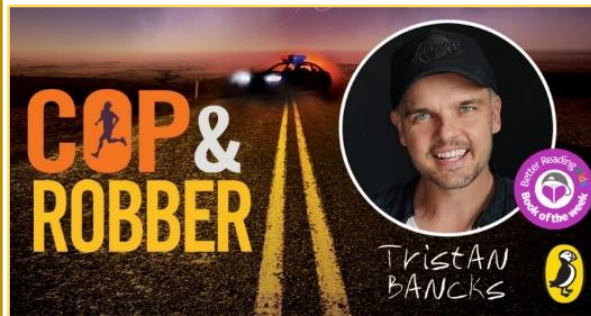
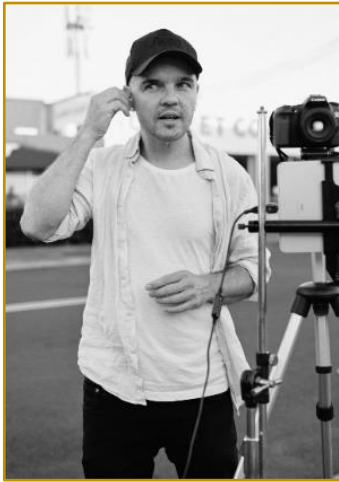
I have always loved books. From my earliest memories, I found them exciting and fun but they're also safe havens when I feel lost or sad. I started thinking about a kid called Arlo, who feels the same way. I wondered if he lives in a bookshop he rarely leaves because he finds the world outside frightening. And what if one day, a girl rushes into his bookshop and asks for his help and hands him a parcel that will not only convince him to help her, but will change his life.

What did you love most about writing it?

The action and adventure! But I also loved how Arlo and the girl, Lisette, become really good friends who help each other overcome their fears, and make them realise they are braver than they ever thought possible. Oh, and there is a story within the story, where there is a sky mouse who is super cute!

TRISTAN BANCKS

<https://www.tristanbancks.com/>



COP AND ROBBER

(Penguin Books)

If your mum was a cop and your dad was a crim who needed your help to commit a crime, would you do it to save him? At what cost? Nash Hall's dad is a criminal who just can't seem to go straight. He wants Nash to help him commit a robbery. A big one. The trouble is, Nash's mum is a cop. And the robbery is at Nash's school. But Dad owes a lot of money to some very dangerous people and if Nash doesn't help him do the job, it could cost both their lives.



TRAILER : COP AND ROBBER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUupstcJY0g>

I've been making [book trailers](#) since my first book release, *Mac Slater, Coolhunter* in 2008. The trailers back then were very rudimentary, consisting of stills, music and VO, but in the years since, I've made animated and live-action trailers.

I shot the [Cop & Robber trailer](#) with some excellent cast and crew, consisting mostly of talented friends and family. Post-production graphics thanks to the amazing Jess and Georgie from Penguin Random House Australia.



This trailer is my third news report book trailer, a follow-up to the [Two Wolves](#) and [Detention](#) trailers. If you're making a book trailer and you happen to have a sister who is a talented journalist and newsreader like Kerryn Johnston, I highly recommend you use the news report approach. 😊

*And some other good news: Tristan Bancks' beloved *Two Wolves* has hit an astonishing 100,000 copies sold.*

A favourite amongst children and classrooms across Australia, it's easy to see why this book remains so popular years after publication. Congratulations to Tristan.





NATHAN LUFF

<http://nathanluff.com.au/>

with CHRIS KENNETT, Illustrator

<https://chriskennett.com/>

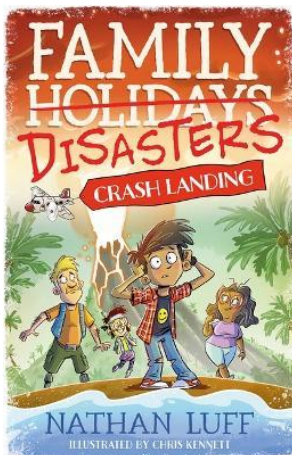
FAMILY DISASTERS: CRASH LANDING

[Series] (Ashton Scholastic)

And **NERD HERD** [Series] (Ashton Scholastic)

NERD HERD Trailer

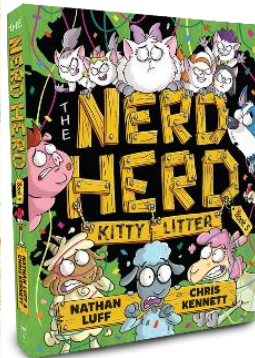
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONPkmXrKdFU>



I'm very lucky to have released the 5th book in the **NERD HERD** series earlier this year. Now, Chris Kennett and I are launching a brand new series called

FAMILY DISASTERS.

The new series is about a family on holiday, where everything goes wrong, and Jakob is constantly mortified by his embarrassing parents. Because it is set on an exotic island in the Pacific, I have requested a huge budget to film the book trailer—I need flights, accommodation, drones ... I'm still waiting for Scholastic to approve my budget and transfer the funds. For some reason they're not responding to my demands ...ha-ha!



And now Nathan gets to ASK and ANSWER another question...

Q: Where did the idea come from?

A: Good question. Thanks for asking. I'm often inspired by places I visit. When I visited the volcanic island of Stromboli many years ago, I was struck by signs that alerted you to head for the beach in the event of an eruption, and another sign that told you to head for the peak if there was a tsunami. I wondered what would happen if both events occurred at the same time? It was clear that an island like Stromboli was the perfect setting for a comedic action story with lots of drama.



JOURNEYS, LEGENDS, and IDENTITY

This month includes books that feature *journeys*, *legends*, and *identity*.

JOURNEYS may include physical travel to search for solutions or escape from situations. Or, the journey may involve making personal discoveries or meeting challenges.

LEGENDS may explore past events or beliefs that have affected the world presented in the story.

The journey itself may involve discovering *what?* *when?* or *why?* parts of a legend are important to the story.

Often, a major character is in a situation where who they are is shaped or questioned by others. This, in turn, results in them questioning or exploring their IDENTITY.

Sometimes, unique OBJECTS are an integral part of the overall story.



IAM AWESOME, WHO ARE YOU?

(Iam Awesome Movement Pty Ltd)



Damon McDONALD

www.iamawesome.tv

damon@iamawesome.tv

Shane THOLEN, Illustrator

S. B. THOLEN – Illustrator, writer, creator

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if we had a treasure map for what life would be like? Iam's journey introduces him to the past and helps him shape the future.

Iam Awesome, the main character, finds a bottle with a map inside, and he needs to find out what it means. His quest takes him on an adventure that will challenge him to find out if he is truly capable of believing in himself to become the hero. Iam's journey introduces him to the past and helps him shape the future. Along the way he has to answer the clues to the map and also the clues to life.

M, who has been bullying Iam for many years because of his name, finds herself catapulted onto the same quest as Iam, and they have to learn to understand that working together can be smarter.

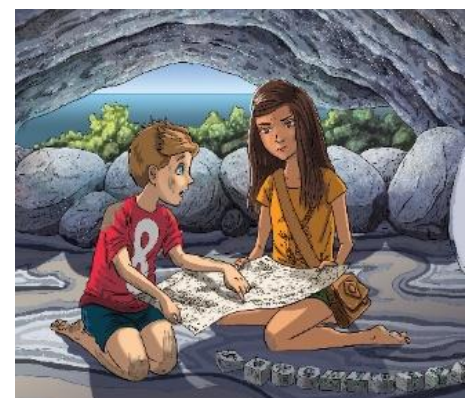
Finally, they realise that supporting each other helps them find the real treasure by learning to believe in who they see in the mirror.



Salty helps Iam understand the old map



Iam begins his JOURNEY



Iam and "M" begin to discover their IDENTITILES

Illustrations created by SHANE THOLEN from *Iam Awesome, Who Are You?*



THE RAVEN'S SONG (Allen & Unwin)

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/book/Bren-MacDibble-and-Zana-Fraillon-Raven's-Song-9781761065798>

Zana FRAILLON

www.zanafraillon.com

and

Bren MacDIBBLE

www.macdibble.com

The Raven's Song was written by two authors. Each took a main character and developed their own storyline until the stories united. Each chapter switches about, so at the start the reader is reading two stories set one hundred years apart.

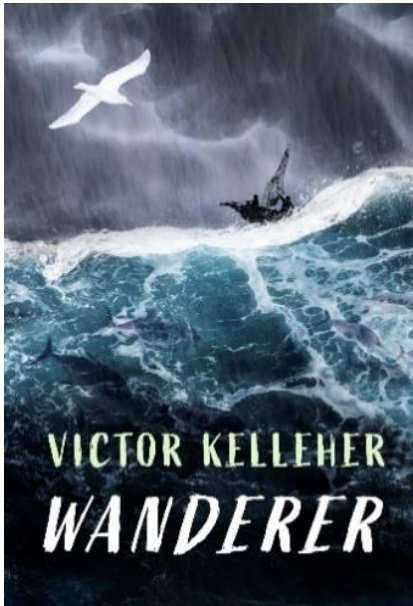
The first character, Shelby, lives in a future world trying to heal the planet from the ravages of pollution, deforestation, and disease. These people live in isolated villages and never set foot outside their perimeter fence. They believe the natural world has the ability to rebalance itself. This is fine except Shelby and her best friend are curious kids. When they go through the perimeter fence, they find a derelict city, a mystery, and a wild adventure waiting.

The second character, Phoenix, a quiet boy in a loud busy family, lives in a time not too far from now. The city is breaking down around him. He's inherited a gift which makes him sensitive to messages through time and is plagued by visions he doesn't want to see. Reality and visions become more and more tangled.

Bren went away to write Shelby's story up until Shelby met Phoenix. Zana went away to write Phoenix's story, but what really surprised both of us was when Zana came up with a third character. A girl sacrificed in a bog (swamp) thousands of years ago. Not alive but not quite dead. Zana made her an amazing folk song—a song of hope and warning. This girl has a message for the future that only Phoenix can hear. Zana also used ravens, the traditional messengers through time, to carry warnings, and they follow both Phoenix and Shelby. Sometimes more spooky than helpful!

Our favourite question is when people ask us about the main theme of the book - which is: *what kind of impact our lives will have on the future? Are we being good and responsible ancestors?*





WANDERER – Victor KELLEHER (Eagle Books)

Cover and internal illustrations by Lorena CARRINGTON

In a dangerous world . . .

where predators roam both land and sea, an orphaned young boatman, Dane, wanders alone. Faced with the terrors of the water and the ever-present threat of a warrior group called the Clan, he struggles to survive.

Along with his precious kayak, Dane has one other treasure: a much-loved book given to him by his mother, which is a source of comfort in the hardest of times.

When he encounters Garth, a book-loving old boat builder, and his amazing granddaughter Lana, everything changes, as he and Lana are pitched into a perilous quest that challenges all they hold dear.

The first middle-grade novel in many years, by one of Australia's greatest storytellers, **Wanderer** is an exciting adventure set in a brilliantly imagined world. It is also a lyrical love song to the power of books and stories.

Something from Victor:

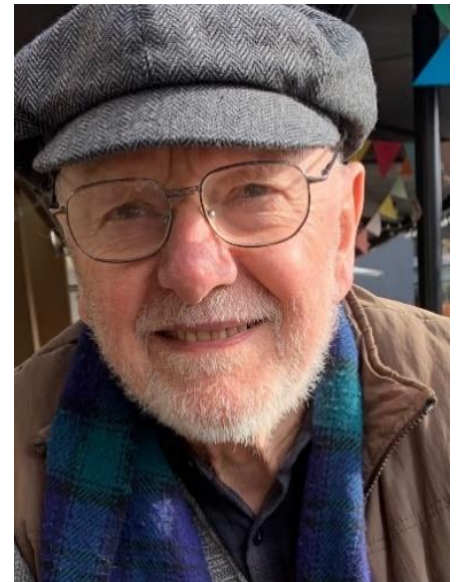
I wrote **Wanderer** while living in the Channel Country of southern Tasmania. It grew out of the waterways and landscape I looked onto every day, and demanded to be written. So, like all my fantasies, it is grounded in a real place. Only the time has shifted, from the present to a not-too-distant future, when the world is learning to heal itself again.

The notion of healing runs right through the book. It ranges from the main character, Dane, who has been mentally wounded by the manner of his mother's death and his own feelings of guilt, right through to the animal kingdom, which has turned against humanity after millennia of ill-treatment and neglect. Then, too, there are the abandoned children who, for me, symbolise the plight of poor kids everywhere.

The stories told by Lana, and the books she and Dane are trying to rescue, can also be seen as a part of this healing process – though they clearly symbolize much more.

Again, for me, the image of the lost kids sitting around the campfire listening to Lana tell her tale is central to so much of what I was trying to convey. Stories can heal us, as First Nations people throughout the world have known for many, many centuries.

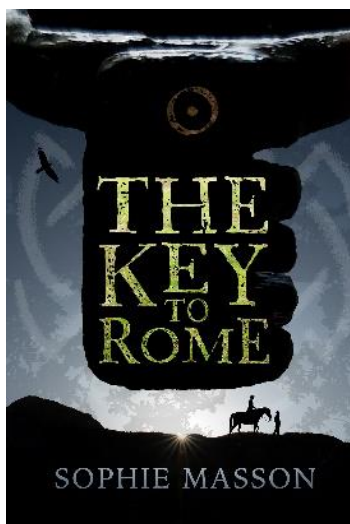
But that's enough about healing. Readers can further explore that theme for themselves.



Just a final word about one of the many other issues raised by the novel, and that is the thorny problem of violence. In and of itself, violence is a nasty thing. On the other hand, it's something we're all capable of. Why does, say, Lana show restraint at critical moments, while her father, Karl, gives free rein to his basest passions? What constrains her? Or Dane, come to that? Or, to look at it in another light, why do the people of Skull veer one way, and the people of Elysia another?

Much greater writers than I have tackled this problem, and it even arises in many fairy tales.

So, it would have been foolish of me to pretend that *Wanderer* supplies all the answers. It doesn't. But at the heart of my young characters' quest, there are, I hope, some clues as to how and why we become who we are.



THE KEY TO ROME

(Eagle Books, an imprint of Christmas Press)
<https://eaglebooksadventure.com/the-key-to-rome/>

by **Sophie MASSON**

<http://www.sophiemasson.org/index.html>

new site

<https://www.sophiemassonauthor.com>

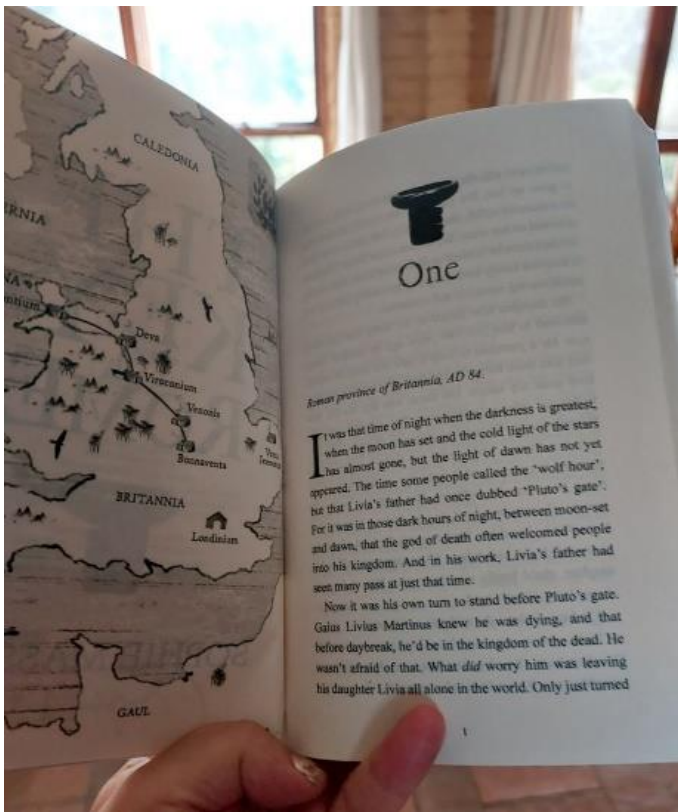
with **Lorena Carrington, Illustrator**



Trailer for *The KEY TO ROME*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uU34U6ltIM&t=34s>



AD 84, Roman Province of Britannia ...

Twelve-year-old orphan Livia has to keep a promise made to her late father: to take a mysterious key to her estranged uncle Marcus. She sets out with the key, her old horse Pegasus and her father's doctoring kit, only to learn that her uncle has left for a town further north.

By the time she reaches it, her uncle has gone, and she can't find out where--until a boy named Mato informs her that he knows. But he refuses to tell unless she takes him too. So, the two young people set out on a dangerous journey where they must keep all their wits about them, in a deadly game of cat and mouse. But figuring out who is friend, and who is foe, is the greatest challenge of them all...

An exciting historical mystery by multi-award-winning author Sophie Masson.

Something from Sophie Masson

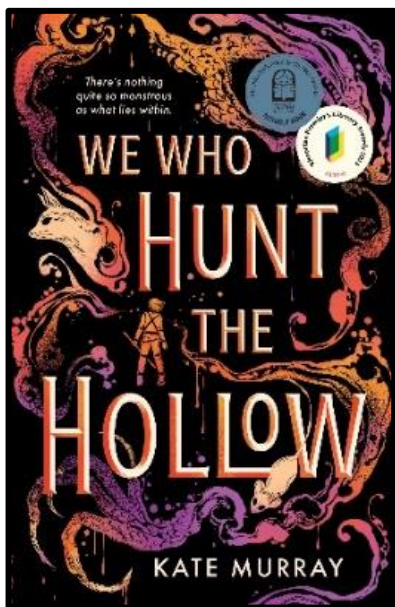
A few years ago, in an antique shop near the British Museum in London, I saw a display of Roman keyrings -that is keys, designed to be worn as rings. I went into the shop and excitedly bought one of the keyrings. Made of lead, it was dated to the 1st century AD and wasn't particularly expensive. Apparently, such rings are not uncommon finds.

When I looked at it more closely, I saw that the ring size was very small—on my own hand, it only fitted on the little finger. So, either it had been meant for a very small woman or a child, or it had simply been meant to be worn around the neck, on a leather thong or something similar.

And what lock would such a key open? Definitely not a door, but probably a box of some sort. A money or valuables box? A medicine box? I had no idea as to the truth of it, but immediately "what ifs?" began bubbling in my head...I began to see, through the mists of imagination, a figure become clearer, a twelve year old girl called Livia, living in the province of Britannia (Roman Britain), whose widowed Roman father, a travelling oculist, has just died, leaving her with the mysterious key, which she has to take to her estranged uncle, in secret...

It was wonderful writing this book, but quite challenging too. I had to do a lot of research about life in Roman Britain, in books, the internet, and, actually, on the ground, in Britain. I enjoy research but I also didn't want to bore readers with too much information 😊. I did include a glossary at the end though, and there's also a great map at the beginning, drawn by Lorena Carrington, which can help you see Livia and Mato's journey very concretely!





WE WHO HUNT THE HOLLOW

(Hardie Grant)

<https://www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/book/we-who-hunt-the-hollow-by-kate-murray/9781760508920>

Kate MURPHY

Instagram: @kateswriting

Website: www.katemurray.net



We Who Hunt the Hollow is a young-adult urban fantasy set in a wild future where monsters from an evil universe are invading our world, and super-powered Hollow Warriors are humanity's last line of defence. It's about a 17-

year-old monster hunter in training called Priscilla, who is the youngest in a long line of Hollow Warriors. She feels like she doesn't quite live up to the legacy of her name, so she attempts a ritual to give herself better superpowers... only it goes horribly wrong.

Something that surprised me about one of the characters:

I didn't really plan any of the characters – they basically introduced themselves to me, with their various traits and interests – so they all surprised me, in a way. The biggest surprise was probably realising just how competitive Priscilla is in her relationship with her next oldest sister, Didi. They've spent their lives comparing themselves to each other.

My own Q&A(s):

Question: Were those Zork references I spotted in your book?

Answer: YES, omg thank you for noticing!

Alternative slightly more serious and less obscure Q&A option:

Question: How did you come up with the setting?

Answer: I have always loved futuristic cities, so this story grew out of that love. I truly adore writing setting, and being able to visualise a place in my mind is really important to me when writing. I work hard to capture all the senses of a place – sight, hearing, taste, sensation, and smell.

Question: What is a ZORK and why does it matter? What do you like about the hints of "zorks"?



See extra answers below.

Zork: is a set of very old text-based adventure games (where your character might get eaten by a grue or get lost in a maze of twisty little passages, all alike) - only very ancient nerds like myself would spot the references! One of the fun things about being an author is hiding 'easter eggs' in your work - little treasures that might not be spotted by most readers but add a little spark of delight to those who recognise them.

How does setting influence the plot, etc.?

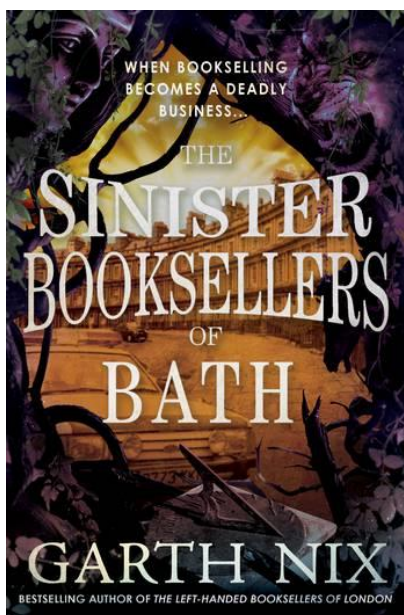
Setting: When I can capture all the senses of a place, I'm able to better dive into the characters in that setting - to see what they see, feel what they feel - which helps me understand the decisions they might make in that moment and drive the story forward.

More info about the *setting* i.e. capture all the senses of a place – sight, hearing, taste, sensation, and smell.

Sequel in sight?

A sequel is coming very soon! ***We Who Are Forged in Fire*** will be out at the end of August. It picks up where ***We Who Hunt the Hollow*** left off, with Priscilla embarking on her training and seeking to find her place. It has mind-linked enemies, spies and counter spies, flying venomous pox fairies, a lovable fox, and a fancy ball!

Setting: When I can capture all the senses of a place, I'm able to better dive into the characters in that setting - to see what they see, feel what they feel - which helps me understand the decisions they might make in that moment and drive the story forward.

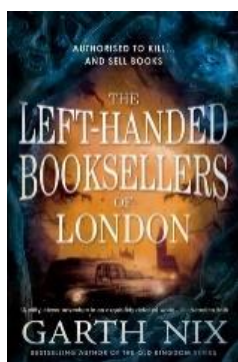


THE SINISTER BOOKSELLERS OF BATH

(Allen & Unwin)

<https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/book/Garth-Nix-Sinister-Booksellers-of-Bath-9781761180002/>

An immediate sequel to



The Left-Handed Booksellers of London.

by **Garth NIX**

<https://garthnix.com/>

Photographer credit Wendy McDougall



The booksellers who police the Old World keep a careful watch in Bath, particularly on the entity who inhabits the ancient hot spring. This time trouble comes from the discovery of a sorcerous map, leading left-handed bookseller Merlin into great danger. His sister, the right-handed bookseller Vivien, and their friend, art student Susan Arkshaw, who is still struggling to deal with her own recently discovered magical heritage, must attempt a desperate rescue.

The map takes the trio to a place separated from this world, maintained by deadly sorcery and guarded by monstrous living statues. But this is only the beginning, as the booksellers investigate centuries of disappearances and deaths in an attempt to unravel the secrets of the murderous Lady of Stone. If they do not stop her, she will soon kill again. And this time, her target is not an ordinary mortal.

The Characters

I typically don't know much about the characters when I begin a book, learning about them as I write the story. As this is a sequel of course I knew a reasonable amount about my returning characters, but with room to develop them more. In many ways this book is about Susan learning to deal with her unique magical heritage and its implications, unlike the booksellers who have grown up with their own powers and responsibilities.

What do I wish people would ask me about the book?

I am very pleased that the most common question I am asked about this book is "when is the next one coming?" or details about that, like where it will be set. There will be another bookseller novel, but it won't be the next book from me, so there will be a couple of years to wait.



The COLLAGE KIDS and *The Great Toothpick Challenge*



The children were sent out into the garden armed only with a couple of toothpicks. Their challenge was to create something out of whatever they could find in the garden, could be anything. These are a few of their creations.



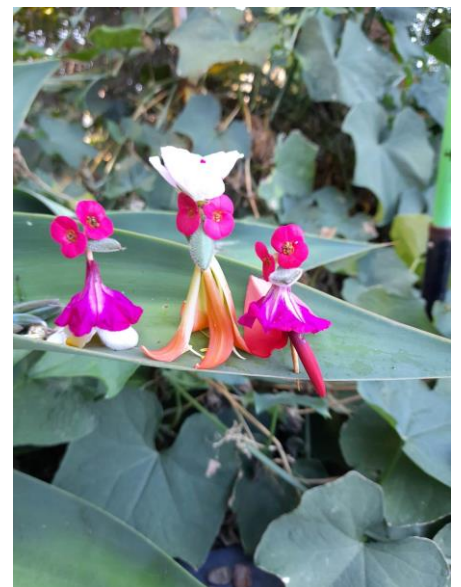
"This is me as a turtle and I am sitting on my eggs to protect them."

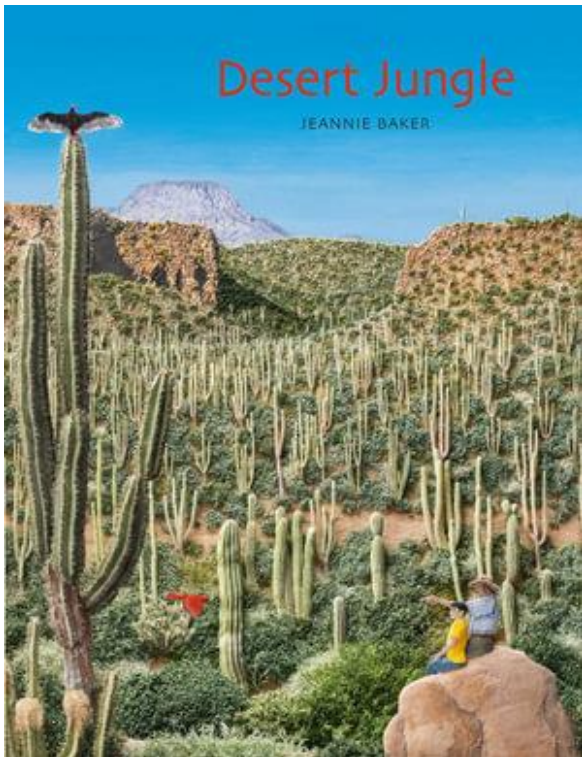
(note the letter K, made out of bark, in front).

Kane, 7

"These are birdies dancing at the ball. The middle one is Queen Birdie and the others are her friends."

Amelia, 9





**JEANNIE
BAKER**

DESERT JUNGLE

(Walker Books)

<https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/book/9781406387872/>

Jeannie Baker's story of Chico and his visit to his grandfather in the desert jungle of the Sonoran Desert in Baja California and Arizona, will change your perception of deserts. And welcome you to a special connection with nature.

Over one-third of the Australian landscape is classified as desert, and for most settler Australians, the desert remains a barren space. Recent studies show deserts, not rainforests, are richest in the pollinator diversity that keeps plants growing and adapting. And yet, the biodiversity of deserts is rapidly disappearing.

Chico's grandpa has taken him on holiday where he grew up as a child, out in the desert. Chico has no interest in exploring the land – the desert jungle frightens him, and he'd much rather play on his tablet.

Grandpa decides that it is time to show Chico (and us) the secrets and the wonders that the desert has to offer. He wants Chico not to fear nature, but to welcome it, embrace it, and help protect it.

Grandpa shows Chico paths through the cactus and the scrub and teaches him the plants' names – ocotillo, cholla, cirios, pin cushion, fishhook. Soon, Chico begins to understand the wonders of the wild. He learns the value of watching, waiting, and listening for all the life that hums within his desert home.

At the beginning of the story of Chico's journey, his outlook is:

"...I only want to play on my tablet..."

"...I am miserable without my tablet..."

As his grandfather helps him explore, Chico learns that "...this valley is full of secrets ... [he can] open [his] heart, listen, and see what wonders show themselves...and Chico becomes" gifted to see a wonder of the wild."



Image from <https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/events/jeannie-baker-desert-jungle/>

When the global community is grappling with the irreversible effects of climate change, Desert Jungle offers a moment of reflection and insight, to celebrate that which is unique, and cannot be lost.

*A free exhibition of the artworks created for **Desert Jungle** is currently on display at the Penrith Regional Gallery- Lewers') at Emu Plains until July 9, 2023. Discover the unique plant life and other materials, Jeannie has incorporated into her remarkable collages of this special part of the earth.*

<https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/events/jeannie-baker-desert-jungle/>

NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER

*As part of Jeannie's on-site research for **Desert Jungle**, she came across the concept of "Nature Deficit Disorder" which is becoming prevalent throughout the world. Basically, children are missing out on learning how to appreciate, understand and care for the world and its environments. Many people are growing up with little sense of involvement or knowledge of the natural world of plants and animals that are around them. They feel distanced from nature, and even come to fear it or become indifferent to environmental concerns.*

*In **Desert Jungle**, the first picture of Chico shows him totally engaged with his computer and devices. The final picture of him, show him totally engaged in observing some of the wildlife that his Grandpa has helped him discover.*

Welcome to the world. Walk outside. Connect. Share. Create. Discover. Care.

These articles have been compiled with significant borrowings of concepts and wording from

WALKER BOOKS, <https://www.walkerbooks.com.au/book/9781406387872/>

Jeannie Baker- comments and contents in her book **Desert Jungle** (Walker Books) and **Penrith Regional Gallery**

<https://www.penrithregionalgallery.com.au/events/jeannie-baker-desert-jungle/>





STORY STARTERS include photos from CBCA AUTHORS and ILLUSTRATORS that are related to the themes of

CBCA BOOK WEEK 2023
*** READ * GROW * INSPIRE ***

See the videos:

A - C authors / illustrators <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmdFCID31rk>

D - M authors / illustrators <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePrFWme5gew&t=24s>

N - Z authors / illustrators <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpM2rLlFliG>

INSPIRE READ * INSPIRE * GROW INSPIRE



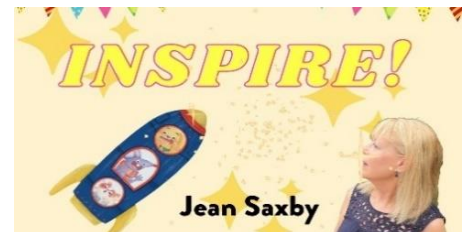
Janette Lucas

Imagining real characters...



Maura Pierlot

Remarkable creatures peeped from behind the clouds looking for lost stories to join.



Jean Saxby

Stories from the universe...



Pam Slattery

Every person has their own story.



Cathie Tasker

And each idea made the story even better.



Coral Vass

And what will your story become?

INSPIRE * READ
INSPIRE
GROW * INSPIRE



Dianne Wolfer

Each character has their own point of view.

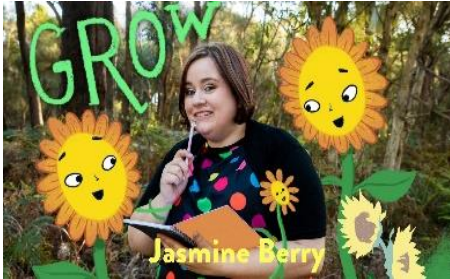
INSPIRE * READ
INSPIRE
GROW * INSPIRE

INSPIRE READ * INSPIRE * GROW INSPIRE

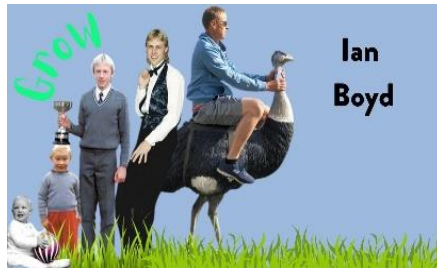


What kind of **STORY STARTER** would you create out of the words
or concepts of the 2023
CBCA BOOK WEEK THEME? *READ*GROW*INSPIRE*
Think of the start of a character, setting or plot.

GROW*READ*GROW*INSPIRE*GROW



Somehow, the flowers helped the story grow...



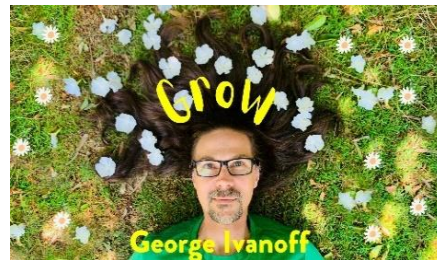
and eventually he was big enough to ride into his own story...



He wondered when the plant would tell their secrets.



And just one more...



The ideas branched out in search of even more stories...



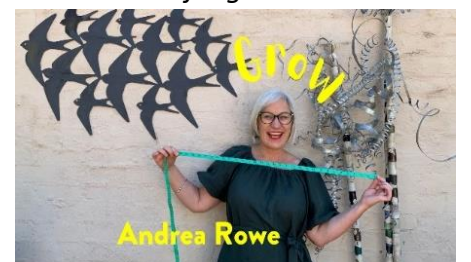
As the giant peered through the jungle...



And every petal contained a wish...



and hidden in the garden, even more wishes grew...



the birds flew off in search of ...



And then, he discovered a shiny forest...

**GROW
READ*INSPIRE
GROW**



Every day the flower reached higher into the sky until one day...

GROW READ * GROW * INSPIRE GROW





EVERY PORTRAIT IS A STORY

The **Archibald Prize** <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2023/> is awarded annually to the best portrait, 'preferentially of some man or woman distinguished in art, letters, science or politics, painted by any artist resident in Australasia'. In 2023, 949 artists entered the competition. The portraits are currently on display at the Art Gallery of NSW. Each portrait has its own story.



It's quite amazing and encouraging that so many people are moved to creative expression i.e. painting in this case, to share widely in this prestigious competition and showcase important parts of our culture - art, literature, science or politics. There are certainly plenty of people around us who have made contributions with creativity and imagination in these fields. Everyone has their own stories and accomplishments.



The world of Australia children's literature was captured by **Liz Bowring** with her portrait of author and poet, **Libby Hathorn**

<http://libbyhathorn.com/>

Libby has written over 80 books and won numerous awards. Libby's latest book, ***Mother Earth***, was featured in the ***POWER of Poetry*** for the March issue of ***KIDS' CORNER***.

Liz incorporated ideas from these with book covers of some of these as background in the portrait she created of Libby.

Congratulations to Liz and to Libby for being involved in the Archibald Prize competition.

In 2023, 3400 young people entered the **Young Archies** competition, which is open to young people from age 5-18 who create a portrait of someone who is important to them.

See works by some of the finalists <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/young-archie/2023/>

Read some of the stories behind the **Young Archies** portraits.

<https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/art/watch-listen-read/read/love/>



WRITE NOW

Can you create a story based on one of the portraits?

Who would you put into a portrait?

What would your story be?





WABIAD - WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY



THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT

WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY

Registrations are open for *Write a Book in a Day!*

Write a Book in a Day writeabookinaday.com is a fun, creative challenge that sees budding writers and illustrators produce a book in 12 hours or less!

The competition encourages literacy, teamwork and resilience. It also fosters altruism, with sponsorship money fundraised going to childhood cancer research through The Kids' Cancer Project. All books created for the project are shared with children in hospitals across Australia.

KEY DATES:

Writing starts: 1 June 2023

Last day to write and fundraise: 30 September 2023

If you have any questions, please call Kimberley on 02 8394 7711 or email info@writeabookinaday.com

Find out more at writeabookinaday.com

You can work as a group to create a complete story. Each member of your team takes on various roles - (as author, illustrator, technology hub, editing, etc) to collaborate and contribute to the creation of a story that includes certain themes and criteria.

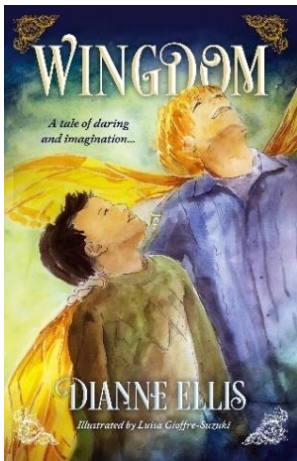
This all takes place within ONE day from start to finish.

Help make a difference. Write-a-book-in-a-day to share.





WHAT'S NEW? - new books being released ...



WINGDOM (Brolga Publishing) <https://brolgapublishing.com.au/>



By **DIANNE ELLIS**

Luisa Gioffre-Suzuki, Illustrator

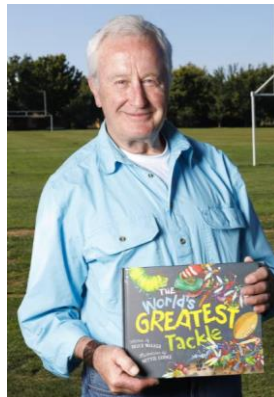
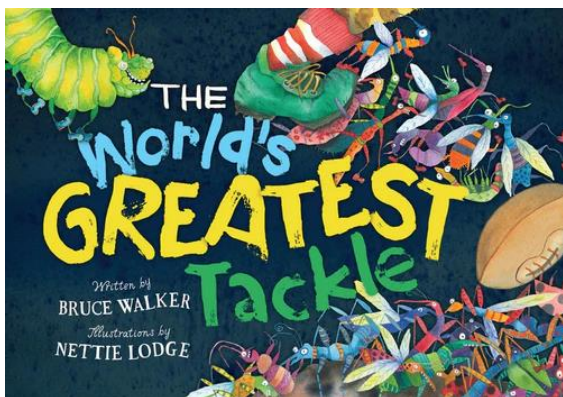
An adventure fantasy set in an insect world - At age 11, Flynn's strong beliefs in saving all creatures, including the smallest insects, often make him a target for ridicule. He befriends Jack, a new classmate who shares a love for winged creatures and who was bequeathed a tiny pair of wings from a dying moth, allowing him access into a flying kingdom called Wingdom. Jack invites Flynn to travel with share a wondrous time flying and making new friends in

him and they

Wingdom until some hideous giant spiders entrap them. With great effort, they escape but only with the help of two brave dragonflies who send farting fireballs to the spiders.

Follow Jack and Flynn on their thrilling yet spine-chilling adventure into this world of wings and beyond. Author Dianne Ellis has created this delightful tale showcasing the importance of friendship, caring for others and believing in yourself. Dare to dream!

Sequel: On the way titled '**Invasion of Webdom**'



THE WORLD'S GREATEST TACKLE

(Woodslane Press)

By **Bruce Walker** with **Nettie Lodge, Illustrator**

Summary: Through illustration and rhyme, the story unfolds an extraordinary football game, played annually between the animals and insects of the world. Inevitably, the insects get annihilated until one day a perfect tackle brings down the might of the animals. It is a David V Goliath story of epic animal proportions.

More from Nette - I completed the illustrations while on an Art Residency on Flinders Island, Tasmania and did a workshop there with the kids at their small school about making picture books and they were great inspiration for the illustrations, so I would love to give a shout out to all the kids at the Flinders Island Primary School.





WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023 - JUNE 5

Theme: Solutions to Plastic Pollution



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

- Design a poster outlining the many ways we can stop plastic polluting our environment.
- Do ONE thing to reduce plastic in your home or school. Share with your class.
- Collect plastic bottle tops for Lids4kids < <https://www.lids4kids.org.au/> OR use them to create a mural in ART.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef55rsYusuE&t=293s>

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY overlaps to the rest of the 364 days of the year –It is a good time to remember some of the hints from CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY also.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA advocates for more than just picking up litter. - we want to see solutions that move us towards a circular economy, and that's why we encourage our community to make small steps every day, to prevent waste entering our environment. Thousands of small steps will make a big difference - and together we can all be part of the solution!

Could you borrow a book, tool or toy, or purchase second-hand, rather than automatically buying new? If something breaks, could you repair it instead of throwing it away? What about bringing your own water bottle or coffee cup? Or starting to compost? Could you choose to avoid fast fashion?



This issue of **KIDS' CORNER** was compiled by Jackie Hawkes with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing, thinking, and imagining. THANKS to all. Your ideas are always welcome.

The info we gather for KC tries to fit in with new books or other book happenings or things currently in our “think about it” tray! While we basically target middle to older readers, good ideas from you about reading, writing, thinking, and creating will suit ALL ages.

Please share your ideas with jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com.

Happy reading always. Cheers - Morrie and Jackie

By the way, who DID you find on the cover?

