



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA
NSW BRANCH

Volume 8 No. 3

KIDS' CORNER

APRIL 2024

ISBN 2652 8320 Print

ISSN 2652 8339 Online

SHARING FROM
PAGE TO
STAGE

IMAGINING A
MORRIE STORY

READING
SURPRISES
AND
SHORTLISTS



GET CREATIVE WITH EMMA QUAY

Cover illustration by Emma Quay, from her picture book *Happy All Over* (ABC Books)



WELCOME TO KIDS' CORNER for April 2024

Now is the perfect time to



GET CREATIVE
with our guest illustrator
EMMA QUAY
<https://emmaquay.com/>

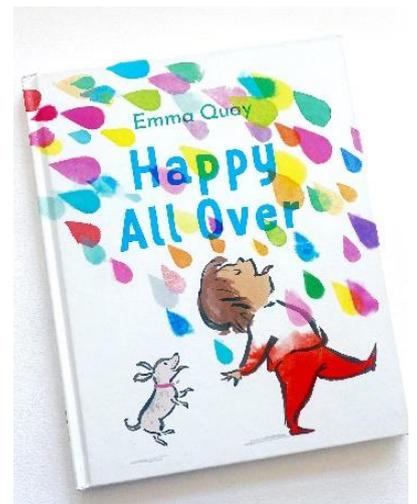


Emma shares ideas of some of the techniques and special care she puts into creating her stories. She reminds us that there really are LOTS of things that make us HAPPY ALL OVER.

Hello!

Do you love to draw? When I was at school, I drew all the time — at the dinner table, in the car, whilst watching TV... in the back of my Maths book! I also copied pictures of Snoopy over and over again, but never managed to make mine quite as good as the original. Over the years I gradually got better at drawing my own ideas, and eventually I was able to get my illustrations published in a book. There have been quite a few Emma Quay books since that first one, and I feel very lucky to be doing what I've loved to do since I was tiny.

It's so good to be able to share my new picture book **Happy All Over** at last, because I've been making it for a long time... in my garden studio, with just my little dog, Apollo, for company. Luckily, that is one of my favourite places to be — with a pad of paper in front of me, and surrounded by my pencils, scissors and crayons. Does that sound familiar? Yes, the girl on the front of this issue of KIDS' CORNER is somebody just like me, doing something that makes her happy. And Apollo has a bigger moment of fame, happily skipping along on the cover of the book!



If you look closely at my illustrations for **Happy All Over**, you might be able to tell the lines are made with a brush — it creates a particular kind of swishy mark. I have all sorts of art materials and love experimenting with new ones. I've used coloured pencils, watercolours, chalk, pastels, charcoal, wax crayons and potato prints to make my illustrations, and painted with drinking straws, twigs, my fingers, chopsticks, feathers and toothbrushes. Some of my paints cost a ridiculous amount of money per tiny blob, but my favourite paintbrushes are from a dollar shop. If I had tried to squeeze all my art materials into the illustration of the artist with her sketchbook, that one picture would fill the whole book!



But I did give her scissors. Can you see she has used them to cut rainbow-coloured shapes, to string from the ceiling? I too used coloured tissue paper cut into drip shapes to add colour to my illustrations in **Happy All Over**. I placed the tissue paper shapes onto white paper and gently wetted them with a paintbrush dipped in water, which made the dye bleed out and stain the paper. When the tissue paper shapes dried I could brush them away, and just their colour was left. You'll find these droplet shapes scattered throughout the book, representing little moments of happiness in the characters' lives.

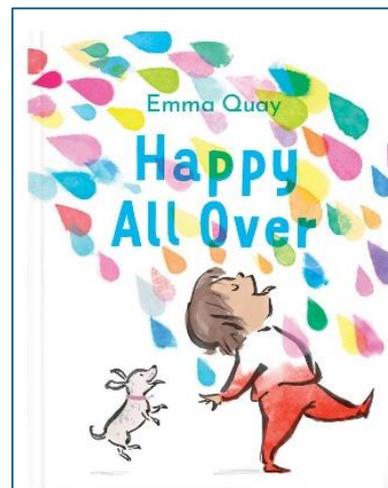


I draw out and about every day and carry a sketchbook wherever I go. Sometimes I see a toddler at the park doing something funny and that inspires me to make a sketch, but I mostly draw from my imagination. I feel that being an illustrator is about noticing things — how people move, the ways they react, how they hold their head when they're expecting a nice surprise compared to when they're bitterly disappointed. All of these observations can make an illustration more expressive and believable.

I also carry a sketchbook to book events, and some of the children I've met have decorated its pages. There are some fantastic future illustrators out there. You might well be one of them! I can't wait to see.

You can find out more about how I make my illustrations at <https://emmaquay.com/illustrating>

Emma's latest book is an irresistible celebration of the small joys to be found in the everyday. **Happy All Over** ABC Books 2024





THIS MONTH, in April KC...

The **MORRIES** have collected stacks of ideas about reading for APRIL. It's a perfect time to read whatever you like.

April is surrounded by holidays – Easter and the school holidays give us as great chance to catch up on all kinds of reading for all kinds of reasons.

CREATING with Emma QUAY - Our Guest Illustrator, Emma Quay, shares ideas of some of the techniques and care that she puts into creating her stories. She reminds us that there really are lots of things that make us **HAPPY ALL OVER**.

SHARING from Page to Stage - Stories can take on many forms and come from real life to books to stage to song. And sometimes, they surprise us by being all of the above.

READING Surprises and Shortlists - Books can be amazing in different ways for different times and readers. Catch up with some of the best in the CBCA Shortlist for 2024.



IMAGINING a Morrie Story – Morrie, our KC mascot, and Magic Morrie, a new friend, both know that *READING IS MAGIC*. Characters like the Morries and a bit of a surprise, like *MAGIC*, give you a couple of story starters. So, what is their story? You be the author.



READING SOME OF THE BEST

Each year the judges for **CBCA Children's Book Council of Australia** select the best books published that year for readers from age 0 – 20.

Books are judged in these categories using specific criteria:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| OLDER READERS | Age 13 - 18 |
| YOUNGER READERS | Age 7 - 12 |
| EARLY CHILDHOOD | Age 0 - 6 |
| PICTURE BOOKS | Age 0 - 18 |
| NEW ILLUSTRATORS | Age 1 - 18 |
| EVE POWNALL INFORMATION BOOKS | Age 0 - 18 |



Throughout the year the books are narrowed down from the Notables to the Shortlist until we discover some of the best Australian Children's Literature for the year. The winners are announced in CBCA Children's Book Week®.



All books are special because **READING IS MAGIC!**

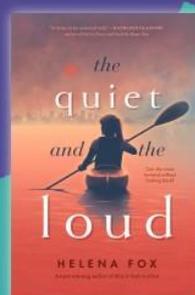
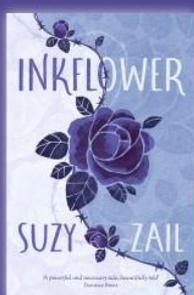
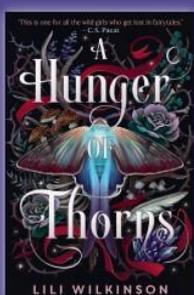
ANNOUNCING THE CBCA 2024 SHORTLIST

The Children's Book Council of Australia's
2024 Book of the Year Awards
SHORTLIST
 OUR TOP 36 AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S
 BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2023 HAVE
 BEEN RELEASED

[2024 CBCA Book of the Year Awards Shortlist announcement](#) on YouTube

OR <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uX4m-feVTUE>

2024 Book of the Year Shortlist: Older Readers

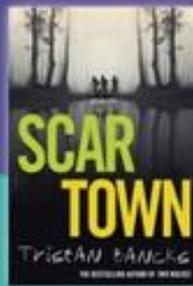
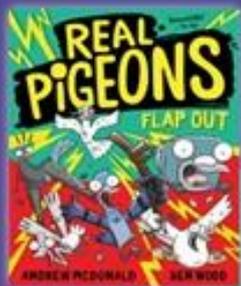
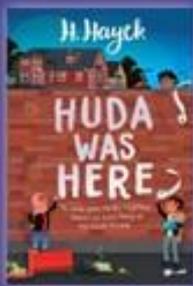


2024 SHORTLIST BOOK OF THE YEAR: OLDER READERS

- **Grace Notes** Karen Comer, *LothianChildren'sBooks*
- **A Hunger of Thorns** Lili Wilkinson, *A&U Children*
- **Inkflower** Suzy Zail, *Walker Books*
- **Let's Never Speak of This Again** Megan Williams, *Text Publishing*
- **The Quiet and the Loud** Helena Fox, *Pan Macmillan*
- **Two Can Play That Game** Leanne Yong, *A&U Children*



2024 Book of the Year Shortlist: Younger Readers

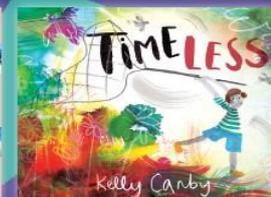
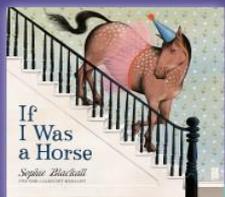
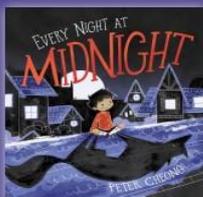


2024 SHORTLIST BOOK OF THE YEAR : YOUNGER READERS

- **Being Jimmy Baxter** Fiona Lloyd, *Puffin Books Au*
- **Huda Was Here** H Hayek, *A&U Children*
- **Real Pigeons Flap Out** Andrew McDonald, illus Ben Wood, *HGCP*
- **Scar Town** Tristan Bancks, *PuffinBooksAU*
- **Scout and the Rescue Dogs** Dianne Wolfer, illus Tony Flowers, *Walker BooksAus*
- **The Sideways Orbit of Evie Hart** Samera Kamaleddine, *Harper Collins*



2024 Book of the Year Shortlist: Picture Book of the Year

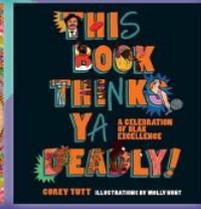
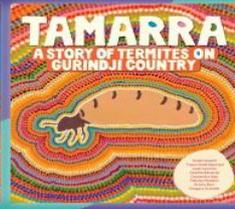
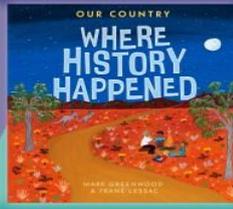
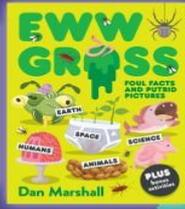
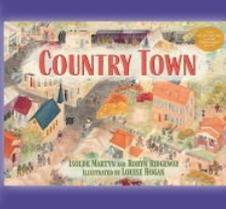
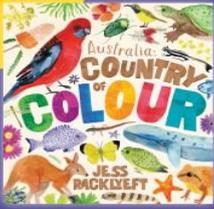


2024 SHORTLIST PICTURE BOOK OF THE YEAR

- **Bowerbird Blues** Aura Parker, *ScholasticAustralia*
- **Every Night at Midnight** Peter Cheong, *Affirm Press*
- **If I Was a Horse** Sophie Blackall, *Lothian C B*
- **Paper - flower Girl** Mateja Jager, written by Margrete Lamond, *Dirt Lane Press - Westwords*
- **That Bird Has Arms** Ronojoy Ghosh & Niharika Hukku, written by Kate Temple & Jol Temple, *Little Hare HGCP*
- **Timeless** Kelly Canby, *Fremantle Press*



2024 Book of the Year Shortlist: Eve Pownall Award



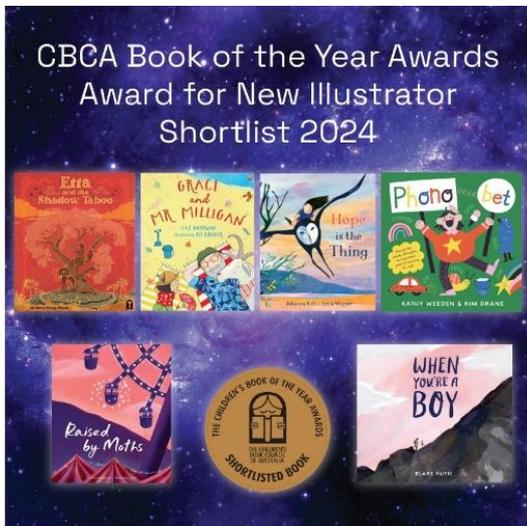
2024 SHORTLIST EVE POWNALL AWARD

- **Australia: Country of Colour** Jess Racklyeft, *Affirm Press*
- **Country Town** Isolde Martyn & Robyn Ridgeway
illus Louise Hogan, *Ford Street Publishing*
- **Eww Gross: Foul facts and putrid pictures**
Dan Marshall, *Pantera Press*
- **Our Country: Where history happened**
Mark Greenwood, illus Frané Lessac, *Walker Books Australia*
- **Tamarra**
Violet Wadrill, Topsy Dodd Ngarnjal & Leah Leaman.
illus Cecelia Edwards, Cassandra Algy, Felicity Meakins,
Briony Barr & Gregory Crocetti, *Hardie Grant Explore*
- **This Book Thinks Ya Deadly!** Corey Tutt, illus Molly Hunt, *Hardie Grant Explore*



2024 SHORTLIST BOOK OF THE YEAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **Bear and Duck Are Friends** Sue de Gennaro, *Little Hare/HGCP*
- **Can You Teach a Fish to Climb a Tree?** Jane Godwin, illus Terry Denton, *HGCP*
- **The Concrete Garden** Bob Graham, *Walker Books Aus*
- **Grace and Mr Milligan** Caz Goodwin, illus Pip Kruger, *Marshall Cavendish*
- **Gymnastica Fantastica!** Briony Stewart, *Lothian Hachette Australia*
- **One Little Duck** Katrina Germein, illus Danny Snell, *HarperCollins*



2024 SHORTLIST AWARD FOR NEW ILLUSTRATOR

- **Etta and the Shadow Taboo** Jeremy Worrall, written by J M Field, *Bright Light/ HGCP*
- **Grace and Mr Milligan** Pip Kruger, written by Caz Goodwin, *Marshall Cavendish*
- **Hope Is the Thing** Erica Wagner, written by Johanna Bell, *A&U Children's*
- **Phonobet** Kim Drane, written by Kathy Weeden, *NLA Publishing*
- **Raised by Moths** Michelle Conn, written by Charlie Archbold, *MidnightSun*
- **When You're a Boy** Blake Nuto, *Affirm Press*

BITS OF CBCA CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK®

Start reading and planning now for some special events:



Collide with the Notables is a competition that invites you to make a book trailer about one of the 2024 NOTABLE books of the year. Website information may change slightly from 2023.

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

Become a **Shadow Judge** by reading the Shortlist and judging along with the adult judging panels.

You can help determine the “best books.”

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/>



SHARING A STORY FROM PAGE TO STAGE

Stories can take on many forms. They may come from real life or books or stage or song. And sometimes, they surprise us by shape-shifting into any or all of the above.

The story of Vivian Bullwinkel is a remarkable part of Australian history no matter how you look at it.

While Vivian's story obviously begins with a real life, her strength of character and her tireless concern for others has been acknowledged in biographies, museums, plays and through music.

Her amazing story has been shared widely beyond her actual lifetime and continues to come to life from page to stage to music and a special place in Australian history.

Sister Vivian Bullwinkel was an Australian Army nurse and the only survivor of the Bangka Island massacre during World War II. She was a prisoner of war for three years and worked tirelessly to help her fellow prisoners. Her evocative story is told through the eyes of fifteen-year-old Edith 'Edie' Kenneison.

Photograph P03960.001 Australian War Memorial

Courage Be My Friend: The Vivian Bullwinkel Story

By **JENNY DAVIS**

Theatre 180 / Fremantle Press

Acknowledgement :

Courage Be My Friend: The Vivian Bullwinkel Story by Jenny Davis (Theatre 180 / Fremantle Press)

Preface acknowledgment:

Courage Be My Friend is based on the playscript *21 Hearts: Viviane Bullwinkel and the Nurses of the Vyner Brooke*. Written by Jenny Davis and first performed by THEATRE 180, April 2024. <https://fremantlepress.com.au/contributor/jenny-davis/>



Jenny is an author with extensive experience in theatre which enables her to capture the points of view of real and imagined people whether they are in life, on the page or on the stage. These characters shape our perspective of their situations.

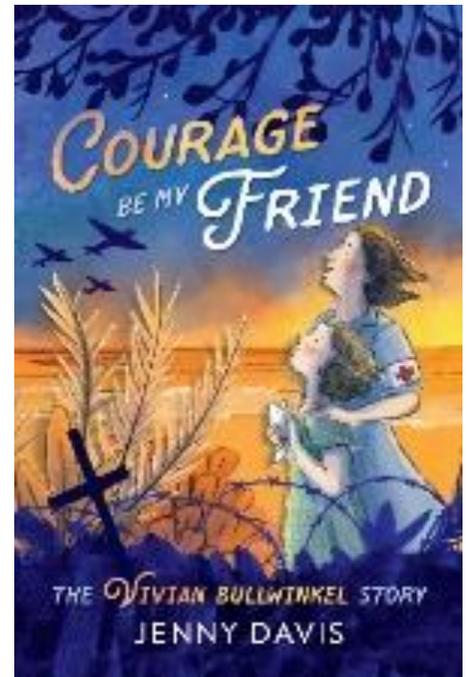




Courage be my Friend: the Vivian Bullwinkel Story

by Jenny Davis

Fremantle Press



<https://fremantlepress.com.au/contributor/jenny-davis/>

I have been aware of Vivian’s story during WWII for around 20 years. While researching war stories for other plays, I thought more about it a year ago, because of the work by the Nurses Federation to raise her statue at the War Memorial in Canberra. The moment felt right to do my bit in bringing the story to wider attention.

I have told women’s stories in Australian history and particularly want to relate how women are affected by war. Tales of bravery and tragedy in wartime are about men. Here is one about women containing everything – drama, tension, pathos, warmth, humour, camaraderie, and most importantly, courage and hope. I want to tell stories that move us, entertain us, and ultimately have an uplifting message about the human spirit.



By interviewing several people who knew her later in her life and by reading many accounts of her younger years, I discovered that Vivian was even more remarkable than I expected. Each source was full of admiration: for her cheerful, kind, and generous nature, her courage and determination, her quiet leadership skills, her commanding presence, her energy and humanity, her wisdom, patience, and dignity. Vivian endured so much and cared for her companions throughout her ordeals on Bangka and in the camps, and she spent the rest of her life improving the nursing

Photograph P03960.001 Australian War Memorial

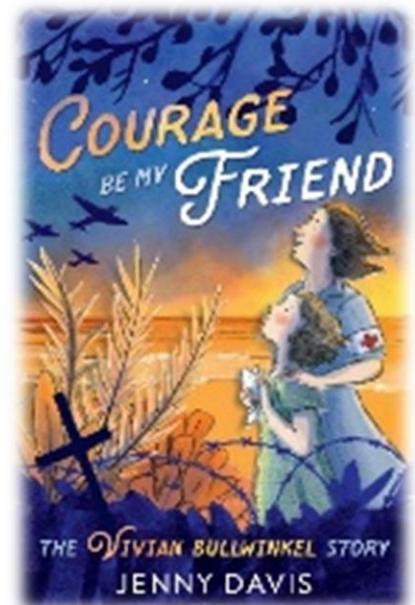
profession and lives of others. The awards she received were immensely deserved. Perhaps most remarkable, she had no hatred for those who had harmed her. She saw no point and said that “hate eats you from the inside”, and she wanted to live and thrive.

During my research I became aware of the large number of people who viewed Vivian as their mentor. The most passionate of those was young Edie, who avowed that she survived the camps because of Vivian, and as an elderly woman spoke of Vivian as meaning the world to her. The close friendship, born in a period of great hardship and danger, lasted a lifetime, and I have been struck by the power of friendship bringing out the best and most unselfish elements of our nature.

I enjoy writing plays of an historical nature. I love bringing to life characters and conversations, imagining their thoughts and feelings and how they might respond to events in past worlds with different sensibilities to ours. I also love uncovering human elements about them that are the same for us today. I need to have a particular interest in the person at the centre of the story so that when I finish writing I know them so much better.

I have spent all my life working in the theatre as an actor and director, so writing for the theatre comes naturally to me: finding the arc of the story and the journeys of the characters, creating the highs and lows, different tempos, moods and pace. I don't feel that writing a book is so very much different. With a novel you can indulge more in descriptions of place, action and interior thoughts. You don't need the characters to give information, and in both cases, you are still telling a story. Oddly, my plays have always borrowed from prose writing in a way that wouldn't suit all playwrights. I like to utilise a lyrical style in monologues addressed to the audience that can move the play along by telling segments of the story and even describe offstage action or that can emphasise a thought or create a mood. I believe that the novel genre influences my playwriting, and I also think being a playwright influenced *Courage Be My Friend* - in the way the drama unfolds and in the dialogue I hear in my head very much like a play.

I was interested in telling the story from two points of view, Vivian's view as an adult nurse with many responsibilities, and Edie's as a young girl forced to grow up in such a cruel place. They help each other and both are changed by their experiences. Maybe without the other they would not have found a way forward without bitterness, despair, and a sense of purpose that helped them survive.



SYDNEY WOMEN'S VOCAL ORCHESTRA – Songs and stories

<https://sydneywomensvocalorchestra.wordpress.com/>

The Sydney Women's Vocal Orchestra (SWVO) formed in 2002 to learn the repertoire published as *"Song of Survival"* – eighteen pieces of music arranged and rehearsed in secret by the women who were prisoners of war at Palembang, Sumatra during WWII. The prisoners used music as a means of coping with their extremely difficult and dangerous situations. Their harmonies served to help them bond as survivors and cherish being alive. The music serves as yet another means of sharing their story.

The SWVO choir is made up of around 30 singers of varying ages and from different parts of Sydney and the Central Coast of NSW. The choir has performed at community events, commemoration services and 2005 and 2024 National Folk Festival, Canberra. SWVO is honoured to sing at the annual commemoration of the Fall of Singapore at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, held 15 February.

The repertoire is 'standard classical' sung to different vowel sounds. The only exception is a song with words, *"The Captives' Hymn"*, composed by Margaret Dryburgh during her imprisonment and sung by the original vocal orchestra.

With thanks to SWVO for sharing their songs and stories at the National Folk Festival 2024



THE MORRIE MATTERS... ARE YOU A READER?

KIDS' CORNER has asked for the help of Morrie and Magic Morrie to catch up with your ideas about **READING**.



Everyone knows that *of course you SHOULD read*. Basically, reading helps you think about and develop even greater ideas.

READING:

- gives you new words and ideas for your brain to work with,
- introduces you to new people (AKA "characters") and their experiences,
- helps your imagination grow, and
- can help make you care or think about topics that aren't part of everyday life.



An Australian study asked 13,000 high school students what they think about reading. It slots them into categories of different types of readers.

Based on information published: April 5, 2024 in *The CONVERSATION* <https://theconversation.com/au/books>
From 'Fiction Fanatic' to 'Book Abstainer': which type of reader is your teenager?

Do these types of readers sound like you? Why?

- 1. FICTION FANATICS:** love to read and read daily, especially fiction
- 2. REGULAR BOOKWORMS:** like reading fiction, news and online articles at least several times a week
- 3. RUSHED FANS:** feel positive about reading fiction and other 2 – 6 times per week and more over the holidays.
- 4. CASUAL DABBLERS:** read only 1-3 times per week, they feel less positive about reading.
- 5. HOLIDAY BROWSERS:** read infrequently and feel more neutral about reading. They are more likely to read fiction during holidays.
- 6. SPARSE READERS:** have neutral to negative feelings about reading and tend to read articles or fiction weekly.
- 7. BOOK ABSTAINERS:** don't engage with books or short-form reading

What do you think?



- Is there a bit of magic in reading?
- What do you like about reading?
- Why do people read?
- How can kids be encouraged to read?

Share your ideas -

TOPIC: *The Morries and reading*

Keep your answers fairly short (ie 30 words per question) so we can fit some of them into future issues of **KC**. Only your first name will be used.

Please check with your parents, carer or teacher before emailing your ideas to **KIDS' CORNER**

c/o jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com



With thanks to Alex Wharton for sharing the initial research article and ideas.

IMAGINING a Morrie Story – a start

Morrie, our **KC** mascot, and Magic Morrie, a new friend, both know that **READING IS MAGIC**. Reading and magic are different for each person. A basic story really doesn't need much to get started - a few characters, a bit of a surprise, and some imagination can get you started.

Can you draft the start of a story using the two Morries and then introduce a surprise to get your story started? Remember all stories start with a bit of an idea. And then, just let your story grow from the “story starter” you created.

Characters, like the Morries, and a bit of a surprise, like MAGIC, give you a couple of story starters. Start by describing something about each Morrie. Then, introduce a surprise of some kind to get your story started. Remember, you start with a draft and let the “story starter” that you created grow.

So, what is their story? You be the author.



A MORRIE Story Starter

This issue of **KC** was compiled with the help of LOTS of people who love reading, writing, thinking and creating. Enjoy the holidays - a perfect time for fresh air and new ideas. Happy reading always.

Cheers- Morrie, MAGIC MORRIE and many more.

To share your ideas for **KIDS' CORNER** <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner> please contact Jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com

