

KIDS' CORNER

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AUGUST 2025
Volume.9 No.5

**CBCA
2025**

Bits of Book Week

NOTABLY NSW
Creators

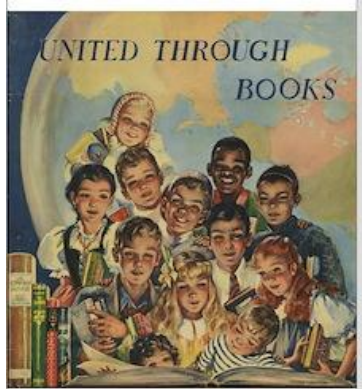
MOUSE TALES
Creative Kids

Celebrating CBCA
with KIDS and KC

© Cover by Nisaluk Chantanakom



WELCOME - Celebrating 80 years of the Children's Book Council of Australia

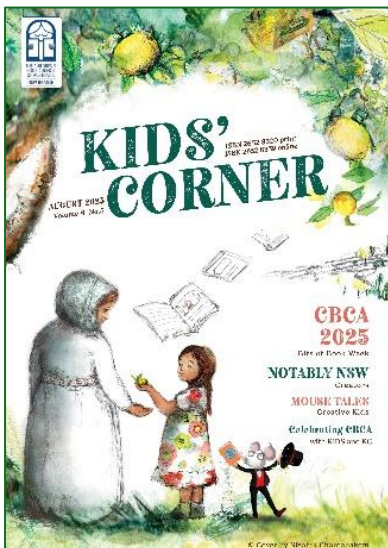


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2025

Celebrating CBCA with Kids and KC



Images by CBCA Shortlisted New Illustrator and KC Guest Illustrator, **Nisaluk Chantanakom**, remind us that CBCA Children's Book Week® is a special time to feature books and stories across generations.

This year, record numbers of readers, from those in the smallest primary schools to the thousands who visit the State Library of NSW daily, have celebrated the best of Australian stories that have been part of reading adventures since the CBCA was established 80 years ago.

KC is happy to be part of sharing:

- KC4KC = Kids' Comments for KIDS' CORNER** <https://www.cbcansw.org.au/kids-corner> about all aspects of reading, (with thanks to the reading teams from William Clarke College, Pymble Ladies College, Rouse Hill Anglican College, Wentworthville PS, St Andrews Cathedral School, Presbyterian Ladies College Sydney.
- ideas from Australian creatives who are legends, and those who are new to writing and illustrating.

Every time you **"Book an Adventure"**, you are part of the history and growth of quality Australian Children's Literature.

Happy reading always with stories from the past, the present, and the future.



Cheers - Morrie, MaryAnne Ann O'Mouse, Magic Morrie, and Adventure Morrie



KIDS' CORNER CONTENTS

AUGUST 2025



WELCOME – Celebrating CBCA with Kids & KC.....	Page 2
CONTENTS	Page 3
Guest Illustrator - NISALUK CHANTANAKOM	Pages 4 & 5
BOYA Winners/Honours/Others	Pages 6 – 8
SHADOW JUDGING Winners	Page 9
NOTABLY NSW	Page 10
NOTABLY NSW – Authors/Illustrators	Page 11
NNSW Picture Book Titles	Pages 12 – 17
COLLIDE REPORT	Page 18-20
SHADOW JUDGING	Pages 21-24
Book Week Characters	Page 26
BOOK WEEK History	Pages 24- 28

KIDS' COMMENTS FOR KIDS' CORNER = **KC4KC** = KIDS' COMMENTS FOR KIDS' CORNER



KC4KC

**What makes a
'Good Book'?**

An exciting storyline and interesting characters...and also very good illustrations - Amelie [William Clarke College]

A good plot, it is intriguing. – Alice [William Clarke College]

The story, the words, the characters. – Aditya [William Clarke College]

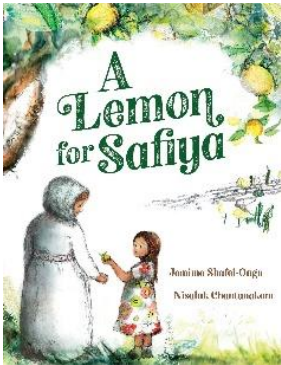
I love reading because it puts me into another world. - Isabelle [William Clarke College]

I like reading books that include many pictures to help imagine the situations with mages- Suhas- Wentworthville PS

Reading is what I do for enjoyment. I love to read as reading is a way to travel all over the world without moving. - Varunavie [Wentworthville PS.]



Welcome to **KIDS' CORNER- August 2025**
and THANK YOU to our
GUEST ILLUSTRATOR:
NISALUK CHANTANAKOM
<https://www.nisaluk.com.au/about-me>

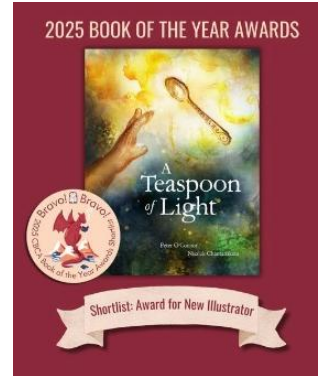


Nis has published two picture books:

-**A Lemon for Safiya**. Illustrated by Nisaluk Chantanakom, with text by **Jemima Shafei-Ongu**. (2025 - Lothian Children's Books)

AND

-**A Teaspoon of Light**. Illustrated by Nisaluk Chantanakom, with text by **Peter O'Connor**. (2024 - Dirt Lane Press) [SHORTLISTED for the **CBCA 2025 New Illustrators Award**.



Hello Readers!

My name is Nisaluk Chantanakom, but my friends call me Nis. I am an artist/illustrator and aspiring author. I've illustrated two picture books so far, with a third on the way! And a few bits and bobs of my own stories that I hope will be published one day.

I also work in primary schools, where I am part of a wonderful learning support team. I love seeing how teachers use books in the classroom. And it's always exciting when the creator of a story is one of my friends. The students know I am always curious about what they're reading and why they love it. Connecting with you, my readers, reminds me of how important it is to be a picture book illustrator — to create meaningful stories and beautiful artwork.

I would like to share with you how I made **A Teaspoon of Light**, a book on the CBCA Shortlist for the New Illustrator category, and **A Lemon for Safiya**, which recently came out on May 28th.

The two books are very different, but both explore memories. **A Teaspoon of Light** is about Marley, who has a dream cloth filled with old beautiful memories of her mother, grandmother, and home. When the cloth tears, she loses those memories and has to build new ones with her friends' help, and deal with grief by making new memories.

A Lemon for Safiya is about Safiya, who saw Myriam — an elderly Palestinian woman with dementia, looking helpless on the side of the road. As Safiya and her family kindly help Myriam, they discover her story and a gentle way of exploring the complex intersectionality of migration.

It was so interesting working on two books about memory at the same time! I made sure each had a unique art style. **A Teaspoon of Light** has a more muted palette and a classic, dream-like feel, influenced by old master artworks and a tonally darker book. I wanted a vibrant palette for **A Lemon for Safiya** to capture the bright blossoms of a lemon tree and a rougher texture compared to **A Teaspoon of Light**.

Before I even pick up a pencil, I dive deep into the story's words, soaking up its mood and emotions. Every book is different, and I find inspiration everywhere – sometimes from my own feelings, and sometimes from seeing things around me.

For *A Lemon for Safiya*, my own lemon tree in winter, bursting with bright yellow fruits, was a huge inspiration! I sketched its leaves, blossoms, and the texture of its peel. This led me to use crayons and rough-textured paper for the book's colours. The lemon itself became a visual thread connecting Myriam's present and her memories throughout the story.

My neighbour, an elderly Greek woman with dementia who often wandered into my backyard asking for lemons, also inspired how I drew Myriam. Seeing her confusion, I chose to show Myriam's memories as fragmented and childlike, using sketchy crayon marks and raw watercolours, contrasting them with the detailed, full-colour style of the present. It's a mixed-media project, combining many different art tools! I also love including little details from my life —like patterns from a Hebron tile I own, the super popular Squishmallows toy (Archie the Axolotl), and a pop-it fidget toy. Most of the inspiration came from what I see working at schools. I know this story was based on Jemima's personal experience of her own act of kindness. I think it's a beautiful way for us as a community to remember those who can be easily forgotten by our society.



I've included some of my sketches and favorite spreads here:



A Teaspoon of Light was a deeply personal project for me. After losing my mum, I immediately connected with Marley's story of loss. I researched how art can help heal from tough experiences, and this was deeply aligned with Peter's mission.



I wanted to create a diverse group of characters. Marley's dress was inspired by Mexican attire, Craig's by traditional Thai clothing



(my background), and Zyfer's by characters from *The Little Rascals*. I used pencil, charcoal, and watercolour. These traditional media were then brought together digitally through collaging and painting in Photoshop. I even referenced Old Masters and architecture, such as Albrecht Dürer's "Adoration of the Magi" and the inverted tower, also known as the "initiation well," at Quinta da Regaleira in Portugal.

Check out my process video on my website: <https://www.nisaluk.com.au/teaspoon-activity>.

I hope that each book has its own unique visual style that is tailored to each special story! I can't tell you much about my third book, but it's definitely not about memories. However, it equally addresses 'Diversity' and is extra special and heartwarming. Until then!





WELCOME TO the WINNERS - CBCA CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK ®

The Children's Book Council of Australia was established 80 years ago to promote Australian Children's literature. This year celebrates 80 years of Australian stories for children. Come on an adventure with us as we travel across lands, time, and memories.

Special thanks to all authors, illustrators and readers who have been and continue to be share part of the best of Australian Children's literature.

And the winners are ... READERS of all ages.

*BOOK AN
Adventure*



Hear the latest from *Biblio* – the land of stories and more...

2025 CBCA BOOK of the YEAR KIDS Announcing the AWARDS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVOFpFUsoZ4&ab_channel=Children%27sBookCouncilofAustralia

See the formal National announcement here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEpS1-F2BTU&ab_channel=Children%27sBookCouncilofAustralia

WINNERS ... HONORS ... OTHER ...

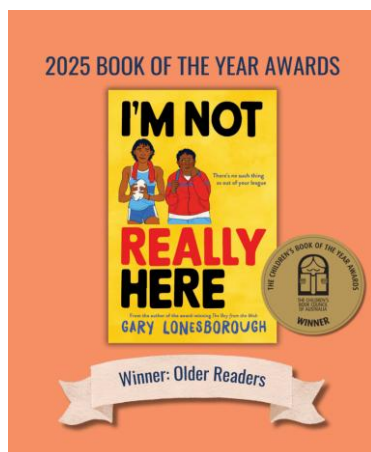
Listing the Winners and Honour Books...

https://cbca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025_CBCA-Book-of-the-Year.pdf



JOIN the BOYA JUDGES on YouTube as they discuss the 2025 shortlist and more...

(see links with each award category below)



Book of the Year Award: Older Readers

WINNER: *I'm Not Really Here* - Gary Lonesborough (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)

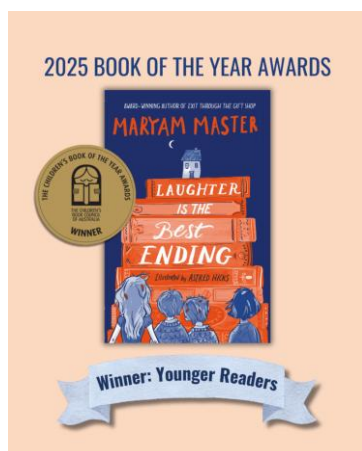
HONOUR BOOKS

Birdy - Sharon Kernot (Text Publishing)

Into the Mouth of the Wolf - Erin Gough (Hardie Grant Children's Publishing)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6vVYogsDds&ab_channel=Children%27sBookCouncilofAustralia



Book of the Year Award: Younger Readers

WINNER - *Laughter is the Best Ending* - by Maryam Master,

Illustrated by Astred Hicks (Pan Australia)

HONOUR BOOKS

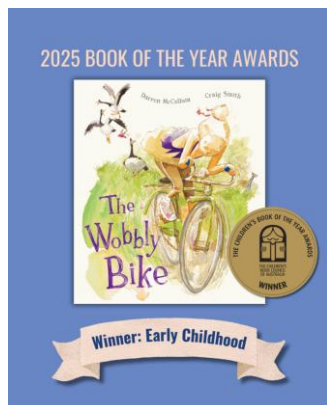
-Aggie Flea Steals the Show - Tania Ingram,

Illustrated by - A. Yi (Scholastic Australia)

-Fluff: Mess Up! - Matt Stanton (ABC Books)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU2fQ2rDZtM&ab_channel=Children%27sBookCouncilofAustralia



Book of the Year Award: Early Childhood

WINNER- *The Wobbly Bike* - Darren McCallum, ill. Craig Smith (Walker Books Australia)

HONOUR BOOKS

-*How to Move a Zoo* – Kate Simpson,

Illustrated by - Owen Swan (A&U Books for Children and Young Adults)

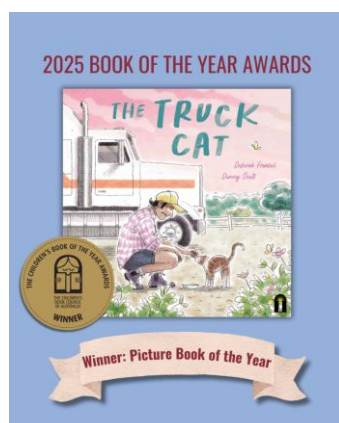
-*One Little Dung Beetle* – Rhiân Williams.

Illustrated by Heather Potter & Mark Jackson



(Wild Dog Books)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBUUA9vIcLU&ab_channel=Children%27sBookCouncilofAustralia



Picture Book of the Year Award

WINNER - *The Truck Cat* – Illustrated by Danny Snell,

Text by Deborah Frenkel (Bright Light)

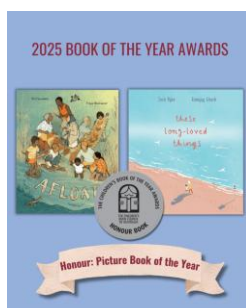
HONOUR Books

-*Afloat* - Illustrated by Freya Blackwood, text by Kirli Saunders (Little Hare)

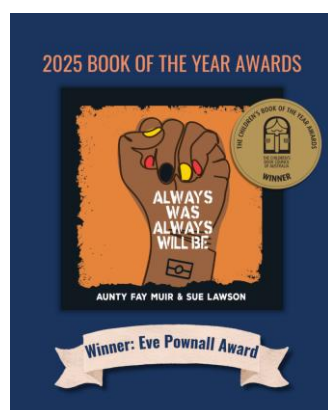
-*These Long-Loved Things* –

Illustrated by Ronojoy Ghosh.

Text by Josh Pyke (Scholastic Australia)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f166K7ZOdVY&ab_channel=Children%27sBookCouncilofAustralia



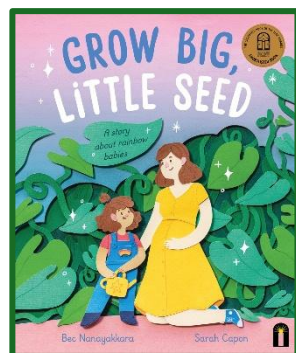
Book of the Year Award:

Eve Pownall Award for Information Books

WINNER - *Always Was, Always Will Be* by Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson (Magabala Books)

HONOR Books

-*Making the Shrine* by Laura J. Carroll (Crossley Press) - *South With the Seabirds* by Jess McGeachin (Allen& Unwin)



Book of the Year Award: New Illustrator

WINNER - *Grow Big, Little Seed*

- Illustrated by Sarah Capon.

- Text by Bec Nanayakkara (Hardie Grant Bright Light)

<https://www.hardiegrantgift.com.au/books/grow-big-little-seed-9781761212963>



READ, CREATE, VOTE – the Shadow Judges have decided...

The **SHADOW JUDGES** are teams of young people throughout Australia who have read and evaluated the shortlisted books from one of **the CBCA BOYA (Book of the Year Award)** categories. They used the same Book of the Year criteria as the adult judges to choose **the**

2025 SHADOW JUDGING WINNERS



Book of the year: Older Readers' Shadow Judging

- *Birdy* (Sharon Kernot, Text)



Book of the year: Younger Readers' Shadow Judging

- *Laughter Is the Best Ending* (Maryam Master, illus. by Astred Hicks, Pan)



Early Childhood Shadow Judging

- *Spiro* (Anna McGregor, Scribble)



Eve Pownall Award Shadow judging

- *Flora: Australia's Most Curious Plants* (Tania McCartney, NLA)
- *South with the Seabirds* (Jess McGeachin, A&U Children's)



Picture book of the year Shadow Judging

- *The Truck Cat* (Deborah Frenkel, illus. by Danny Snell, Bright Light)

shadow judging THE BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2025 Winner: Older Readers	JUDGING-WINNING AUTHOR OF DIT THROUGH THE OTT JARDY MARYAM MASTER LAUGHTER IS THE Best ENDING Illustrated by ASTRED HICKS	shadow judging THE BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2025 Joint Winners: Eve Pownall Award	shadow judging THE BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2025 Winner: Picture Book of the Year	shadow judging THE BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2025 Winner: Early Childhood
OLDER READERS	YOUNGER READERS	EVE POWNALL	PICTURE BOOK	EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Shadow judges also created their own responses to the books they read. See the poems, games, artworks, and more that they created for their chosen book. Be sure to check their

SHADOW JUDGING CREATIVE RESPONSES

<https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/all-creative-responses/>



NOTABLY NSW = Creatives on the CBCA NOTABLES LIST AND have links to NSW.



Every year, the Children's Book Council of Australia hosts the CBCA BOYA (Book of the Year Awards).

New South Wales often compiles a separate unofficial listing called "**NOTABLY NSW**" and promotes the project through **KIDS' CORNER** <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner>

The **NOTABLY NSW** books are those titles created by Authors or Illustrators who have links to New South Wales AND are included on the CBCA/ BOYA Notables list. Over 70 NSW creatives were involved in the 2025 **NOTABLY NSW** Project.



The **NNSW** logo is based on the Waratah, the NSW State floral emblem.

NNSW Authors and Illustrators = NOTABLY NSW AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS = Creatives with links to NSW.

In 2025, there are around **70** creatives/ authors and illustrators who were part of the **Notably NSW** listing. They were ALL included on the CBCA Notables List. Some are also on the Shortlist and Finalists.

NNSW Statistics [draft tally]

71 NNSW Authors and Illustrators/ 25 on* SHORTLIST+ on the NNSW listing 2025

OR = Older Readers	YR = Younger Readers	EC = Early Childhood	Pic = Picture Book
EP= Eve Pownall	NI= New Illustrator	SJ= Shadow Judging	(WINNERS and HONOR books are also shortlisted. Some SHORTLISTED books are also HONOUR books.)



Congratulations to all the 2025 NOTABLY NSW Authors and Illustrators



-Deb ABELA YR -Nat AMOORE YR -Eva AMORES YR -Liz ANELLI EP -Ashleigh BARTON EC -Sami BAYLY EP * Zoe BENNET - Pic SHORTLIST * Freya BLACKWOOD - Pic / EC SHORTLIST/ HONOR * -Nisaluk CHANTANAKOM – NI SHORTLIST -Chris CHENG Pic -Freda CHUI EC -Matt COSGROVE YR * David CRAGG - NI SHORTLIST * Noni CRAGG - NI SHORTLIST -Mo DAVEY EC * Blak DOUGLAS - EP- SHORTLIST -Carla FITZGERALD - YR -Kate FORSYTH- OR -Pamela FREEMAN - EP * -Jackie FRENCH - YR x 2 (1 SHORTLIST) * Ronojoy GHOSH - Pic SHORTLIST+ HONOUR -Morris GLEITZMAN – YR * Erin GOUGH – OR SHORTLIST/ HONOUR	- Sally Soweol HAN - Pic -Tanya HARRICKS x 2 -Pip HARRY - EC * Astrid HICKS – YR WINNER -Jess HORN Pic * Tania INGRAM – YR SHORTLIST -Tom JELLET Pic * Sofya KARMAZINA – YR SHORTLIST -Jinyoung KIM -MARGRETE LAMOND - Pic - Dub LEFFLER - Pic - Alison LESTER - EP * Gary LONESBOROUGH - OR WINNER EMMA LONG - EP -Diane LUCAS - EP -Tobias MADDEN -OR -Alex MANKIEWICZ EP -* Maryam MASTER - YR WINNER SJ YR WINNER -Jake MINTON EC Pic -Alexa MOSES YR -Bec NANAYAKKARA (with NI winner Sarah Capon) -Garth NIX YR -Matt OTTLEY Pic * Alison PAGE- EP SHORTLIST	-Sabina PATAWARAN EP * Dave PETZOLD -- Pic SHORTLIST * Josh PYKE - Pic SHORTLIST/ HONOUR -Emma QUAY - EC -Emily RODDA - YR -Leila RUDGE - EP * Kirili SAUNDERS - Pic x2 HONOUR -Yvonne SEWANKAMBO - EC * Rebecka Sharpe SHELBERG - YR HONOUR -Marlee SILVA Pic * Kate SIMPSON - EC HONOUR - Hannah SOMMERVILLE- EC x2 * Matt STANTON-YR HONOUR - MICHEL STREICH - Pic * Owen SWAN- EC HONOR -Kiah THOMAS- EC + Pic X2 -Coral VASS Pic -Michael WAGNER Pic -Sarah WIECEK EP * Rhian WILLIAMS - EC HONOUR - Margaret WILD - EC -Ben WOOD - YR * Anne Yi - YR SHORTLIST HONOUR -Rebecca YOUNG - Pic
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KC4KC

**What do you like about
PICTURE BOOKS?**

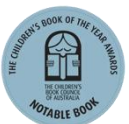
I like picture books because I can imagine the pictures in my mind. I also like all the vibrant images picture books include. –
Anastasia [William Clarke College]

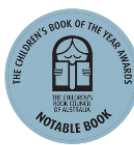
You can understand the book more with pictures rather than just words.
- Ivy [William Clarke College]

I like the way they tell the story with pictures.
Aditya [William Clarke College]

Notably NSW - PICTURE BOOKS

Previous issues of **KC** have included the titles for the *Older Readers*, the *Younger Readers*, *Early Childhood*, and *Eve Pownall* categories. This issue includes NNSW details of the *Picture Book* category.

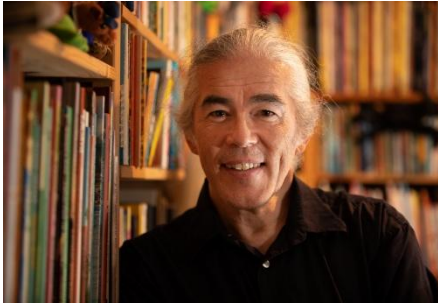
 CBCA SHORTLIST	 NOTABLY NSW	 CBCA NOTABLE
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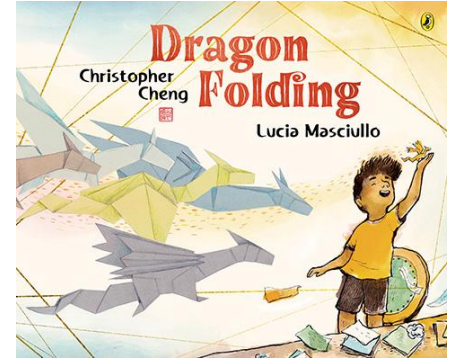
 	*Afloat - Kirli Saunders, Author [NSW]. With Illustrations by Freya Blackwood [NSW]. (Little Hare).	 
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 	Bernie Thinks in Boxes - Jess Horn [NSW]. With Illustrations by Zoe Bennet [NSW] - (Affirm).
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 	Dragon Folding by Christopher Cheng [NSW]. With Illustrations by Lucia Masciullo [QLD] (Puffin).
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Dragon Folding
by Christopher Cheng
<https://chrischeng.com/dragon-folding.html>
Illustrated by Lucia Masciullo
(Puffin)



Dragon Folding was a text that evolved very smartly. And it's all because of Evan, our godson. Strolling to the local cafe with his family, he dropped his toy model. As we picked up the pieces, he was a little distressed. But then piped up “*You can fix it*”, to which I replied something along the lines of “*Not sure if I can*”. It was one of his fabulous creations so it was not that easy for me to rebuild the way it should have been.

This continued at the cafe: “*You can fix it*” . . . “*Not sure if I can*” ... until eventually, I succumbed. And back at his house, together we created something that was not quite like his original, but was most satisfactory nonetheless. He did not complain, although it must be said that his dad does a better building job than I do.

So essentially, this is a story about my godson and me.
And the dragons?

Well, that is an easy construction. Dragons have always been an integral part of me. The house I live in is filled to the rafters and beyond with dragons-in between the stairs, on ledges, you will find dragon sculptures, dragon pots, dragon vases, dragon illustrations (from my books, of course), dragon plates, dragon brooches, dragon pottery, dragon models, dragon carvings, and so many more DRAGONS. I'm yet to count them all, but I ache to because it was one of the questions I am repeatedly asked. The problem is that the dragons keep growing in number. A new one arrived just this past week!

And combine those two - the older man and a younger boy - along with absolutely glorious, regal and esteemed dragons, and there is the possibility for a new book.

Of course, there were a few questions that I asked myself: *What would the characters be doing? Where would the action occur? What is the reason for all of this to happen?* And the answer to all of this was something I always told my students when I was teaching, and I talk about now - *If you're stuck, write about what you know!*

In many of my more recent titles, the stories are about the everyday things that happen. And somewhere within the pages, sometimes hidden and sometimes on show, is a little bit of me. You might even find me, (possibly no more than a hint) in the storyline or the characters or maybe the illustrations.

And what's next? More dragons? Well, we just released ***Powerful Like A Dragon*** - another story I know really well. This story is not about me directly, but it is a family story, about MY family. It's real. My uncle (although he is actually my grandfather's brother's son - my first cousin once removed) first told us this story at our family reunion. And after he said my grandfather's name, I was hooked!

And Chris' new book is ***Powerful Like A Dragon***/ by **Christopher Cheng**
/ **Illustrated by Jacqueline Tam** (Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan Publishers)
Powerful Like a Dragon: <https://chrischeng.com/powerful-like-a-dragon.html>



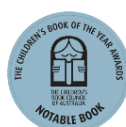
And **see the trailer**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FtSgBcbwFc>



- ***Footprint*** - Phil Cummings [SA].
With Illustrations by Sally Soweol Han [NSW]
(A&U Children's)



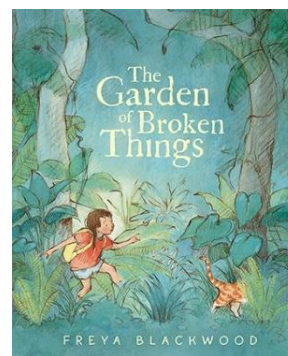
- ***For 60,000 Years*** - Marlee Silva, [Dharawal country, south of Sydney, NSW].
With illustrations by Rhys Paddick [WA]
(Scholastic Australia)



- ****The Garden of Broken Things*** -
Freya Blackwood. [NSW] (Harper Collins).



****The Garden of Broken Things***
by Freya Blackwood. [NSW]
<https://www.freyablackwood.com.au/>
(Harper Collins)



The Garden of Broken Things is a book that I both wrote and illustrated. I planned the drawings first and wrote the text afterwards. I've discovered I really like working this way. I love telling stories, but I'm not confident with the writing. So, this lets me focus first on the story without worrying about the words. And then, I can use the words to add to the story.

I was interested in telling this story because I'd had a lovely experience seeing my grandmother and my daughter together when my daughter was about 3 to 4 years old and my grandmother was about 98 to 99 years old! It was very obvious just how much my grandmother really came to life when she hung out with my daughter. And it made me realise how much a person's day can be improved just by having some interaction and companionship. I also have a fascination with old houses and properties that have been abandoned. They seem like scary places from the outside. In fact, they've just been forgotten and neglected, just like what can happen to some people. So, I felt like there was a correlation between these two

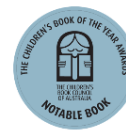
The setting was determined early on- a house and garden that had been forgotten for some time, with trees and vines already taking over. Sadie, the main character, had to be a curious child, but what developed as I was making the book was her chatty nature. I discovered that a lot of the text could be Sadie's chattiness, which I thought would be exactly what an old, forgotten person might really enjoy. ~ Freya



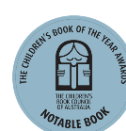
- **General Waste** - Michel Streich [NSW]. (Scholastic Australia).



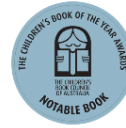
- ***Grow Big, Little Seed** - Bec Nanayakkara [NSW].
With Illustrations by Sarah Capon [Brisbane, Qld] (Bright Light)



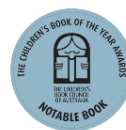
- **The Land Recalls You** - Kirli Saunders [NSW].
With Illustrations by David Cragg [NSW] & Noni Cragg [NSW], (Scholastic)



- **Night Watch** - Jodi Toering [Vic].
With Illustrations by Tannya Harricks [NSW] (Walker)



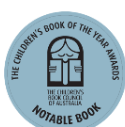
- **Stickboy** - Rebecca Young [NSW].
With Illustrations by Matt Ottley [NSW, Qld] (Scholastic)



- **Tilly in a Tangle** - Margrete Lamond [NSW]. With Illustrations by Monty Lee. (Dirt Lane)



- **Two Turtles** - Kiah Thomas NSW [Vic].
With illustrations by Jake A Minton [NSW, Vic] (Little Book)
Two Turtles was included in the Notables for Early Childhood AND for Picture Book categories.



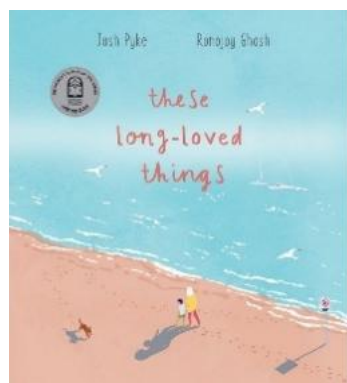
***These Long-Loved Things**
Josh Pyke [NSW].



<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1630322607530939>

With Illustrations by **Ronojoy Ghosh [NSW]**
(Scholastic)

https://resource.scholastic.com.au/ResourceFiles/100134884_123169.pdf



***These Long-Loved Things**

by Josh Pyke [NSW]

With Illustrations
by **Ronojoy Ghosh [NSW]**

<https://www.ronojoyghosh.com.au>
(Scholastic)



These Long-Loved Things is an extremely personal text for me. I was inspired by my own mother's struggle with Alzheimer's disease, which went on for about 10 years.

Sadly, she passed away last year, and along that whole journey, I had to try and explain what was happening to my own kids in terms that they could understand. My kids were quite young when Mum got sick, so there was a lot of explanation of really difficult concepts to them, and also to myself, in a way. I wanted to explain how shared memories, and the feeling of love remains, even when someone can't remember them anymore.

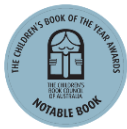
I also wanted to try and frame it with a bit of a reversal, where the child has become the teacher, and is leading the grandparent through this difficult time. I saw my own kids really rise to the occasion of helping and guiding their grandma with such care and empathy, and I wanted to explore that in the book too.~Josh



- ***Walking Together* - Coral Vass [NSW].**
With illustrations by **Dub Leffler [NSW]**
(Scholastic Aus)



- ***Why I Love Christmas* - Michael Wagner [Sydney, NSW, Melbourne, Vic].** With Illustrations by **Tom Jellet [Sydney, NSW]** (Penguin)



- **Happy All Over - Emma Quay [Sydney, NSW]**
<https://emmaquay.com/about> (ABC Books)

Emma's book, *Happy All Over* is a CBCA **NOTABLE** and a **NOTABLY NSW** book in the Early Childhood category. It was published by ABC Books. Apologies for earlier confusion.



- ***We Live in a Bus - Dave Petzold [living on Bundjalung Country in Lennox Head, NSW]**
(Thames & Hudson)



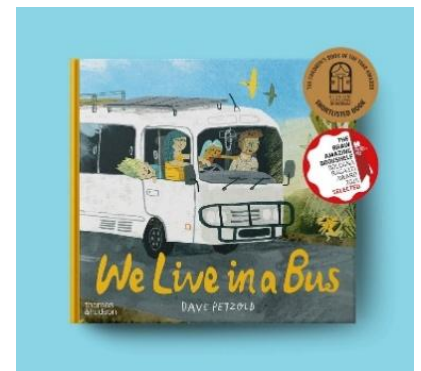
**We Live in a Bus*

by **Dave Petzold**

[living on Bundjalung Country in Lennox Head, NSW]

<https://davepetzold.com.au/we-live-in-a-bus>

(Thames & Hudson)



The inspiration for *We Live in a Bus* came from

travelling around the Australian outback towns of Winton, Hughenden and Richmond (commonly known as the Dinosaur Trail) in a Toyota Coaster bus in 2022. During the trip, I was talking with my agent, Annabel Barker, about creating a new book (for which I didn't have any ideas), and Annabel said, "Why don't you write about your adventures on the road?" And so, the idea was born.

I started putting together a list of all the things I'd experienced during the journey, from swimming in freezing waterholes and sleeping under the stars to playing on a musical fence in a small outback town called Winton. Queensland wildlife featured prominently in my notes, too: Lizards, dragonflies, flocks of budgies, red-tailed black cockatoos, frogs and baby emus... I could go on.

Before long, I had more than enough material to fill a 32-page picture book, in fact, I had so much that I could have written two books.

From there, the story and the characters developed pretty quickly. My approach was to try and bring a sense of curiosity about the world to every page. And I wanted to show the amazing tapestry of life that connects us all.

For me, *We Live in a Bus* is a celebration of the land and all the creatures that live on it.

I worked closely with Clair Hume and Fay Helfenbaum from Thames & Hudson, who helped pull it all together. I can't thank them enough for their guidance and support.

As for the illustrations, I use a mixture of traditional and digital. I work initially with graphite pencil, ink or oil paint to create the line work. Then, I scan everything. And assemble and colour it in Photoshop. ~Dave

COLLIDE...with BOOKS and WINNERS and KIDS and COMMENTS



Find out about
the *WHAT?* the *WHO?* And the *HOW?*

Nearly 300 entries were part of the 2025 CBCA – NSW COLLIDE BOOK TRAILER COMPETITION. This year, we received a substantial number of trailer submissions - particularly from

Years 5 and 6 with 220 entries	Years 3 and 4 with 76 entries	Years 7-9 with 2 entries
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All of the entries in the 2025 'Collide with the Notables' showed teachers had passed on the criteria to their students to add author, illustrator and publisher to their trailers.

Although the Terms and Conditions clearly stated that trailers should be one minute in length, some submissions were too brief to be shortlisted, as they did not provide an adequate overview of the book's content to really entice the viewer to read the book.

Thanks to our judges:

- Alexa Moses <https://alexamoses.com/>
- Deb Abella <https://www.deborahabela.com/>
- Nathan Luff <https://nathanluff.com.au/>
- Tristan Bancks <https://www.tristanbancks.com/>

For all their help and for putting together a very entertaining video to announce the winners of the competition. <https://www.cbcanw.org.au/collide-book-trailers-winners>

Tristan Bancks very generously donated a subscription to his online *StorySchool* <https://www.tristanbancks.com/young-writers-story-school> for each winner.



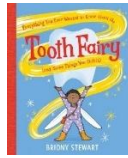
The presentation of the Collide Trailers at the NSW Book of the Year Event in the State Library was received with much enthusiasm. I heard one child ask their Teacher-Librarian, 'Why didn't we know about it earlier?'

COLLIDE and READ and VIEW ... And the 2025 winning entries are just a click away ...

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



YEARS 3 & 4



1st place — **The Tooth Fairy**. [CBCA Notable/ CBCA Short List – Early Childhood]

- April, Charlotte, Elaine, Elijah and Fletcher — Reddam House North Shore

Runner Up — **The Night Watch**. [CBCA Notable- Eve Pownall]

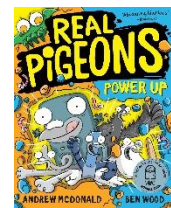
- Piper, Willow-Leah, Grace and Amalie — Toukley Public School

Highly Commended — **Real Pigeons: Power up** [CBCA Notable-Younger Readers]

-Rosie, Bourke Street Public School



YEARS 5 & 6



1st place — **Worms Are Our Friends**. [CBCA Notable - Eve Pownall]

Ivy and Anastasia, William Clarke College

Runner Up — **Then and Now**. [CBCA Notable – Early Childhood]

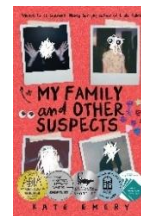
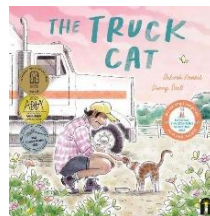
Evangeline, William Clarke College

Highly Commended — **Real Pigeons: Power Up**. [CBCA Notable - Younger Readers]

Sketch, Atharv, Prithvi, Raj and Ravi — Wentworthville Public School



YEARS 7-9



1st Place — **The Truck Cat**. [CBCA Notable- Picture Book/ CBCA Winner/ Shadow Judging Picture Book Winner] — Lucinda, Hunter Valley Grammar

Runner up — **My Family and Other Suspects**. [CBCA Notable-Older Readers]

Mia L, Olivia, Mia M — Barker College



KC4KC

What would kids enjoy most about making a book trailer?

Helping other kids know about these books, plus the animations. ---

- Isabelle [William Clarke College]

It is a fun and creative activity.- Alice [William Clarke College]

I think kids will most enjoy being able to work as a team and let their imaginations fly.- Anastasia [William Clarke College]

Being able to work with your friend and adding all the cool pictures. [William Clarke College]

COLLIDE

COLLIDE

COLLIDE

and
CELEBRATE



THANKS to the Year 3 / 4 division WINNERS from Reddam House for their trailer of *The TOOTH FAIRY: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Tooth Fairy (And Some Things You Didn't)* by Briony Stewart (Hachette)

Join **the COLLIDE 2025** celebrations by checking out some of the other entries for the

2025 CBCA NSW COLLIDE Competition

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



KC4KC

How did
your
group
decide

who would do what, in
creating your book
trailer?

My partner and I decided who would do what quite easily because I like to write and give inspiration, and my partner likes to create things and do illustrations

-ANASTASIA [William Clarke College]

I picked some books, and then my partner picked some, and we narrowed it down from there. [William Clarke College]

The pictures made it for me...They bring the book to life.

Isabelle [William Clarke College]

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL Readers and BOOK TRAILER Creators.

See more trailers on many of the authors' and illustrators' websites.

2025 CBCA WINNERS <https://cbca.org.au/2025-winners/>

2025 CBCA SHORTLIST <https://cbca.org.au/2025-shortlist/>

2025 CBCA NOTABLES <https://cbca.org.au/2025-notables/>

AND REVISIT visit other issues of KC for links to other great books and creatives.

<https://www.cbcanw.org.au/kids-corner>



And speaking of Shadow Judging. . .

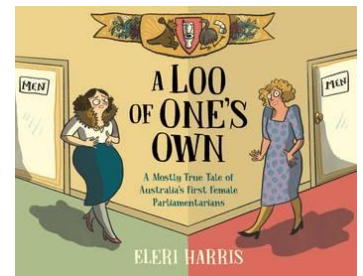
Over 300 readers from schools throughout NSW met at the **State Library of NSW** on August 15 to be part of the Announcements of: the COLLIDE Book Trailer Winners AND the CBCA BOYA Winners AND the Shadow Judging winners <https://shadowjudging.cbca.org.au/winners-2025/>

Shadow Judges shared book reviews from the Older Readers and the Younger Readers BOYA categories.

With thanks to Allen & Unwin Publishers...

ELERI HARRIS <https://eleriharris.com/> our guest speaker, delighted the audience with info about her new book:

A Loo of One's Own: A Mostly True Tale of Australia's First Female Parliamentarians



And now, back to kids' comments from some of the Shadow Judging teams...



ELENA – PYMBLE LADIES COLLEGE

Visiting the State Library of NSW for the BOYA event was truly an amazing experience. I had the pleasure seeing how books were recognised by other readers for each of their unique qualities. This helped me form a deeper appreciation of our Australian authors and illustrators. This journey inspired me to read more books about culture and helped me consider the impact of these books on younger readers.



SOPHIA – PYMBLE LADIES COLLEGE

I had the wonderful privilege of attending CBCA awards and giving a review on the book ***I'm Not Really Here*** in the Older Readers' Category. The day was action-packed with 6 reviewers for each category - junior and senior - and of course, the grand announcement of the winners. I really enjoyed hearing other readers' perspectives of the book and their interpretation of the author's intent behind it, as well as talking and engaging with other students who are equally passionate about reading books. I have included part of my review of Gary Lonesborough's Book, ***I'm Not Really Here*** in the **Older Readers category**.



SOPHIA – PYMBLE LADIES COLLEGE

Have you ever felt invisible, like you're standing in a crowded room, but no one truly sees you? That's the raw reality for Jonah, the young Indigenous protagonist of Gary Lonesborough's moving novel, *I'm Not Really Here*.

It is a tender and deeply human story about Jonah, a young Indigenous teen navigating grief, identity, and the feeling of being unseen in the world.

With the prominent theme of identity in the novel, it's interesting to see how the book works as both a mirror and a window for marginalised readers, reflecting the painful reality of feeling unseen; for others, it offers a clear view into the systemic challenges faced by Indigenous youth.

I'm Not Really Here isn't just to be read, it's to be felt. And maybe, after reading it, we'll all be a little better at truly seeing the people around us.

I really enjoyed writing this reflection. And reading this book. provided me a new insight into the systemic challenges faced by marginalised groups. I am even more pleased that this book won the award.



EMELIA - PYMBLE LADIES COLLEGE

For someone like me who loves books, the opportunity to actually go to the State Library of NSW alongside many other like-minded young people was very exciting.

The number of schools and students who attended the event demonstrates how important books and reading are for young people, and how far-reaching this event was. It was interesting hearing the book reviews done by primary and high school students about the books shortlisted for the *Younger Readers* and *Older Readers* categories. And it has now led me to add a few extra books to my 'to be read' list.

When the winners were announced, everyone was strongly invested in which books were going to win and had strong opinions on the actual winners.



~ DIVA P [YEAR 6 - ROUSE HILL ANGLICAN COLLEGE]

Shadow Judging was a fun project to experience. I learnt new things and my knowledge of picture books expanded. I had fun evaluating the books with my friends and learning from the thoughts and opinions of others.

Our grade judged the Picture Book category, picking the winner, *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel. I would recommend this activity to all schools to help students get exposure to note-taking, expressing their ideas, and comparing different books.

The part I really enjoyed was reading the books and sharing my opinion with my class. The hardest part of this amazing task was choosing one book, as all the books were very well written and illustrated.



~ ANVITA N [YEAR 6 - ROUSE HILL ANGLICAN COLLEGE]

Shadow Judging was a great experience. I had to pay attention to the small details to give an accurate score. It also made me proud to be part of the decision-making in such a huge event. I loved reading the CBCA book choices and being a part of the Shadow Judging.



~ SELENA [YEAR 5 ROUSE HILL ANGLICAN COLLEGE]

I really enjoyed the Shadow Judging because it gave everyone the opportunity to read picture books and decide which one we liked. The experience allowed me to see all the little details that later became crucial to the judging process. It was very much my favourite part of the whole experience. I loved the event. I would definitely recommend it to other schools to be part of this amazing opportunity with their students.



~ HIYAN [YEAR 6 - ROUSE HILL ANGLICAN COLLEGE]

Shadow Judging for the CBCA Book of the Year Awards was a tough yet enjoyable way to read. We learnt about the deeper meanings of the books as well as the added depth in how the illustrations were created in imaginative ways. All of the books were very interesting. It was a difficult choice to select a winner. We finally chose ***The Truck Cat***, as the depth in connection was spectacular.



~ LIZZIE (ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL)

*"I was a bit nervous but excited to be presenting my review of "Fluff: Mess Up" but all of my fellow Shadow Judging team were there to support me. ...
I also loved listening to Eleri's book "A loo of one's own", and her drawings were very cool."*



~ ANNA (PRESBYTERIAN LADIES COLLEGE, SYDNEY)

***A Wreck of Seabirds* by Karleah Olson (Fremantle Press)** is a haunting, evocative novel. This novel is one that I highly enjoyed. It follows multiple storylines, with two missing girls, a young boy lost to the sea and their families learning to live without them. With clear description of the brooding shoreline and multifaceted ocean, its three perspectives in the layered structure showed the dangers and joys of the sea as well as hidden connections that bind a town together, sewing threads of community and support.

The poignant writing style had emotional depth and enhanced the reading, pulling the reader in and not letting go. It is a young adult coastal-Gothic novel about delicate subjects, yet with hope woven through. Grief, memory, loss and learning to live without loved ones are key themes in this book.

The plot intrigued me, making me sit on the edge of my seat the whole time with the clear, haunting details and the constant theme of the fragile edge between grief and connection. I was desperate to find out what happened to the missing girls, Sarah and Aria, and whether Briony and Ren would overcome their sense of loss.

Every chapter was a cliffhanger, and you had no idea what would happen next. *A Wreck of Seabirds* shares with readers how harsh and unfair grief is, but also how new growth can sprout after loss. With its fragmented structure and its clear, lyrical detail, it shows how heavy the weight of absence is yet also the buoyancy of hope. I would recommend this book for readers who enjoy stories that explore difficult topics in a sensitive way, and anyone who likes novels that include narrative tension and a strong sense of place. While ***A Wreck of Seabirds*** has some bleak moments, it reminds us that the sun shines through.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK® HISTORY . . .



Welcome to 80 years of Australian Stories

The CBCA was founded in 1945, in a time when Australian children's books were few, and Australian authors and illustrators were virtually unknown.

The following year, in 1946, [the Book of the Year Awards](#), (an annual award to promote books of high literary and artistic quality) was established.

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

This laid the groundwork for quality Australian children's books to be recognised and celebrated each year since that time. <https://cbca.org.au/previous-winners/>

**Celebrating 80 years of CBCA
from the West coast to East coast
and all points in between...**



Australian Children's Laureate, Sally Rippin
<https://www.childrenslaureate.org.au/> ,
joined the Book Week celebrations in Western
Australia, to share cake, pictures and stories

PLC Sydney Junior School
Library team is always
ready to help our students
"Book an Adventure" on
Reading Airlines.

JACKIE FRENCH, AM is an Australian author of more than 200 books as well as an ecologist, historian, and honorary wombat (part time); 2014–15 Australian Children' Laureate; and 2015 Senior Australian of the Year. <https://www.jackiefrench.com/> .
She joins thousands in sharing birthday wishes with the CBCA. And, adds a personal story of the impact of the CBCA on her own reading and writing.



The Children's Book Council of Australia is now 80 years old. Happy birthday, CBCA! Memories and congratulations are in the video.

I wish I could have been there, [at the State Library of NSW celebrations], but I was, in spirit, and by video. I'm possibly the first generation of Australian writers brought up on a diet of Australian literature, as well as international, thanks to the CBCA. ~ Jackie French

<https://www.facebook.com/authorjackiefrench/videos/2642005979477444>

2025 BOOK WEEK THEME CHARACTERS



Jess McGeachin, <https://www.jessmcgeachin.com/> who created the characters for the 2025 CBCA theme, **Book an Adventure**, has also written biographies for each of these characters.

First discovered 80 years ago, the **island of Biblio** is a utopia for book-loving creatures. Spiders with a penchant for poetry, dragons with a love of baking and a giant squid with a soft spot for romance all inhabit this rocky isle.

Otso the Bear  A network of shadowy caves lies under the island of Biblio. Here you'll find Otso the bear, curled up with a crime book. Otso loves a story with a good twist, if only he could stay awake long enough to find out who the culprit is. Favourite Genre- Crime	Delphi the Dragon  In the frigid mountains of the north lives Delphi the dragon. A keen home-cook, Delphi can be found snout-deep in her large collection of culinary books. Despite her best efforts, many of the recipes she tries end up rather burnt. Favourite Genre- Cookbooks	Cal the Giant Squid  Many mysteries lurk in the seas off the coast of Biblio. Cal isn't one of them - she's a friendly squid with a giant heart. Cal's a sucker for a good romance novel, and often wraps one in each tentacle. The only trouble with paperbacks is that they don't last long in water. Favorite Genre – Romance
Ari the Spider  The forests of Biblio sparkle with silver webs. Here you'll find Ari, a cunning spider who loves to write poetry. She weaves words together like silk, coming up with couplets, sonnets and even the occasional haiku. Favorite Genre - Poetry	Percy the Puffin  Atop a rocky outcrop perches, Percy the puffin. He loves burying his beak in a good adventure story, especially one with pirates and hidden gold. It's a shame that there's no secret treasure around here... Favorite Genre = Adventure	The Treehouse  Built in the branches of the tallest tree is a small wooden house. On the deck you can look out across the whole island of Biblio, from the dark woods to the distant mountains. It's the perfect place to curl up with a good book or just day-dream in the leafy shade. READ EVERYTHING!

What stories could you create with Jess's ideas?



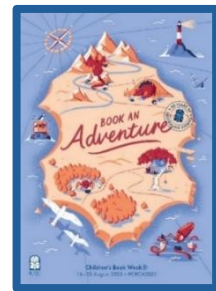
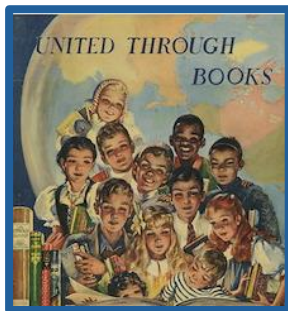
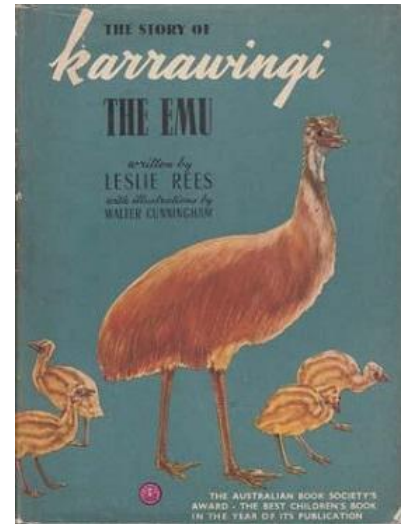
Echo the Emu (with illustration by Briony Stewart) was part of the CBCA 80th Birthday Celebrations. Echo is based on the first Book Week winner's character.

The Story of Karrawingi the Emu is an illustrated children's book by Australian author Leslie Rees and illustrator Walter Cunningham. It won the Children's Book of the Year Award: Older Readers in 1946.

The book tells the story of the life of the noble Australian Emu packed with action, adventure and the sense of racing speed that is part of an emu's heritage.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Story_of_Karrawingi_the_Emu

That was 80 years ago, and Echo is the descendant and great-great grandchild of that emu. Emus live 25-28 years in the wild. There's a fun fact you need to know. !<https://store.cbca.org.au/products/eco-the-emu-toy>



1945 :: UNITED THROUGH BOOKS . . . to 2025 :: BOOK AN ADVENTURE

Children's Book Week has had a slogan since 1945.

Link to themes 1945- 2025 <https://cbca.org.au/childrens-book-week-history/>

Until 1987, CBCA Branches created their own posters to illustrate the themes and promote events. Since 1987, there has been a national theme, which is chosen and voted on by the CBCA members.

The artwork is typically (although not always) developed by the winner of the previous Picture Book of the Year illustrator and used for Children's Book Week promotional material and merchandise.

<https://cbca.org.au/childrens-book-week-history/>



BOOK AN Adventure

Whenever we

it is with the

help of many who help combine the magic and adventures of:



--*authors and illustrators,*

--*imagination and information,*

--*words and pictures,*

--*stories in books and Stories in lives,*

--*ideas from the past, present and future.*

Your comments are always welcome additions to *KIDS' CORNER*.

Please feel free to share and remind us about your ideas related to any aspect of Reading, Writing, Thinking or Imagining.

Every time you “*Book an Adventure*”, you are part of the history and growth of quality Australian Children’s Literature.

Happy reading always with stories
from the past, the present, and the future.

Cheers- Morrie, Magic Morrie, MaryAnne Ann O’Mouse and
Adventure Morrie.

[c/o jackie.hawkes7@gmail.com]

