



# Kids' Corner

October 2019

October marks **TWO** years that **CBCA NSW Branch KIDS' CORNER** has been happening. KC has diversified and changed, thanks largely to the input of many of our Australian authors and illustrators, plus promotion of important events in our world. Morrie will certainly stay on as our mascot, but (hint) is about ready for your help to generate a 'new look'. His focus remains readers from about age 10 and up. Morrie was named after Maurice Saxby, "the Godfather of Australian children's literature", whose life's work focused on children, their books, and the activities of CBCA which began in 1945.

October focuses on the challenging worlds of YA literature for older readers, help with issues, Children's week, a hint of Halloween, and more. Happy reading always - Jackie and Morrie



## YA OLDER READERS - WHY NOT?

Hear about Young Adult literature from the people who know - authors!

REACHOUT - <https://au.reachout.com>



REACHOUT is a safe space for young people to learn about what they can do to get through tough times.

Psstt...  
READING isn't scary.  
NOT READING is!

GhOst READ

Children's Week October 19-27

Tell the world about an issue that is important to you and to other children and young people in 2019.



Make a difference!



ART & DESIGN:  
LUCIE TOWERS

Have a spooky boo-ky All-Hallows Read!

## WELCOME TO YA & OLDER READERS

This month's focus on YA (Young Adult) & Older Readers' novels deals with books involving fairly mature awareness and involvement with the world. The readership for **KC** is kids aged around 10 years plus, so the maturity level for some YA books may not quite what younger readers are ready for. **KC** is conscious of trying to push for "older readers" content while being mindful of

the lower end of the ages involved in KC. It is often worthwhile to talk with a trusted person if the content of a book causes you any concern.

The books featured in the issue are mainly from the shortlists of various awards. They certainly create room for discussion, but most importantly, reveal more books to share.

**CENSORSHIP** can involve monitoring, limiting or disallowing availability or use of ideas, text, images and more. It can come from legal, personal or other sources. Different groups have different criteria. Often topics that people can feel strongly about such as family



relationships, sexuality, personal identity, friendship and belonging, political change, and more may be subject to censorship. Similar topics can be dealt with in different ways. Think about what is appropriate for whom. It is always good to talk about any part of books that concern you.

## BITS OF CBCA BOOK WEEK

### CBCA NSW Branch KIDS' BOOK of the YEAR EVENT

with the reading team of Northmead CAPA High School – Zoie, Toby, Garnet, and Elena with Belinda Doyle, Teacher-librarian

*"The KIDS' Convention was an experience for everyone to enjoy."* [Zoie] Students from 12 schools joined with nearly 300 others at the CBCA NSW Book of the Year Awards event in Sydney to offer reviews and comments about the Short listed titles for Older and for Younger readers.

*"It was good to see what goes through an author's mind on a daily basis, especially for book lovers like me."* [Toby] Sue Whiting and Jules Faber kept fiction travelling along with quizzes and behind the scenes hints about their own writing and stories.

*"Jules' artwork of the surprise portrait of Sue was like magic. Getting to hear about how Sue writes her books, and what goes through her head when she does, is incredible."* [Garnet]

The best part was the sharing stories and ideas. *"It was really nice to get to know some people I have never met before . . . even authors. We all got free books and book marks. Overall, the whole trip was awesome."*

[Elena] *"Getting to go to the CBCA day was an amazing experience."* [Garnet]



## THE CBCA BOOK OF THE YEAR

### SHORTLIST at the YOUTH REVIEW FORUM

Student readers from **The King's School**, Parramatta and **Ravenswood School for Girls**, Gordon share comments from their discussion of the shortlisted titles from CBCA 2019 Older Reader category.

**Lenny's Book of Everything** - **Anthony** "loved the characters and the plot and found the book very emotional." **Leo** found it "sad and heart-warming." **Michael** summed it up as being "filled with emotion. It plays with all sorts of imperfections, longing for family, an act of revenge and a hope for recovery."

**Between Us** - **Elijah** found it "relevant to the current social and political landscape." **Michael** commented on "the connection between two very different students - a captivating read that brings all sorts of feelings towards adversity".

**Small Spaces** - **Imogen** enjoyed "the pacing and constant swap of time and perspectives. This allowed the reader to form their own opinions as to whether Sparrow was real or not and how the book would end. **Leo** chose it as his favourite even though it "messes with your head".

**The Art of Taxidermy** was **Yvonne's** favourite because of the verse writing style and the ideas of preserving life and memories. According to

**Michael**, "the desire to be and do something shines in this uniquely written novel- even when your life is broken and others oppose you." **Daniel** labelled it "a fantastic book."

**Changing gear** - **Leo** commented that "it was a tad unrealistic but would be 'very cool' if it really happened." **Daniel** quite enjoyed "how it discusses some pretty deep subjects, while doing it in a light-hearted way." **Michael** appreciated "this adventurous novel about the need to facilitate change in life, bringing in realities of both our harsh and kind world."

**Yvonne** summed up: "Reading the shortlisted books gave me an opportunity to experience a wide range of literature. All the books explored different themes and topics that were often quite relevant."

The two schools' **Youth Review Forum** gave students a voice about the CBCA Shortlist. They are already looking forward to the 2020 CBCA NSW event and the surrounding literary discussion. Compiled by **Mrs P. Mathur** (The King's School, Parramatta) & **Mrs K. Colmer** (Ravenswood School for Girls, Gordon), with their school reading teams.

## WHAT MAKES A BOOK "GOOD" FOR YA = YOUR AGE GROUP?

'A good book allows teenagers to embark on a journey filled with discovery of a new time, place, and perspective.' **Cristina** - **St Ursula's College**

Student readers from **The King's School**, Parramatta, also share their thoughts for books that include:

- mature themes (to an extent), not too childish or adult in nature;
- a reliable, gripping storyline to hook the readers. It should be fast-paced and exciting;
- emotionally challenging components;
- struggles and hardships embedded in character development;
- relatable and realistic characters;
- written in the first person;
- the protagonist should be a teenager;
- relatable portrayals of school life and relationships;
- realistic multi-cultural society/classroom/friendship group etc.

Reading Team - **Anthony, Daniel, Elijah, Ethan, Kavin, Michael, Rush, Tom and Zahir.**

Compiled by - **Mrs P. Mathur (Teacher Librarian, The King's School, Parramatta)**

**AWARDS** - Several major **LITERATURE AWARDS** focus on **YA** or **Older Readers** Books are submitted for different prizes according to the specific guidelines. While winners have been announced, the information here lists the broader titles included in shortlists for each award.

### AWARD - CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers

Entries in this category may be fiction, drama, illustrated text, poetry or graphic novels. They should be appropriate in style and content for young people aged between 13 and 18 years in their secondary years of schooling. Readers require a degree of maturity to appreciate the themes and scope of emotional involvement. <https://www.cbca.org.au/entry-information>

### 2019 CBCA SHORT LIST: Older Readers

**Between Us** - Clare Atkins (Black Inc.) **\*WINNER\***

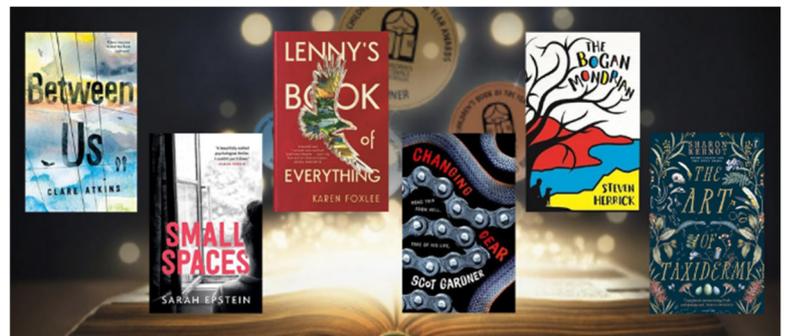
**Small Spaces** - Sarah Epstein (Walker)

**Lenny's Book of Everything** - Karen Foxlee, (A&U)

**Changing Gear** - Scot Gardner (A&U)

**The Bogan Mondrian** - Steven Herrick (UQP)

**The Art of Taxidermy** - Sharon Kernot (Text)



<https://www.booktopia.com.au/blog/2019/03/27/2019-cbca-shortlists/>

### AWARD - THE INKY AWARDS

The awards are for local and international fiction, poetry, anthologies and graphic novels written for young adults. They are voted on by teen readers. The Inky Awards are Australia's only YA award completely selected by teenagers. The shortlist is created by our dedicated team of teen Inky Awards judges, which is then open to voting by Australian teenagers aged 12-19.

<https://insideadog.com.au/the-inky-awards/>

The titles shortlisted for the **GOLD INKY AWARD** (for an Australian book) are:

**Hive** - A J Betts (Pan)

**A Thousand Perfect Notes** - C G Drews (Orchard Books)

**Amelia Westlake** - Erin Gough (Hardie Grant Egmont)

**Whisper** - Lynette Noni (Pantera) **\*WINNER\***

**After the Lights Go Out** - Lili Wilkinson (A&U)



**WINNER - WHISPER**  
by Lynette NONI

## AWARD - ETHEL TURNER PRIZE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE

The Ethel Turner Prize (\$30,000) is offered for a work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry written for young people of secondary school level. <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/about-library/awards/nsw-premiers-literary-awards/ethel-turner-prize-young-peoples-literature>

The judging panel assesses the literary merit of each submitted work. Literary merit is understood to encompass an assessment of the applicant's writing ability, focusing on the following: style, appropriateness of form, skilled use of language, clarity of expression and sustained development of themes or ideas. An ability to engage the reader/ intended audience is also important.

*Between Us* - Clare Atkins (Black Inc.)

*Small Spaces* - Sarah Epstein (Walker)

*I Am Out With Lanterns* - Emily Gale (Random House Children's)

*Amelia Westlake* - Erin Gough (Hardie Grant Egmont)

**\*WINNER\***

*Stone Girl* - Eleni Hale (Penguin)

*The Art of Taxidermy* - Sharon Kernot (Text)



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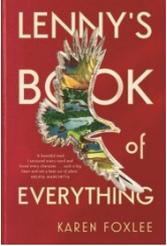
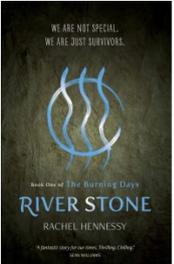
## YOUNG ADULT and OLDER READERS - WHY NOT? WHY YA?

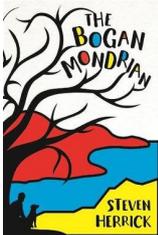
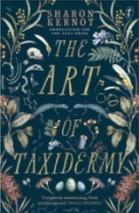
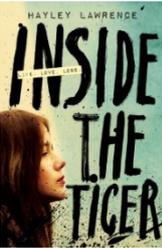
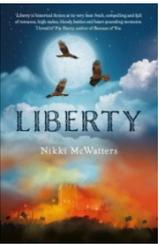
What makes it unique/ special/ important for all?

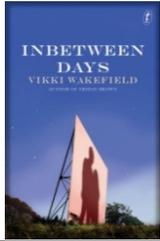
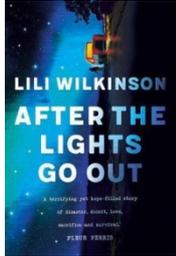
Hear about young adult literature from the people who know - authors!

Many of these authors are from the **INKY Short list**, the **Ethel Turner Prize**, the **CBCA Book of the Year Shortlist**, or the APRIL KC listing of Notably NSW authors. There are also a number of other amazing authors who create unique stories for **YA** and **Older Readers**.

<p><b>CLARE ATKINS</b></p> 	<p><i>-Between Us</i> (Black Inc.).  <i>-Nona and Me</i> (Black Inc.).  <i>"In Nona &amp; Me I wanted readers to experience life in a remote Aboriginal community, and in Between Us they get the chance to walk in the shoes of a teenager living in detention"</i>.</p>	<p><i>Teenagers are so open to new ideas and experiences that a good YA novel can not only transport them to a different world, it can make them want to go out and explore it for themselves... I've had emails and heard stories from teenage readers who have been inspired to volunteer in Aboriginal communities or protest for human rights. There is nothing more rewarding than that. <b>Clare ATKINS</b></i></p>
<p><b>A J BETTS</b></p>	<p><i>-Hive</i> (Pan Australia).  <i>-Rogue</i> (Pan Australia).</p>	
<p><b>WAI CHIM</b></p>	<p><i>-The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling</i> (A&amp;U).</p>	

<p><b>SARAH EPSTEIN</b></p> 	<p><b>-Small Spaces</b> (Walker Books)  <i>"My debut novel is a YA psychological thriller called <b>Small Spaces</b> about seventeen-year-old Tash and her gruesome imaginary friend."</i></p>	<p><i>I love the challenge of writing YA because teens are astute and critical readers. They won't hesitate in discarding a book if it's not holding their interest, so if they tell me my story is a page-turner, I know I've done my job! <b>Sarah EPSTEIN</b></i></p>
<p><b>KAREN FOXLEE</b></p> 	<p><b>-Lenny's Book of Everything</b> (Allen and Unwin). A girl who loves beetles, a boy who won't stop growing, and an encyclopedia set.  <b>-The Anatomy of Wings</b> (UQP). A ten-year old tells the story of the sudden death of her teenage sister in an outback mining town."  <b>-The Midnight Dress</b> (UQP). Two girls. A dress. A night that changes everything.</p>	<p><i>YA is important, in all its forms, all its genres. Young people need to see themselves in stories – represented in all their amazingly diverse, intense, fragile, wise, strong, hopeful, crazy, beautiful wonderfulness. <b>Karen FOXLEE</b></i></p>
<p><b>ERIN GOUGH</b></p> 	<p><b>-Amelia Westlake</b> (Hardie Grant Egmont).  A timely romantic comedy of two opposites attracting, connecting and fighting for justice together at a private girls' school  <b>-Flywheel</b> (Hardie Grant Egmont). A tender true story of girl meets girl, falling in love and finding your feet.</p>	<p><i>The special thing about reading YA is the insight it gives you into the minds of characters having similar life experiences to you. No other art form lets you enter the consciousness of another human being quite like a good novel. <b>Erin GOUGH</b></i></p>
<p><b>RACHEL HENNESSY</b></p> 	<p><b>-Riverstone</b> (Midnight Sun). Pandora, of the River People, lives in a future on the brink of extinction. When disaster strikes, the fight for her village brings her into contact with a whole new world, beyond the boundaries and society's past expectations.</p>	<p><i>Reading stories that you can connect with is essential, no matter how young or old you are. Books that are labelled "Young Adult" might have protagonists who are younger than in stories written for adults, but they should share some fundamentals of great story-telling: characters you care about doing things, which excite the imagination, and make you consider different issues relevant to your life. <b>Rachel HENNESSY</b></i></p>

<p><b>STEVEN HERRICK</b></p> 	<p><b>-Bogan Mondrian</b> (UQP).</p>	<p><i>Now more than ever, we all need stories of empathy and compassion, stories of diversity and sensitivity, stories that lead us towards hope and renewal.</i> <b>Steven HERRICK</b></p>
<p><b>CATHERINE JINKS</b></p>	<p><b>-Pagan</b> and <b>Pagan's Crusade</b> (A&amp;U) probably fit YA. <b>-The Reformed Vampire Support Group</b> (A &amp; U) is definitely YA. <b>-A Very Unusual Pursuit</b> (A&amp;U) suits older readers. <b>-Evil Genius</b> (A&amp;U) older readers.</p>	<p><i>You get an idea, you work out a compelling character and then you follow their story. If the character is strong enough, he or she will have motives and reactions and problems that will give you the 'issues' and themes of the book.</i> <b>Catherine JINKS</b></p>
<p><b>SHARON KERNOT</b></p> 	<p><b>-The Art of Taxidermy</b> (Text). A YA verse novel exploring love and grief and the strange but wonderful art of taxidermy.</p>	<p><i>YA books are incredibly important. They offer a place for teens to explore, learn, think about and connect with a range of complex issues and characters in safe and meaningful ways.</i> <b>Sharon KERNOT</b></p>
<p><b>WILL KOSTAKIS</b></p>	<p><b>- Monuments</b> (Hachette) <b>-Sidekicks</b> (Penguin Random House)</p>	
<p><b>HAYLEY LAWRENCE</b></p> 	<p><b>-Inside The Tiger</b> (Penguin). In writing <b>Inside The Tiger</b>, I loved being able to explore gritty topics like prison life, privilege vs poverty, the value of a life and what the death penalty means. - <b>Hayley LAWRENCE</b></p>	<p><i>YA literature explores the technicoloured world that opens to young people as they transition to adulthood. YA doesn't patronize, it inspires and educates. Most of all, it celebrates what it means to be human.</i> <b>Hayley LAWRENCE</b></p>
<p><b>NIKKI McWATTERS</b></p> 	<p><b>-Hexenhaus</b>, <b>-Liberty</b>, and <b>-Saga</b> (UQP). My three books in a read-in-any-order trilogy look at young women who pushed boundaries and trail-blazed through history but whose stories remain relevant in today's world. – <b>Nikki McWATTERS</b></p>	<p><i>As a YA writer, I like to put a strong focus on young adult characters to serve as inspirational and relevant role models for the emerging generation of future leaders. YA is for everyone yet it speaks most to those who are facing similar challenges in their own lives.</i> <b>Nikki McWATTERS</b></p>

<p><b>SOPHIE MASSON</b></p> 	<p><b>-Jack of Spades</b> (Eagle Books). A gripping, original thriller for older readers set in Paris in 1910.</p>	<p><i>What is YA? Books for teenagers, sure—but which recognise the rich diversity of that readership by encompassing pretty much everything from sheer glorious entertainment to confronting explorations of social issues. Sophie MASSON</i></p>
<p><b>LYNETTE NONI</b></p>	<p><b>-Whisper</b> (Pantera Press)</p>	
<p><b>JAMES ROY</b></p>	<p><b>Numerous titles. See website</b> <a href="http://jamesroy.com.au/books">http://jamesroy.com.au/books</a></p>	
<p><b>VIKKI WAKEFIELD</b></p> 	<p><b>-Inbetween Days</b> (Text Publishing). <b>-Ballad for a Mad Girl</b> (Text Publishing) <b>-This Is How We Change the Ending</b> (Text).A story about what it takes to fight back when you're not a hero.</p>	<p><i>'YA books for older readers matter—often the focus is on reading adult literature during high school, but young people still need stories for and about them.'</i>- <b>Vikki WAKEFIELD</b></p>
<p><b>KAREN WEST</b></p> 	<p><b>-Living Voice</b> (Hybrid Press). Family, organ transplant, friendships</p>	<p><i>Adolescents live in a world of curiosity, which may include anxiety and fear of the unknown. Reading plays a vital role in the development and reassurance of these young minds. . . There is a fine balance when writing for teenagers, leaving the adult world behind is a challenge How much is too much? Should authors hold back to protect teens from knowing too much? - Karen WEST</i></p>
<p><b>SUE WHITING</b></p> 	<p><b>-Missing</b> (Walker Books). <i>The story of Mackenzie da Luca's quest to discover the truth about her mother's disappearance in Panama</i></p>	<p><i>Why YA? Adolescence is such an intense and challenging period of our lives – a time of great change, transformation and self-discovery. Young adult literature speaks to this momentous time, creating emotionally charged and powerful stories. Raw. Honest. Important. - Sue WHITING</i></p>
<p><b>LILI WILKINSON</b></p> 	<p><b>-After The Lights Go Out</b> (A&amp;U). A survival thriller about the daughter of a doomsday prepper surviving a disaster. <b>-The Boundless Sublime</b> (A&amp;U). A dark psychological thriller about cults and brainwashing. <b>-Green Valentine</b> (A&amp;U). A romantic comedy about guerrilla gardening and the importance of community.</p>	<p><i>To me, Older Readers describes a readership which is (I think) high school aged kids. YA is more about the content of the books - stories about young adults exploring the world they live in. While children's literature usually asks the question who am I? YA is more about asking How do I relate to the institutions around me? It's about power, identity and intensity. Lili WILKINSON</i></p>

<p><b>CLAIRE ZORN</b></p>  <p>ONE WOULD THINK THE DEEP CLAIRE ZORN</p>	<p>Three award-winning YA novels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>The Sky So Heavy</i> (UQP)</li> <li>-<i>The Protected</i> (UQP)</li> <li>-<i>One Would Think the Deep</i> (UQP)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Whilst YA indicates the age range a book is targeted to, the label also brings certain stylistic conventions which make it distinct from novels which are simply about teenagers. YA novels are typically snappy in pace and concise in plot, with strong relatable characters. But beyond these characteristics they offer an ingredient sometimes lacking in literature: hope. YA novels often tackle weighty issues, but there is always so much heart and light to be found in their pages. – Claire ZORN</i></p>
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Is there is a difference in writing a book **ABOUT** teens or **FOR** teens?  
**Check the websites of these and many other authors for more discussions to share.**

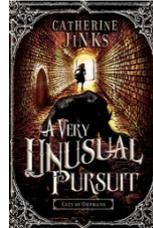
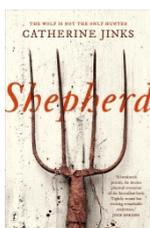
## Thinking about - where do books “FIT”? - Catherine JINKS

'*Shepherd*' was originally a screenplay. When I rewrote it as YA, it was too realistically gory to be YA, so I made it a bit more “adult” with more background and a different ending. One bookshop is promoting it to senior boys because they think it really hits the spot – “fast paced and gory with a young protagonist”. So, a crossover book basically.

When I'm writing, I usually pitch more adult content (teenage pregnancy, violent crime or whatever) at YA and make the protagonist no younger than 14. With YA, I don't worry as much about the complexity of the words or the length of the chapters and paragraphs.

When writing for younger kids, I'm conscious of all those things. That's why I definitely set out to write for a particular age group. Unless you're doing something REALLY different, certain subjects go into certain slots - talking animals, for instance, aren't YA fare.

Writing about 'issues' is not what I do. You get an idea, you work out a compelling character and then you follow their story. If the character is strong enough, he or she will have motives and reactions and problems that will give you the 'issues' and themes of the book. Starting out wanting to write about 'climate change' or 'immigration' ... I don't think that's the way to go.



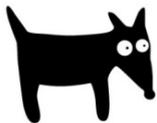
## LINKS 4 U – extra links, info and details

**LoveOzYA** <https://loveozya.com.au/> is a movement dedicated to supporting and celebrating our national youth literature and helping you discover your next great read!

Through our website and newsletter, we let readers know about the latest Aussie YA releases, news and events, and provide resources and activities, such as author interviews and Book Bingo, to help you learn more about your favourite stories as well as finding new ones.



**LoveOzYA** is overseen by a dedicated committee of volunteers, but anyone with YA news to share can to submit to our website, and there's always a vibrant discussion about Aussie YA happening online, which you can join by tagging #LoveOzYA and giving us a follow on Twitter, Insta and Facebook. - With thanks to Margot



**INSIDEADOG**

***INSIDE A DOG** is to be a virtual home for teens where you can share your love of reading and books. It is run by the State Library Victoria <https://insideadog.com.au/about/>.*

**What can I do on the site?** You can access: blogs, book discussions, reviews, author, background, workshops, regular writing prompts, writers in residence, competitions, events, writing skills, share ideas and more.

The **INKY AWARDS** are coordinated through **INSIDE A DOG**. They are "Australia's only teen choice book awards. *The Inky Awards* give young adults across Australia the opportunity to vote for their favourite YA release of the year. The awards are divided into two categories: the Gold Inky for Australian fiction and the Silver Inky for international fiction."

<https://insideadog.com.au/the-inky-awards/>

**CHILDREN'S WEEK** <https://www.childrensweek.org.au/>



**October 19-27** is a "national celebration of children's rights, talents and citizenship and always celebrated around Universal Children's Day which is held on the fourth Wednesday of October in Australia."

Tell the world about an issue that is important to you and to other children and young people in 2019.

**REACHOUT** <https://au.reachout.com/>

**REACHOUT** is an on-line space for young people to learn about what they can do to get through tough times. REACHOUT offers on-line practical support, tools, and tips related to improving well-being for young people and their parents.



Once again, there are lots of books suited across lots of ages. Often there are "so many books and so little time". Read on and on with books for all ages. Happy reading always. Cheers - Morrie



**KC** for October 2019 was coordinated by Jackie Hawkes; Lucie Towers with extra input from reading teams from: Northmead CAPA HS, St Ursula's College, The King's School, and Ravenswood School for Girls; our featured authors; and other people with good ideas.