

# **PRIMARY FOCUS**

**2011**

**Fiction**

CURRICULUM MATERIALS INFORMATION SERVICES

WESTONE SERVICES

**PRIMARY FOCUS 2011 FICTION**

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**PRIMARY FOCUS 2011**  
**FICTION**

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# PRIMARY FOCUS 2011

## FICTION

**Primary Focus 2011 Fiction** is an annotated bibliography designed to assist primary and district high schools in the selection and purchase of fiction materials for their resource centres.

The resources have been selected by officers from the Evaluation Section of Curriculum Materials Information Services to support the primary school curriculum, and cover a range of materials including books, videos, compact discs and games that have been published during the past two years. Resources have been evaluated by teachers in schools and by staff in Central Office and in District Offices. A bulk purchasing service, offering greater than normal discounts is available to West Australian public schools.

This list is divided into three sequences:

Part 1 : Early Childhood – typically for Kindergarten to Year 3

Part 2 : Middle Childhood – typically for Years 3 to 7

Part 3 : Early Adolescence – for mature and capable readers in Years 6 and 7

A list of reviewers who assisted with reviewing resources for the **Primary Focus 2011** publication is included at the back of the Fiction and Nonfiction booklets.

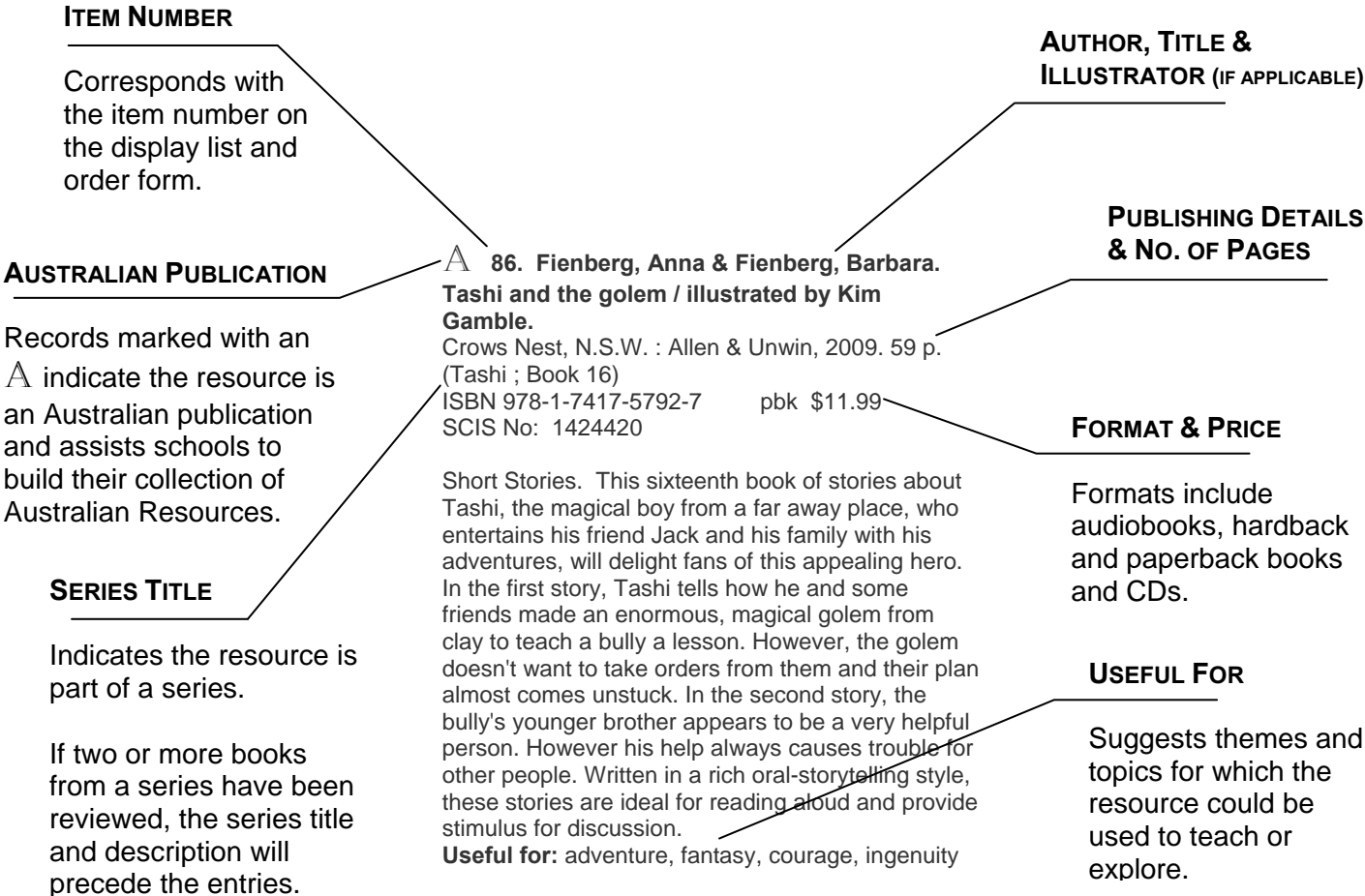
While the prices and availability statements were correct at the time of printing, they are intended as a guide and may vary. Public schools wishing to use the bulk purchasing service should consult the **Primary Focus 2011** accompanying information and order forms for details.

Robin Wake  
Coordinator Evaluation  
Curriculum Materials Information Services

January 2011

**PRIMARY FOCUS 2011  
FICTION**

**HOW TO USE THIS BOOK**



**CMIS RESOURCE BANK**

All resources selected for **Primary Focus 2011 Fiction** are listed in the CMIS Resource Bank, an online database of resources recommended for use in schools. The Resource Bank can be searched by Subject, Topic, Author, Title & Series, or Keyword. Searches can be further refined by selecting a Phase of Development, Learning Area and/or specific Outcomes. To access the Resource Bank go to:

[www.det.wa.edu.au/education/cmisis/eval/curriculum/publications/PrimaryFocus](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/cmisis/eval/curriculum/publications/PrimaryFocus)

## PART ONE : EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Curriculum Framework describes the phases of development in the following way:

Early Childhood - typically Kindergarten to Year 3

Middle Childhood - typically Years 3 to 7

Early Adolescence - typically Years 7 to 10

This recognises that each student develops and achieves in different ways and at different rates. Although the majority of the titles in this section will suit students in the Early Childhood phase, this is not intended to be prescriptive but to give guidance. As learning progresses the phases of development overlap, and some titles may suit students in the Middle Childhood phase.

To assist in the selection of resources most appropriate for Kindergarten and Preprimary students, Early Childhood has been divided into:

Part One A: Kindergarten-Preprimary

Part One B: Years 1-3

### Part One A: Kindergarten-Preprimary

#### 1. Alborough, Jez. **The gobble gobble mooooooo tractor book.**

London : HarperCollins Children's Books, 2010.

[32] p.

ISBN 978-0-00-731727-1 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1459407

Picture Book. Sheep and his friends ride the tractor and take turns making engine sounds while Farmer Dougal sleeps. But their loud honks, moos and squeaks wake the farmer up and he thinks someone is stealing his tractor. The animals return to their normal activities and Farmer Dougal returns to bed. The text is simple and the humorous illustrations are lively and colourful. This fun story is perfect for reading out loud and children will love trying to copy the animal noises.

**Useful for:** farm animals, read aloud

#### A 2. Allen, Pamela. **Hetty's day out.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin/Viking, 2010. [28] p.

ISBN 978-0-670-07447-1 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1478914

Picture Book. Hetty, a large grey cat wakes up one morning and goes on a culinary adventure visiting her neighbours and eating her way through a plate of baked beans, two pies and finally seven sausages. When the very fat cat tries to go through the cat flap she finds that she has a problem. Big, colourful watercolour and ink illustrations appear on the single and double-page spreads. Images of the food set against white backgrounds, make for easy counting of Hetty's meals. The amusing and repetitive text builds anticipation and will encourage readers to participate in the story. A sprinkling of

wonderful verbs makes this book a satisfying read aloud at story time for an early childhood audience.

**Useful for:** cats, food, meal times, counting, numbers

#### 3. Berger, Carin. **Forever friends.**

New York : Greenwillow, 2010. [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-06-191528-4 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1461562

Picture Book. One spring day, a brown rabbit and a blue bird form a friendship and frolic together through the seasons. As winter approaches, the blue bird flies away but promises to return in spring. The rabbit spends the cold winter months missing its friend and so does bird. When spring finally arrives, the two are reunited. A sweet tale that reassures young children that true friendship can last. The minimal text and beautiful paper collage illustrations reflect the gentleness of the story.

**Useful for:** seasons, friendship, animals, feelings

#### 4. Berger, Samantha. **Martha doesn't share! / illustrated by Bruce Whatley.**

New York : Little, Brown, 2010. [34] p.

ISBN 978-0-316-12635-9 pbk \$16.99

SCIS No: 1477428

Picture Book. Martha absolutely does not want to share her toys, her blanket, a lamp or even a potted plant with her little brother, Edwin. Through the gentle encouragement of her parents, Martha realises that she can have more fun if she shares. This book will appeal to young children who will be able to relate to Martha's feelings and learning experiences. The beautifully expressive illustrations in watercolour and colour pencil are a wonderful complement and addition to the text. A great read

aloud in the classroom, it can be used to gently open discussion about the value of sharing.

**Useful for:** sharing, family, siblings

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**5. Blake, Quentin. Angelica Sprocket's pockets.**

London : Jonathan Cape, 2010. 32 p.  
ISBN 978-0-224-08376-8 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1470388

Picture Book. Angelica Sprocket, a bespectacled eccentric has a purple coat with lots of pockets that produces ducks, goats, saucepans, cheese graters and even the kitchen sink. This is a lively book which makes good use of rhyming language and Quentin Blake's trademark drawings are colourful and humorous. A delight to read from start to finish.

**Useful for:** rhyming story, clothing, read aloud

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**A 6. Bland, Nicholas. The very itchy bear.**

Lindfield, N.S.W. : Scholastic, 2010. [22] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9651-6 hbk \$15.99  
SCIS No: 1470609

Picture Book. In *The Very Itchy Bear*, a persistent flea is bothering Bear and he tries to get away, but Flea just won't leave him alone. Bear jumps about and rolls around, even jumping into the sea. Eventually, Bear gets rid of Flea but he ends up rescuing him from a hungry bird. The story ends with Bear reading to Flea. This is a simply told tale with the message that friends come in all shapes and sizes. While the story is simple, the illustrations are expressive, bold and colourful. The very simple short sentences in rhyming text tell the tale succinctly and with humour which makes reading it aloud an enjoyable experience.

**Useful for:** friendship, size, bears

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**A 7. Brian, Janeen. I spy mum! / illustrator, Chantal Stewart.**

Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Frontier, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921042-16-4 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1461566

Picture Book. A little boy searches for his mum with his spy glass and finds all sorts of interesting mums from a 'baking' mum to a 'camping' mum. He finally sees his mum, the one who loves him. This warm and reassuring story written in rhyming verse is complemented by the wonderful illustrations on double-page spreads. This book will attract early childhood readers and could be used as a springboard for discussions and activities on mothers and other family members.

**Useful for:** rhyming, mothers, family, leisure activities

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**8. Broad, Michael. Friendship blossoms.**

London : Hodder Children's Books, 2010. [26] p. (Forget me not)  
ISBN 978-0-340-98947-0 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1469666

Picture Book. Forget-Me-Not is an engaging elephant character and his story will appeal to younger readers. In this story, he tries to make friends with the other young animals but is upset that no one wants to be his friend. Mama assures him that when it is time, friendship will blossom – just like the trees. He waits and waits. When he meets Cherry the Giraffe, he discovers that Mama was indeed right and true friendship is worth waiting for.

**Useful for:** making friends, patience

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**9. Burningham, John. There's going to be a baby / [illustrations] Helen Oxenbury.**

London : Walker, 2010. [45] p.  
ISBN 978-0-7445-4996-6 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1479047

Picture Book. The delightful dialogue between a preschool child and his pregnant mother is filled with questions and answers about the arrival of the new baby. On the boy's part there is mostly excitement but sometimes doubt. He imagines the baby being involved in a variety of comical activities portrayed on cartoon-style double-page spreads. The attractive ink illustrations in this warm, reassuring picture book are digitally colourised in pastel shades.

**Useful for:** mother-child relationships, family, pregnancy, curiosity

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**10. Buzzeo, Toni. Adventure Annie goes to kindergarten / illustrated by Amy Wummer.**

New York : Dial, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-0-8037-3358-9 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1465014

Picture Book. 'Adventure Annie' is ready for anything – even kindergarten. She arrives on her first day complete with her zookeeper hat, high wire slippers and walkie talkies packed into her backpack. She tries to turn every activity into an adventure much to the displeasure of her teacher. When her classmates Louise and Jose get lost bringing the milk back for snack time, Annie's teacher sends her off to find them and 'rescue' them. The easy-to-read text is complemented by bright, cheerful cartoon-style drawings. This picture

book is a great introduction to starting kindergarten that young readers will thoroughly enjoy.

**Useful for:** read aloud, rules, school

**11. Chichester-Clark, Emma. Plum and rabbit and me.**

London : HarperCollins Children's Books, 2010.

[30] p.

ISBN 978-0-00-727325-6 pbk \$14.99

SCIS No: 1468022

Picture Book. Humber's little sister Plum is always hanging around him and taking his toys. When Granny gives Plum a toy rabbit, Humber wants it and takes it off her. Mum intervenes to help restore order. Clark sensitively and satisfyingly handles the topic of fairness through the interactions of her engaging bear family. Her gentle text and softly coloured illustrations portray a world that young children can identify with.

**Useful for:** sibling rivalry, family relationships, property ownership, conflict resolution

**A 12. Chivers, Natalie. Rhino's great big itch!**

Mascot, N.S.W. : Koala Books, 2010. [25] p.

ISBN 978-0-86461-851-1 pbk \$14.99

SCIS No: 1449643

Picture Book. Rhino has a very itchy itch in his ear and it is driving him crazy. A little bird tells him he just needs some help so Rhino runs off to find someone to scratch his itch. He tries frog, who is too slimy, and other animals without success. He returns to the little bird who proves to be just right to scratch the itch. Students will enjoy this delightful little story that incorporates interesting action verbs and adjectives that will assist in extending their vocabulary. Lovely full-page illustrations with large, softly washed illustrations of the animals complement the story. A useful resource for introducing the use of the adverb 'too' in creative writing activities.

**Useful for:** rhinoceroses, animals, being helpful, adverbs, writing activities

**13. Cousins, Lucy. I'm the best.**

London : Walker, 2010. [29] p.

ISBN 978-1-406-32368-9 hbk \$27.95

SCIS No: 1456259

Picture Book. Dog loves his friends but brags he is the best at everything by highlighting things that would be physically impossible for his friends to do. The friends are saddened until each realises that he/she has physical traits that enable him/her to be better than Dog at something. Disillusioned, Dog realises the error of his ways and apologises for his

meanness and friendship is reaffirmed. He, however, has the last word when complimented for his beautiful fluffy ears! Cousins' characteristic naive, jaunty, brightly coloured watercolours complement the child-like font style beautifully. Deceptively simple, the repetitive text invites participation and the storyline is rich in discussion potential.

**Useful for:** friendship, animals, physical characteristics and differences, natural abilities and gifts, feelings, self-esteem, painting

**14. Cousins, Lucy. Maisy goes on holiday.**

London : Walker, 2010. [25] p. (A Maisy first experiences book)

ISBN 978-1-406-32370-2 hbk \$19.95

SCIS No: 1460992

Picture Book. Maisy and Cyril go to the beach for a holiday. They journey by train to the seaside where they have a lovely holiday swimming, collecting shells, building sandcastles and eating ice creams at the beach cafe. Readers will enjoy following Maisy as she packs her bag, buys her train ticket and enjoys the hotel after a busy day at the beach. This delightful little story, illustrated in bold colours and large, simple drawings characteristic of Lucy Cousins, will capture the interest of young children. From the *A Maisy first experiences book* series, this is an ideal resource to introduce very young children to simple activities they may experience in their lives.

**Useful for:** holidays, beaches, journeys, friends, colours, drawing

**15. Dodd, Emma. I love bugs!**

London : Orchard, 2010. [25] p.

ISBN 978-1-408-30469-3 hbk \$28.99

SCIS No: 1449606

Picture Book. A little boy who loves all kinds of bugs and creepy crawlies, walks through his garden describing all the different creatures he can find. He sees slimy, creepy, crawly bugs and flouncy, frilly, flutter bugs and many more until he finds the scariest one. This lovely story has excellent descriptive language and a simple rhyme and repetition that will capture interest. Full-page colourful illustrations displaying many different details add humour to the story. A useful resource to introduce students to mini beast topics and writing activities that use descriptive language.

**Useful for:** insects, mini beasts, rhyme, vocabulary extension, writing

**A 16. Dunstan, Kylie. Because you are with me.**

Sydney : Lothian Children's Books, 2010. [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-7344-1101-3 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1469594

Picture Book. **Because you are with me** follows a little girl through her exciting day where she is able to overcome her fears and achieve more than she thought possible because her daddy is there for her. Using a striking collage technique with special handmade lokta paper, Kylie Dunstan has created another visual masterpiece which will appeal to young readers who loved **Collecting Colour**. A paperback edition is also available.

**Useful for:** families, art ideas

**17. Ehlert, Lois. Red leaf, yellow leaf.**

New York : Sandpiper, [2010]. [33] p.  
ISBN 978-0-547-32858-4 pbk \$37.95  
SCIS No: 1482862

Big Book. A little girl tells the story about her much-loved sugar maple tree and how it grows. She follows the growth of the tree from seedling to mature tree and the changes she observes through the seasons. Along the way readers learn about photosynthesis, why the leaves change colour in autumn, how nursery workers collect tree sprouts for garden centres and how she planted and nurtured her new tree. Exquisite full-page collage illustrations executed in rich, vibrant colours display interesting details that ably convey the different stages of the story. Although the tree is from the northern hemisphere, this is a charming story about a child who learns to appreciate nature. It offers much that is applicable to trees in general and an added bonus is the extra information about parts of the tree and selecting and planting a tree. It may encourage teachers and students to plant a tree and watch it grow.

**Useful for:** trees, plants, gardening, growth, autumn, colours, seasons

**A 18. Forrestal, Elaine. Miss Llewellyn-Jones goes to town / illustrated by Moira Court.**

Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Press, 2010. [25] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921696-04-6 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1446509

Picture Book. Sequel to **Miss Llewellyn-Jones**. Miss Llewellyn-Jones takes Teddy shopping one day and the toy sets off on an adventure of his own when he gets bored. Teddy is tripped up by a naughty dog but he cleverly uses a toy horse to return to his owner. This picture book has a delightfully rhythmic text and is repetitive in plot and language; quirky and stylised illustrations encourage young readers to anticipate what is going to happen next by following the pictures on some of the pages which are wordless. Repeated

visits will reveal more, and often witty details in the drawings.

**Useful for:** problem solving, shopping, shops, teddy bears, up and down

**A 19. Fox, Mem & Rawson, Olivia. A giraffe in the bath / illustrated by Kerry Argent.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Viking, 2010. [28] p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07213-2 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1449805

Picture Book. This is a rollicking rhyming story with a hilarious cast of creatures – from a giraffe having a bath, a roo on the toilet, a hippo with a hula to other equally busy animals performing their funny antics. The rhythmic text will have young readers joining in. The engaging and detailed illustrations are comical and appealing. This is a book that children will love to read over and over again by themselves or share with others.

**Useful for:** animals, humour, rhyming story

**20. French, Vivian. Polly's pink pyjamas / [illustrations] Sue Heap.**

London : Walker, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32369-6 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1451680

Picture Book. Polly only ever wears her much-loved pink pyjamas. When she is invited to Fred's party she borrows some party clothes but the red spotty dress is too short, the green check cardigan too small and the blue shoes too big. Just when she thinks she'll have to miss the party Fred tells her it is a special kind of party – one that will suit Polly perfectly. Children will enjoy this amusing story and appreciate Polly's dilemma about her clothes. It is a handy story to teach younger children about colours; as Polly moves through each page, endearing full-page illustrations reflect the colour of the clothes.

**Useful for:** pyjama parties, colours, clothes, friendship, sharing, drawing

**A 21. Germein, Katrina. Little dog / [illustrated by] Tamsin Ainslie.**

Lindfield, N.S.W. : Scholastic, 2010. [29] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9552-6 hbk \$26.99  
SCIS No: 1449642

Picture Book. Littledog adopts Sam and his family who are holidaying at the beach. Despite putting up 'Found' notices and placing an advertisement in the paper, by the end of the week no one has claimed Littledog and he has endeared himself to the whole family with his friendly, playful antics and efforts to join in the family activities. This story with simple

illustrations depicting the warmth of family and a typical Australian beach holiday will charm readers.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, family, beach themes, holidays, pets, dogs

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**A 22. Goess, Carol. Can we lick the spoon now? / illustrated by Tamsin Ainslie.**

Kingswood, S. Aust. : Working Title, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921504-16-7 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1468652

Picture Book. Dad decides to bake a cake and persuades his two small children to help him, with the promise of licking the spoon afterwards. The children take turns adding the ingredients and beating the mixture, each time asking if they can lick the spoon. Their next question is "Can we eat the cake now?". This gentle story has a simple rhyme and catchy action verses such as 'in goes the milk, splish, splash, splish' and 'in go the eggs whisk, whisk, whisk', that will entice children to join in. Soft watercolour illustrations create warm scenes of domesticity with the dog eagerly watching their activities. A recipe for chocolate cake is included.

**Useful for:** fathers, families, cooking, rhyme and rhythm, recipes, procedure

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**A 23. Goonack, Cathy. Scaly-tailed possum and echidna.**

Broome, W.A. : Magabala Books, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921248-16-0 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1466177

Picture Book. Cathy Goonack, of the Wunambal people of the Kimberley (Western Australia), retells the traditional story – in short descriptive sentences – of how the scaly-tailed possum got his scaly tail and the echidna got his spikes. The story carries a warning about stealing! Illustrations in vivid colour on silk are based on Goonack's children's reproduced drawings. Included in the book are photos, a map and facts about the animals featured in the story as well as information about the author, her family and the Kandiwal tribe of the Wunambal People.

**Useful for:** early readers, early literacy, traditional tales, animals, family, indigenous Australians, cultural understanding, Western Australia

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**24. Gravett, Emily. Blue chameleon.**

London : Macmillan Children's, 2010. [23] p.  
ISBN 978-0-230-70424-4 hbk \$26.99  
SCIS No: 1456963

Picture Book. Blue Chameleon is lonely and wants a friend. He changes colour and even shape every

time he meets something or someone new to look just like them. Despite this, nobody wants to be his friend and Blue Chameleon feels despondent and becomes invisible on a white page. Finally, in a burst of colour, he meets a new playmate and his sorrow turns to joy. This minimalist picture book is another visual stunner from Emily Gravett. The interplay between the sparse text and the simple but expressive illustrations is subtly humorous. This is a great book to introduce colours to younger children and it can be used as a springboard to discuss issues about loneliness, being different and fitting in. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** making friends, colours, shapes, lizards, differences

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**25. Houghton, Chris. A bit lost.**

London : Walker, 2010. [28] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32746-5 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1474537

Picture Book. While his mother sleeps, Little Owl accidentally falls out of the nest and onto the forest floor. When a friendly squirrel offers to help the little lost owl, a comedy of errors ensues. Based on Little Owl's descriptions of his mother – very big, pointy ears, big eyes – Squirrel leads him first to a bear, then a rabbit, and finally a frog, announcing each time "Here she is. Here's your mummy!" The sparse text is enhanced by the humour in the illustrations. The bewildered looks of the animals mistaken by Squirrel as Little Owl's mother will elicit fits of giggles. The bold shapes and 70s-inspired palette add to the charm of this endearing, fun-to-read story.

**Useful for:** descriptions, mothers, humour, owls

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**26. Hollyer, Belinda. Lulu at the birthday party / illustrated by Emma Damon.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8450-7473-9 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1451638

Picture Book. Lulu is jealous because her little brother Billy is having a birthday party and getting lots of presents and attention. She hides the lovely new ball Billy wants to take to the park but when she can't find her yo-yo, she realises how Billy must feel. This gentle story about sibling rivalry explores common feelings children can experience, while showing a positive outcome for the whole family. Lovely expressive watercolour illustrations that depict family scenes on every page, add much interest. An enjoyable story that is useful to prompt discussion about sibling rivalry and consideration of others.

**Useful for:** birthdays, parties, siblings, jealousy, families, painting techniques

**27. Horacek, Petr. The fly.**

London : Walker, 2010. [25] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31392-5 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1454709

Picture Book. A house fly gives its perspective of a day in its life. Inside the house it is constantly in danger of being swatted – humans just aren't willing to share. Young readers will enjoy the simple sentences which capture the fly's bewilderment. Bold, colourful illustrations use a variety of painting techniques to portray texture. There is effective use of speech bubbles and roaming print. Clever page flaps add fun and the story ends with a joke. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** insects, pest control, persecution, points of view

**28. Huneck, Stephen. Sally's great balloon adventure.**

New York : Abrams, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-0-8109-8331-1 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1452056

Picture Book. While trying to retrieve a basket of fried chicken from the gondola of a hot air balloon, Sally the amiable and curious Labrador, finds herself floating through the sky away from her family. Everyone has an idea for rescuing Sally but a child in a schoolyard has the best idea of all. This warm, charming story about a loveable dog and her interesting adventure will delight children. The large, bright woodcut prints will further capture interest. Children may like to retell the story with their own ideas for rescuing Sally or a similar story about their own pet.

**Useful for:** dogs, hot air balloons, families, adventures, printmaking, recounts

**A 29. Johnson, Mo. Noah's garden / illustrated by Annabelle Josse.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921150-15-9 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1456256

Picture Book. Noah plays in a wonderful garden where he lets his imagination come to life. Noah's grandfather, mother and father join him in the garden but Noah waits for his sick baby sister Jessica to join him. Eventually to his delight, his wish comes true and Jessica visits Noah's garden. Based on the real experiences of a Melbourne family, this touching story is written in simple language and conveys warmth and sensitivity. The colourful watercolour illustrations work well with the playful language and extend the text. All royalties from this book will be donated to assist the Melbourne Royal Children's Hospital.

**Useful for:** childhood illness, understanding, empathy, gardens, imaginative play

**A 30. Jones, Dean. All through the night.**

Fitzroy, Vic. : Black Dog, 2010. [22] p. + 1 ticket.  
ISBN 978-1-7420-3152-1 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1484054

Picture Book. A little boy goes on a magical train journey when he goes to sleep in the night and dreams about all kinds of things before he arrives safely home in the morning. This lavish picture book has accompanying text that reassuringly suggests that having dreams during sleep are like a journey and each new day brings promise. The stunning and imaginative illustrations in a palette of purple, red and black, extend the simple text. The topic of having dreams will be interesting to children in early childhood who sometimes get worried about dreams and going to sleep at night.

**Useful for:** dreams, imagination, night-time, visual literacy

**31. Jones, Lis. A walk in the wild woods / illustrations by Jim Coplestone.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8450-7956-7 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1460900

Picture Book. Ruby, Rabby, her toy rabbit and her father go for a walk in the woods and they see a fox. Daddy explains that Foxy is looking for a rabbit for his dinner but he won't eat Ruby because he only likes soft little rabbits. Unbeknown to Ruby she loses Rabby and Foxy picks him up and returns the toy to Ruby in the nick of time. This delightful story with its reassuring twist at the end will amuse and appeal to young children while the engaging illustrations will lead to plenty of discussion.

**Useful for:** fears, rabbits, foxes, walks, kindness

**32. Konnecke, Ole. Anton can do magic / [translated by Catherine Chidgey].**

Wellington : Gecko, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-87746-763-9 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1457964

Picture Book. Translated from German and first published in 2006. Anton believes he has magic powers because of the wondrous turban that he is wearing. But the hat is too big for him and keeps slipping over his eyes and this creates situations where he believes he is making a bird and his friend disappear. This delightfully simple and funny tale has sparse text which manages to convey a sense of humour in very few words. The charming and evocative illustrations complement the story perfectly and show the secrets to Anton's 'magic'.

This is an entertaining book that will be a good read-aloud story for young children. The simple text and repetition makes it also suitable for independent reading.

**Useful for:** imagination, reality and fantasy, magic, hats

**A 33. Lester, Alison. Noni the pony.**

Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen & Unwin, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7417-5888-7 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1470723

Picture Book. Noni is a pony and her friends are Dave the dog and Coco the cat. They enjoy playing together and Noni always makes sure her friends are happy and safe. One day when thunder scares her friends, Noni tells them a story to help them be brave. Written in playful rhyming verse and great for reading aloud, this story has a rich vocabulary with good use of adjectives. The charming illustrations on double-page spreads use colours that capture the Australian landscape. Another classic from Alison Lester and a wonderful book for early childhood readers. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** caring, sharing, friendship, ponies, farm animals, rhyming story

**A 34. Mastnak, Rosemary. Adventures with Grandpa.**

Prahran, Vic. : Hardie Grant Egmont, 2010. [28] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921690-76-1 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1469480

Picture Book. Like the previous books, *Dancing with Grandma* and *Cooking with Grandma* (a CBCA Notable Book) *Adventures with Grandpa* shows the special relationship between grandparents and grandchildren. A young boy is transported into a fantasy world when he opens the door to his grandfather's shed. Draped in his superhero cape, he does not know what fantastic adventures lies ahead. The vibrant watercolour illustrations are detailed and support the sparse text. There are lots of whimsical touches in the engaging illustrations offering young readers much to explore and pore over in this delightful book.

**Useful for:** imaginative play, grandfathers, grandparents, family

**35. Melling, David. Hugless Douglas.**

London : Hodder Children's Books, 2010. [29] p.  
ISBN 978-0-340-95063-0 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1478351

Picture Book. Douglas is a bear who wakes up one morning in need of a hug. As he goes in search of one, none seem quite right. Suddenly he knows

who can give him the hug he so desperately seeks – his mum. This engaging tale has accessible language and the story will strike a chord with any young reader. Colourful illustrations enhance the humour and larger font sizes frequently appear throughout the text. The end pages demonstrating varieties of hugs, bring additional hilarity to this endearing book.

**Useful for:** bears, humour, read aloud

**A 36. Miller, David. Rufus the numbat.**

Ormond, Vic. : Ford St, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-87646-296-3 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1464574

Picture Book. A numbat leaves the bush and wanders through a town and back to the bush again. Along the way and unaware, he wreaks havoc, knocking a cyclist from his bike, spilling paint and spoiling a parade with a Chinese dragon. In an interesting role reversal, this imaginative story shows the animal moving through the town with no regard or care for what is important to the people, as people often have no regard for the bush and animal habitats. Beautiful detailed paper sculptures set against a backdrop of watercolour and ink illustrations convey the story along with the minimalist text. This very effective story will encourage children to think about human impact on the environment and the role reversal idea provides good stimulus for writing activities.

**Useful for:** numbats, built environments, animal habitats, conservation, environmental responsibility, writing, paper sculptures

**37. Morgan, Michaela. Never shake a rattlesnake / illustrated by Nick Sharratt.**

London : Macmillan Children's Books, 2010. [25] p.  
ISBN 978-0-230-74050-1 hbk \$26.99  
SCIS No: 1480314

Picture Book. This rollicking rhyming story takes a humorous look at animal behaviour and also touches on good manners. The large format, clear, bold text and the lively full-page illustrations make this book especially useful for reading aloud to a group of young children. This lively picture book is easy to read and bubbles with silly humour which young children will appreciate.

**Useful for:** animals, rhyming text, read aloud, humour

**A 38. Morgan, Sally & Kwaymullina, Ezekiel.**

**Me and my dad / illustrated by Matt Ottley.**

Prahran, Vic. : Little Hare, 2010. [23] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921541-81-0 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1470613

Picture Book. This simple story is about the special relationship between a boy and his father. They spend their time together exploring the beach and with his father beside him the boy feels protected from hungry sharks and barking dogs. But there is one thing the father is afraid of and his son is not. The sparse text works well with Matt Ottley's close-up watercolour illustrations which are bright and sometimes comical. Most illustrations are on double page spreads, but the occasional split frame provides action sequences that are fun to follow. The various visual perspectives the viewer is presented with also extend the story and build up the tension of the dangers lurking on the beach or under the water.

**Useful for:** fathers, sons, sea, beach, fears

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**A 39. Niland, Deborah. It's bedtime, William!**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07382-5 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1464492

Picture Book. William is always quick with an excuse not to go to bed. One night, he finds a lion in his bed and when he reports this to his parents, they tell him to remove it from his room himself. But the lion isn't tired and wants to play so it's William's turn to tell the stories and play the games, just like his parents. Finally, after many excuses from the lion, a tired William and his lion go to sleep. The big, bold text is supported by the expressive and simple illustrations in water colours and ink. This is a delightful story to read aloud to a group or one-to-one where a child and an older reader could read the dialogue together.

**Useful for:** bedtime, families, imaginary friends, lions

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**A 40. Norling, Beth. I found a friend & my friend found me.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07259-0 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1471946

Picture Book. This book is about the joys of friendship – finding friends, making friends and doing things together. Two little children discover their first friendship but when things go wrong they realise all the things they miss doing with each other. Their feelings of sadness and subsequent soul searching make them develop strategies to regain their friendship. The simple language and interesting layout of the text, with different colours and font styles is complemented by the delightful, lively illustrations. This lovely story conveys an important message that both children and adults will be able to relate to.

**Useful for:** friendship, feelings, emotions, coping skills

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**A 41. Quay, Emma. Shrieking Violet.**

Lindfield, N.S.W. : Scholastic, 2010. [29] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9568-7 hbk \$26.99  
SCIS No: 1470607

Picture Book. Violet is a toddler who throws loud tantrums and shrieks whenever she doesn't get her way, while her older sister shows her mother (and the reader) the things she can do in contrast to noisy Violet. The sisters vie for their mother's attention and things build to a climax when big sister complains loudly about Violet. She is consoled by her mother and her little sister. The story is narrated in the older girl's voice and is about the ups and downs of family life. The charming illustrations in a range of media and techniques are lively and humorous. A great book for sharing one-to-one or with a class.

**Useful for:** sisters, family life, family relationships

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**42. Rayner, Catherine. Ernest.**

London : Macmillan Children's Books, 2010. [22] p.  
ISBN 978-0-230-71255-3 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1471544

Picture Book. Ernest the moose is so huge that he can't even squeeze inside the book, however his little chipmunk friend thinks of a clever plan. With some sticky tape and a little bit of extra paper they find a way to make him fit onto a page. This is a simple but charming story and the text is excellent to read aloud. There are gentle messages in the story about co-operation and thinking outside the box. Ernest's friendly face fills up the spreads of this beautifully illustrated book which uses collage techniques. The use of different font size adds to the book's appeal; and the fold-out page at the very end makes this tale of teamwork extra special.

**Useful for:** size, friends, lateral thinking, co-operation, problem-solving

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**43. Root, Phyllis. Creak! said the bed / illustrated by Regan Dunnick.**

London : Walker, 2010. [22] p.  
ISBN 978-0-7445-5787-9 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1451649

Picture Book. A family is trying to sleep through a thunderstorm and as each family member gets frightened, they climb into their parents' bed one after another. The bed lets out a creak with each addition and the last straw is the family dog as the bed finally breaks. This cumulative tale offers a familiar storyline and the simple, cartoon-style

illustrations are a suitable match for the humorous language. The layout of the text and use of different fonts styles add to the suspense of the story. The repetitive phrases, rhythmic words, onomatopoeia and repetition encourage participation from young readers and make it a great read aloud.

**Useful for:** fears, family life, bedtime

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**44. Rosen, Michael. Tiny little fly / pictures by Kevin Waldron.**

London : Walker, 2010. [34] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31455-7 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1486914

Picture Book. A tiny fly outwits a big elephant, a hippopotamus and a tiger in this lively story. Readers see that the tiny animal cannot be rolled, squished or squashed by a large one reversing the conventional notion of size and power in the animal world. The playful text has a lovely rhythm and repetitive pattern; and the big, bold illustrations on double-page spread contrast large creature and small for great visual impact. This engaging picture book for young children is a joy to read aloud.

**Useful for:** animals, rhyme and rhythm

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**A 45. Russell, Paula. My sister, Olive / Gaye Chapman.**

Prahran, Vic. : Little Hare, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921272-88-2 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1479753

Picture Book. Olive and her younger sister are similar in appearance but Olive is best at braiding her hair, knitting slippers and skipping rope among other things. But instead of feeling jealous, Olive's sister admires Olive for her abilities. In a delightful twist at the end, Olive thinks her younger sister is the best at giving big hugs. The evocative text has touches of playfulness and the textile collage illustrations depict the two sisters with an old fashioned doll-like appearance.

**Useful for:** sisters, family, abilities

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**46. Sandall, Ellie. Birdsong.**

London : Egmont, 2010. [26] p.  
ISBN 978-1-405-24738-2 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1445395

Picture Book. A small bird sits in a tree singing merrily and it is soon joined by another bird, and then another. As each colourful bird lands on the branch of the tree it joins in the cheerful song. The chorus of birdsong builds up and then the biggest bird of all lands on the branch and sings the loudest – until something small comes along and causes his downfall. The simple and humorous story has a great deal of cumulative repetition and rhyme. The

attractive illustrations are a combination of textured crayon, watercolours and collage. Suitable for reading to a class, but will also be enjoyed by newly independent readers.

**Useful for:** birds, rhyming text

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**47. Schwarz, Viviane. There are no cats in this book.**

London : Walker, 2010. [26] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31689-6 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1474339

Picture Book. In this delightfully funny book, three cats – Tiny, Moonpie and André – talk directly to the reader who is regarded as a visitor entering their home. After informing the reader that they are about to leave the book and travel the world, the trio try to push and jump their way out of the pages (complete with flaps and a pop-up to enhance the effect) but to no avail. With a lot of wishing and little help from the reader they finally make their way out. A few blank pages and a thoughtful postcard later, the cats are back with a lovely surprise. This interactive and imaginative storytelling approach combined with a lovable cast of feline characters is sure to captivate readers of all ages.

**Useful for:** cats, humour, speech bubbles

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**48. Sharratt, Nick & Symes, Sally. Something beginning with blue.**

London : Walker, 2010. [25] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32619-2 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1478849

Picture Book. Various children play 'I spy' and spot different objects and animals in all sorts of colours. This colourful and fun book allows children to peep through the cut-out holes in the eyes of the illustrated characters. Little children will love the lively rhyming text; bold, bright illustrations as well as guessing what's hiding over the page.

**Useful for:** colours, animals, rhyming story, games

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**49. Sharratt, Nick. Shark in the dark!**

Oxford : David Fickling Books, 2009. [18] p.  
ISBN 978-0-385-61631-7 hbk \$32.95  
SCIS No: 1440052

Picture Book. The little boy in this book is looking through his telescope in his bedroom and is sure he keeps seeing a shark. This fun and brightly illustrated book is artfully designed with full-colour illustrations throughout and with cut-out overlays that enhance the story. The repetition also encourages listeners to join in the narration and children will delight in peeping through the holes and guessing what Tim has spotted.

**Useful for:** sharks, read aloud, rhyming text

**50. Shields, Gillian. Don't let the aliens get my marvellous mum / illustrated by Liz Pichon.**

London : Gullane Children's Books, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-86233-649-0 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1460892

Picture Book. A little girl imagines what life might be like if aliens abducted her mum. The text describes the things she would miss – there would be no-one to cook her boiled egg how she likes it, surprise her with home-made cakes or clap like mad at school performances – while the humorous illustrations predict what might happen if aliens attempted to fill these roles. With simple vocabulary and bright, bold illustrations this fun book is a celebration of all the special things mothers do.

**Useful for:** families, love, mothers, space, aliens

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**51. Souhami, Jessica. Piglet's picnic : a story about food and counting.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8450-7976-5 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1451646

Picture Book. Piglet invites her friends to a picnic asking them to bring their favourite food to share. En route to the river, she is slowly joined by her animal friends and they progressively add to the total number travelling with her. Piglet expresses her hunger using different synonyms each time. By lifting the flaps, readers will discover that animals have different diets and Piglet's own contribution saves her from being left hungry. Souhami's simple but charming illustrations are composed of coloured paper shapes pasted on solid colour backgrounds, with details in black crayon. These lend themselves to a follow-up activity using the same technique. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** addition, counting, animals, food, picture-making, vocabulary, art ideas

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**52. Steggall, Susan. Busy boats.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's, 2010. [25] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8478-0074-9 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1474604

Picture Book. A fishing boat leaves port in the morning and returns in the afternoon to a busy harbour filled with all kinds of different marine vessels from ferry boats to freighters loaded with cargo. Accompanied by rhythmic rhyming text and vibrant collage illustrations this picture book will delight young readers and is great for reading aloud and sharing.

**Useful for:** boats, ships, sea, harbours

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**A 53. Vaughan, Marcia K. Snug as a hug : an Australian lullaby / [illustrated by] Pamela Lofts.**

Sydney : Scholastic, 2010. [21] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9521-2 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1446897

Picture Book. *Snug as a hug* is an endearing and gentle lullaby for young children. The rhythmic embrace of the rhyming words introduces the reader to a variety of native fauna from echidnas to numbats, possums to turtles, all falling asleep in their different environments. Soon the little child who is listening to this poem is also dreaming and snuggled up in her bed. The simple rhyming words of the text is enhanced and brought to life by the beautiful pencil illustrations of the animals.

**Useful for:** Australian animals, rhyming verse, animal homes, vocabulary

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**54. Voake, Charlotte. Ginger and the mystery visitor.**

London : Walker, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32238-5 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1473157

Picture Book. In this delightful lesson on cat behaviour, Ginger and the kitten are intrigued by the bold intrusion of a mystery cat which enters their house, eats their food and even sleeps on the bed. The little girl's takes control and her attempt at finding some answers results in a response. The expressive watercolour and ink drawings accompanying this amusing, gentle story, captures the body language and expressions of the cats superbly.

**Useful for:** pet ownership, responsibility, reading aloud

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**A 55. Whiting, Sue. The firefighters / pictures by Donna Rawlins.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921529-70-2 pbk \$44.95  
SCIS No: 1466269

Big Book. Young kindergarten children and their teacher are playing at being firefighters. Then, the real fire engine with real firefighters arrives. Bold, brightly coloured, exuberant illustrations and the speech-based text which uses exciting descriptive language, make this a great book to share with young children. Also useful as an example of dramatic play. First published in 2008.

**Useful for:** firefighting, play, readers' theatre, read aloud, vocabulary development, imagination

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**56. Yates, Louise. Dog loves books.**

London : Jonathan Cape, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-0-224-08357-7 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1455774

Picture Book. Dog loves books so passionately that he opens his own bookstore. But nobody comes to buy his books and Dog gets discouraged until he picks up a book and reads to pass the time. He becomes immersed in the stories and when the customers finally arrive, he knows exactly which books to recommend. **Dog Loves Books** is an appealing story with a charming and lovable character. The simple but expressive illustrations in pastel pencil and watercolor complement the story well. This is a delightful resource for encouraging young children to read and share books.

**Useful for:** reading, books, dogs, read-aloud

**Part One B: Years 1-3**

**A Aussie nibbles (series)**

Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. pbk \$12.95 each

Illustrated Chapter Book. Presented in novel format, the books in this popular series provide young students with entertaining stories that are relevant to their interests. Simple language, large print, short chapters and illustrations make them accessible to beginning readers.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 57. Godwin, Jane. Where's Sunday? /**

**illustrated by Ann James.** 64 p.

ISBN 978-0-14-330471-5

SCIS No: 1446910

On a trip back from the beach, Sal loses her precious puppy, Sunday. Despite looking everywhere Sunday is nowhere to be seen and Sal despairs of ever seeing her again. A phone call the next morning brings happy news to Sal and the family.

**Useful for:** pets, dogs, family outings, lost and found

**A 58. Metzenthien, David. Squidnapped! /**

**illustrated by Stephen Axelsen.** 62 p.

ISBN 978-0-14-330477-7

SCIS No: 1455139

At the beach, Holly Tolly wanders away from her parents while catching a baby squid for her Travelling Sea Creatures Show. Under the waves, the little squid's parents frantically search for him while on the beach Holly's parents anxiously look for her. After her mother finds her, Holly realises the squid belongs back in the water and she belongs with her parents.

**Useful for:** families, family outings, the beach, safety, marine life, animal care

**A 59. Miesen, Christina. Jamie Spy and the great cookie mystery.** 63 p.

ISBN 978-0-14-330514-9

SCIS No: 1451356

Jamie Spy interviews all the members of his secret agent family when the cookies his mother baked in the morning go missing. Using his spy skills he pieces together clues from each family member to solve the mystery.

**Useful for:** families, cooking, detectives, problem-solving

**60. Barton, Chris & Lichtenheld, Tom. Shark vs. train.**

New York : Little, Brown and Company, 2010.

[32] p.

ISBN 978-0-316-00762-7

hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1458726

Picture Book. When two young boys raid the toy box, one chooses the toy shark and the other, the train. Immediately, they face off against each other in a fierce competition to see which toy is superior at a variety of test activities including eating pies, roasting marshmallows and giving rides. As the competition increases and the tests become quite wacky, there are no clear winners. This highly imaginative story makes clever use of language and weaves jokes and puns into the storyline and illustrations. The toys take over the pages with large and colourful cartoon-style drawings showing the shark and the train trying to outdo each other. Children, particularly boys, will enjoy and the humour and exuberance in this entertaining story that also extends their experience with language.

**Useful for:** toys, play, competition, imagination, humour, language activities, boys reading

**61. Bauer, Michael Gerard. You turkeys! [sound recording]**

Hawthorn, Vic. : Louis Braille Audio, 2010. 1 CD

(20 min) (Mates : great Australian yarns)

ISBN 978-1-921339-85-1

Audio CD \$24.95

SCIS No: 1483699

Audio Book. Read brilliantly using different voices for each character, Australian Craig Annis tells the story of Jake and Anna's dad's frustration at the invasion by scrub turkeys in his garden and the many different ways he tries to get rid of the birds. When the turkeys constantly get the upper hand, Dad finally realises he must compromise and accommodate his garden to the needs of the local wildlife. Great for entertaining listening and for supporting young readers as they read along with the recording.

**Useful for:** listening, read-along, gardens, humour, Australian animals, habitats, sustainable environments

**62. Becker, Bonny. A bedtime for bear / illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton.**

London : Walker, 2010. [44] p  
ISBN 978-1-406-32776-2 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1474541

Picture Book. When Mouse comes for a sleepover, Bear explains that he needs absolute quiet at bedtime. Mouse annoys Bear by making noise as he prepares for bed but when all is quiet, Bear hears some strange noises and this time it is Bear that wakes Mouse. This lovely story will appeal to young children who will delight in the amusing antics of Mouse and identify with Bear and his bedtime fears. Expressive full-page illustrations create endearing characters of Bear and Mouse and add to the humour in the text. A good read aloud or for newly independent readers to read to themselves.

**Useful for:** bears, bedtime, sleepovers, night fears, cooperation, humour

**A 63. Bell, Krista. Peeking ducks / illustrated by Sally Rippin.**

East Kew, Vic. : Windy Hollow, 2010. [32] p  
ISBN 978-1-921136-45-0 hbk \$25.99  
SCIS No: 1444512

Picture Book. Set in China, this is a charming tale about three curious little ducks who go on an adventure in search of the mighty Li River. Along the way they discover that there are many dangers and there are some things in life they still need to learn from their parents. Young children in the lower primary will enjoy listening to this story being read aloud which has a rhythmic flow to it. This beautifully produced picture book is complemented by simple watercolour illustrations drawn mostly in soft, muted colours. A gentle cautionary tale about three little ducks discovering the real world and is suitable for an introduction on the topic of China.

**Useful for:** ducks, China, cautionary tale, adventure

**64. Bottner, Barbara. Miss Brooks loves books! (and I don't) / illustrated by Michael Emberley.**

New York : Knopf, 2010. [23] p.  
ISBN 978-0-375-84682-3 hbk \$36.95  
SCIS No: 1456241

Picture Book. Miss Brooks, the enthusiastic school librarian will not give up on finding the young unnamed central character, a book that she will enjoy reading. Not even the costumes Miss Brooks wears for storytime excite interest in this reluctant reader. Until she discovers that one of the books Miss Brooks has sent her home with includes a topic of interest to her. When her mother reads the

book to her, she is hooked. This fun and not in the least didactic book, is filled with amusing watercolour and ink illustrations which capture the personalities of the main characters.

**Useful for:** reluctant readers, recreational reading, school libraries

**65. Branford, Anna. Violet Mackerel's brilliant plot / illustrated by Sarah Davis.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 104 p.  
ISBN 978-1-921529-17-7 hbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1486763

Early Chapter Book. When Violet spots a beautiful blue china bird at a market stall she knows she must think of a brilliant, outside-the-square plot to get the money needed to buy it. Unfortunately things don't quite go according to plan, but that doesn't stop a determined Violet who finally comes up with an idea that rewards her in a way she could have never imagined. Curious, quirky and impulsive, Violet is a realistic and lovable character who young girls in particular will easily relate to. Soft greyscale illustrations perfectly capture the mood of this heart-warming story best suited to capable, confident junior primary readers.

**Useful for:** persistence, kindness, giving, family

**A 66. Brian, Janeen. Shirl and the Wollomby Show / illustrated by Kat Chadwick.**

Malvern, S.A. : Omnibus, 2010. [22] p  
ISBN 978-1-86291-837-5 pbk \$13.99  
SCIS No: 1449801

Picture Book. The annual Wollomby show is approaching and Gertrude the goat boasts that once again she will win every contest. That doesn't stop Shirl and the sheep though, who prove that hard work and determination are a winning combination when they take out the 'Best Dressed' prize for their unusual and imaginative creation. With fast-paced, rhyming text and colourful illustrations children will enjoy listening to this feel-good story that encourages creativity and perseverance.

**Useful for:** problem-solving, perseverance, competition, craft, knitting, sheep

**67. Brown, Ruth. Gracie, the lighthouse cat.**

London : Andersen, 2010. [26] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8427-0971-9 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1459100

Picture Book. One stormy night Grace Darling, the lighthouse keeper's daughter, spots a ship in trouble on the rocks. At the same time the lighthouse cat Gracie discovers that a kitten from her new litter has strayed. Grace and Gracie both

hurry to the rescue, braving the rain and storm. The mother cat's rescue of her strayed kitten perfectly mirrors the heroics of the main heroine. Ruth Brown's amazing evocative illustrations convey the desperation and urgency of the rescue, drawing the reader into the action of the story.

**Useful for:** heroes, shipwrecks

**68. Cali, Davide & Foli, Gianluca. The bear with the sword.**

Albert Park, Vic. : Wilkins Farago, 2010. [24] p  
ISBN 978-0-9806070-4-8 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1448082

Picture Book. A bear is very proud of his sword and to prove how powerful it is, he begins hacking down everything in reach, including a whole forest. When his fortress is washed away he sets out to find the perpetrator in order to cut him in two. In the end the bear finds that the chain of disasters leads back to him. In mournful realisation, the bear sets about repairing the damage and right the wrong he has created. This is a beautifully presented tale that allows young readers to easily grasp the concept of thinking before acting and taking responsibility for one's actions. The bear's remorse and the actions he takes to make appropriate amends will provide all young readers with food for thought. The lively illustrations extend the text and reveal further details on closer examination.

**Useful for:** consequences, bears, environmental degradation, responsibility, violence and non-violence, parable

**A 69. Carnavas, Peter. The important things.**

Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Frontier, 2009. [32] p  
ISBN 978-1-921042-28-7 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1459095

Picture Book. Christopher and his mother are coming to terms with the death of their father and husband. Mum eventually packs up Dad's things and takes them to a second-hand store. One-by-one these things mysteriously reappear in the house. This is a charming tale of different ways of dealing with the loss of a loved one and the importance significant things have in a person's memory. The lovely illustrations bring positive warmth to a sensitive subject.

**Useful for:** families, mothers, fathers, death, grief, relationships, significant things

**A 70. Carnavas, Peter. Last tree in the city.**

Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Frontier, 2010. [30] p

ISBN 978-1-921042-21-8 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1482048

Picture Book. Everyday Edward rides his tricycle to the last tree in the city to sit in its branches and play. One day he discovers a stump where the tree once stood. He is bereft until he finds a branch with green leaves. He plants this in the tray of his trike and inspires other city dwellers to plant trees in a variety of places. In the watercolour and ink illustrations, the stark cityscape is depicted in monotonous tones, only Peter and the tree are brightly coloured. This book can be used to promote discussion on the value of trees and the ways in which individuals can contribute to environmental preservation.

**Useful for:** conservation, environmental protection, tree planting

**71. Carroll, Lewis. The nursery Alice / illustrated by Sir John Tenniel.**

London : Macmillan Children's Books, 2010. 64 p.  
ISBN 978-0-230-74770-8 hbk \$29.99  
SCIS No: 1450550

Illustrated Story. English Classic. This version of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is adapted by Lewis Carroll, himself for younger children. This edition 'reproduces the typesetting of the 1890's version and retains the original punctuation and spelling'. In Carroll's very simplified story-line, Alice meets the characters of Wonderland after she follows a white rabbit down a hole. Intended by the author to be read aloud and shared with children, this attractively presented book contains the original illustrations, coloured by Sir John Tenniel. The original 1890 preface, a letter and two poems by the author are included.

**Useful for:** reading aloud, introducing classics, famous authors, picture book illustrations

**72. Castellucci, Cecil. Grandma's gloves / illustrated by Julia Denos.**

London : Walker, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32775-5 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1475074

Picture Book. In first person narrative, a girl tells of the enjoyable times spent at her grandmother's house, especially outside while she gardens. Grandma's health declines and she goes to hospital and dies not long after. The girl finds comfort in keeping her grandmother's gardening gloves, and decides to grow with the help of her mother, a garden of her own. The brief but descriptive text handles the topic of death in a natural way. The emotions felt by the girl and her family are reflected in the sketchy, gentle watercolour and pencil drawings.

**Useful for:** grandchild-grandparent relationships, death, coping, gardens, memories, rites of passage

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**73. Charters, Janet & Foreman, Michael. The general.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. [42] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921720-07-9 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1478832

Picture Book. The General wants his army to be admired by the world so he keeps his soldiers busy with training. When riding in a field one day, he is thrown from his horse. Lying in the grass, he begins to see the beauty in nature around him. When he returns, he sends his soldiers home. A peaceful, environmentally aware community of people build homes where his camp used to be. And the General takes pride in escorting world leaders on tours of his city. First published in 1961, this book still has relevance today with its environmental and anti-war themes. This fiftieth anniversary edition with Foreman's original watercolour illustrations contains much to discuss.

**Useful for:** peace studies, environmental protection, government

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**74. Child, Lauren. Slightly invisible.**

London : Orchard, 2010. [40] p. (Charlie and Lola)  
ISBN 978-1-408-30790-8 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1483219

Picture Book. Charlie and Marv make an invisibility potion for creeping up on strange and tricky creatures but when they go to the fridge to get it, the potion has gone. Lola is the suspected culprit but Lola says her invisible friend Soren Lorenson drank the potion and ate all the biscuits. She convinces the boys that Soren Lorenson and a tea party will catch the tricky creature. This delightful story celebrates the imaginative play children engage in and the endearing relationship between the older brother and younger sister and their friend. Bright, colourful collage illustrations in Lauren Child's characteristic style transform the games to exciting places of adventure and the depiction of the children adds extra humour. A useful resource for newly independent readers and motivating children to write their own adventure stories.

**Useful for:** brothers and sisters, friendship, make-believe games, adventure, collage, writing

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**A 75. Clark, Sherryl. Now I am bigger / illustrated by Nina Rycroft.**

Kingswood, S. Aust. : Working Title, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921504-17-4 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1465044

Picture Book. **Now I am bigger** is a collection of poems about a small child's life, starting from birth to about age three. The first poem is about the child as a baby and the last poem is about the little boy moving from his cot into his first big bed. The other poems are about the excitement and wonder of learning to walk, talk, eat and dress himself - all the important stepping stones in a child's early life. The simple poems are complemented by beautiful watercolour illustrations which will appeal to early childhood readers. This lovely book is best enjoyed as a shared read aloud either individually or with a group.

**Useful for:** growth and development, changes, poetry, rhyme

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**76. Clarke, Jane. Gilbert the hero / illustrated by Charles Fuge.**

Mascot, N.S.W. : Koala, 2010. [29] p.  
ISBN 978-0-86461-965-5 pbk \$13.99  
SCIS No: 1474376

Picture Book. This is the third story in the popular series about a Great White Shark named Gilbert. Gilbert the shark is looking after his new baby brother, but Finn is too small to join in their usual games. When Gilbert's friend Mallett suggests a game of skating, Gilbert decides to leave Finn alone and join in. Soon a hungry orca appears and it goes after the little shark. Gilbert is quick and resourceful and saves Finn from being eaten. The story will resonate with many children and will make this book an ideal read for anyone coping with the difficulties a new sibling brings. The endearing illustrations in aquatic blue-green colours capture the personalities of these loveable sea creatures.

**Useful for:** siblings, family, friendship, sharks, games, sea creatures

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**A 77. Clement, Rod. Feathers for Phoebe.**

Pymble, N.S.W. : Angus&Robertson, 2010. [28] p.  
ISBN 978-0-7322-8919-5 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1487992

Picture Book. Phoebe, a small grey bird longs to be noticed. The flamboyant Zelda, a bird who runs a beauty salon in the forest, attaches plumes of very bright colours to Phoebe. More feathers are added each time Phoebe fails to attract attention. Finally, her ridiculous plumage obstructs flight and is ripped from her as Phoebe falls from the sky. Her fall is broken by another small grey bird who comments on her way of getting noticed. Readers will enjoy exploring the colourful illustrations and selecting feathers for Phoebe to wear.

**Useful for:** self-acceptance, self-esteem, attitudes

**A 78. Cummings, Phil. All together now / illustrated by Cassandra Allen.**

Malvern, S. Aust. : Omnibus, 2010. [22] p.  
ISBN 978-1-86291-869-6 pbk \$13.99  
SCIS No: 1454634

Picture Book. The rhyming, repetitive verse in this story of a family camping holiday in the Australian bush can be sung to the tune of the well-known song *Tie me kangaroo down, Sport*. The verse and brightly coloured watercolour illustrations reflect the activities of this robust family as they pack for the trip, set up camp and generally enjoy the great outdoors.

**Useful for:** poetry, singing, family life, holidays, outdoor activities

**79. Davey, Lucy. The fidgety itch / illustrated by Katz Cowley.**

Auckland : Scholastic, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-86943-967-5 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1464163

Picture Book. When Tiny Timpkin gets an itch, his friend Feather McDoo offers to scratch it for him, then Feather gets an itch. Possum Pie offers to help and so on as a collection of animal friends come along, who in turn need an assisted scratch. But what is Fuzzy Rabbit to do when he is last in the scratching queue? *The Fidgety Itch* is a cumulative tale told in rhyming, tongue twister verses and is complimented by the bold and expressive illustrations. This story is a delight to read out loud with its interesting vocabulary and language.

**Useful for:** cumulative tale, read loud, team work, alliteration

**80. Donaldson, Julia. Cave baby / illustrated by Emily Gravett.**

London : Macmillan Children's, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-230-74308-3 hbk \$26.99  
SCIS No: 1485557

Picture Book. Cave Baby lives in his cave with his parents and draws wonderful paintings on the walls. However both parents do not appreciate his drawings and are cross at the mess he makes, so Cave Baby is banished to his cot. That night a mammoth comes and takes Cave Baby away. At first, Cave Baby is afraid, but then they go to the mammoths' cave and he is allowed to paint all he wants, before the mammoth takes him home after playtime is over. This prehistoric adventure story has an exuberant, rhyming text that is complemented by equally lively illustrations. A charming story that would be a wonderful read aloud even though the print is difficult to read as it is set against a dark background. Young readers

can also play a great game of 'Spot-the-big-brown-bear' in the illustrations. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** prehistoric animals, rhyming text, babies, creativity

**81. Durant, Alan. Unfortunately / illustrated by Simon Rickerty.**

London : Orchard, 2010. [28] p.  
ISBN 978-1-408-30989-6 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1469584

Picture Book. One day a boy is walking through the jungle. Unfortunately a lion tries to eat him. Fortunately he escapes but unfortunately, a huge snake is waiting for him and so on. Younger readers will delight in the 'never-ending' story feel of this book. The many twists and turns of the story supported by vividly coloured illustrations will keep students engaged until the totally unforeseen ending.

**Useful for:** animals, adventure, jungles

**A 82. Fenton, Corinne. Flame stands waiting / illustrated by Sebastian Ciaffaglione.**

Fitzroy, Vic. : Black Dog, 2010. 25 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7420-3095-1 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1448004

Picture Book. Set in probably the 1930s, the merry-go-round in this story is based on the one at Luna Park, Melbourne. Flame, one of the standing horses on the merry-go-round, feels rejected until Clara chooses to ride him. With muted, almost sepia tones and pearly paint on the horses, the illustrations reflect a bygone era. Clara's imaginative thoughts will strike a chord with young readers.

**Useful for:** amusement park rides, early 20th century Australia, imagination

**83. Fine, Anne. Under a silver moon / illustrated by Lotte Klaver.**

London : Walker, 2010. 57 p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31923-1 hbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1479053

Illustrated Story. Two babies are born on the same night: Haroun, the son of the sultan, and Akil, the son of the sultan's gardener. The little boys play in the garden together, until Haroun is kept inside to learn 'princely ways' in a life of indulgence and inactivity. By contrast, Akil lives a healthy outdoor life learning from his father how to be a gardener. When Haroun becomes painfully obese, a hooded stranger offers him a cure. He digs in the garden, with Akil's help, in search of the magic key. In the process, health, happiness and friendship are restored and the prince discovers a wisdom his

father lacks. This is a gentle fable written in simple lyrical language and supported by lovely black and white illustrations.

**Useful for:** fables, traditional tales, contrasting lifestyles, health and fitness, gardens, values

**84. Fitzmaurice, Mick. Morris MacMillipede : the toast of Brussels Sprout / illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura.**

London : Andersen, 2010. 49 p.  
ISBN 978-1-8427-0862-0 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1448567

Illustrated Early Novel. First published in 1994. Morris MacMillipede dreams of being a ballet dancer. His attempts at dancing are ridiculed at Madame Butterfly's classes but when Morris lands the part of the ugly caterpillar in *Sleeping Beauty*, it seems his dreams have come true. Sadly his performance turns out to be a disaster but all is not lost. With some compromise and Stag Beetle's advice, Morris realizes his dreams. This heart warming and funny tale of Morris in pursuit of his dream has a real pathos. The mix of black-and-white illustrations and short chapters mean that beginning readers will find this book accessible and fun to read.

**Useful for:** insects, dreams, ambition, determination, dancing

**85. Foreman, Michael. Why the animals came to town.**

London : Walker, 2010. [34] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31801-2 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1447738

Picture Book. A boy is awoken from sleep by a parade of animals coming down his street. They are chanting a song about conservation of the environment. This thought-provoking picture book has a strong message but it is enjoyable to read and doesn't feel didactic. The text, with rhyme and alliteration, is great for reading aloud. It is enhanced by the delightful pastel crayon drawings of the animals contrasting against the twilight backdrop.

**Useful for:** rhyming stories, environmental degradation, pollution, animal habitats

**A 86. Fox, Lee and Vane, Mitch. Ginger McFlea will not clean her teeth.**

Sydney : Lothian Children's Books, 2010. [32] p  
ISBN 978-0-7344-1105-1 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1449335

Picture Book. Ginger McFlea, twin sister of Jasper (in *Jasper McFlea will not eat his tea*) just will not brush her teeth, and ends up with a mouthful of

cavities. But a visit to the dentist changes Ginger's dental hygiene habits for good when the dentist tells her that the tooth fairy only wants teeth of pure white. Illustrated with lively and comical illustrations, this fun and witty picture book written in rhyming text will make cleaning teeth seem more appealing to the most reluctant of children. The book could be used in Early Childhood classes to complement their Health programs on healthy eating and oral hygiene. Also available in paperback.

**Useful for:** dental hygiene, teeth, nutrition

**A 87. French, Jackie. The tomorrow book / illustrated by Sue DeGennaro.**

Sydney : HarperCollins, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-0-7322-8939-3 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1445530

Picture Book. This is a modern day fairy tale in which children are the hope of the world. A young prince, who is an avid reader, is dissatisfied with the bleak grey world he views outside his window. When the king and queen go on a holiday and leave him in charge, the local children ask him to help them solve their environmental problems. He consults his books and guides the children in creating and implementing environmentally and socially sustainable ways to transform the world. The writing of the text, delightful, detailed illustrations done as mixed media collages using recycled material, and the production of the book on recycled paper embrace the principles described in this book.

**Useful for:** fairy tales, environment, reading motivation, children, recycling, values

**A 88. French, Jackie & Whatley, Bruce. Queen Victoria's underpants.**

Pymble, N.S.W. : Angus & Robertson, 2010. [30] p  
ISBN 978-0-7322-8822-8 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1461600

Picture Book. This is a lively story of how the young Queen Victoria started the fashion of wearing long, baggy underpants under petticoats which women in Britain wore during that period. Told by the daughter of a woman who sews the pants, the story has the little girl's family speculating on what kind of underpants Her Majesty would like. The text is complemented by Bruce Whatley's amusing illustrations of the Queen wearing a variety of underpants from tartan to well padded underpants; and concludes with a surprise under a lift-the-flap drawing.

**Useful for:** clothing, queens, costumes, sewing

**89. Fromental, Jean-Luc & Jolivet, Joelle.**

**Oops!**

New York : Abrams, 2009. [32] p  
ISBN 978-0-8109-8749-4 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1447053

Picture Book. Follows the disaster-riddled journey of a family trying to get to the airport on time for their vacation. First the taxi driver misses hitting the postman and crashes, a traffic jam, suspension of train services and more bizarre events follow. The descriptive words and images in this picture book adventure will stimulate discussion. Retrospective-in-style illustrations in bold, solid colours provide a bird's eye view of busy Paris. Close inspection and revisiting the illustrations will reveal causes and consequences and amusing detail in the chain of events. An entire list of the catastrophes can be found on the final gatefold page of this large format picture book.

**Useful for:** time, sequencing, spatial activities, suspense, cities, transport

**90. Gale, Emily. Just Josie and the perfect day! / illustrated by Mike Byrne.**

Bath, England : Parragon, 2010. [25] p.  
ISBN 978-1-407-59506-1 hbk \$7.99  
SCIS No: 1473560

Picture Book. Josie is really excited about planning a perfect day for her birthday, but a terrible thing happens when she wakes to find it raining on the day. Things go from bad to worse when Gran drops the jellies, the balloons pop and all her friends come down with chicken pox. When Josie is mean to her neighbour Zac, Mum tells her off and she sulks in the corner with Duck. Really it is a very bad day! Suddenly Mum smiles and gets her to look out the window. Josie discovers that rainbows follow the rain and her day becomes perfect again. The quirky colourful illustrations capture the mood of the story perfectly.

**Useful for:** families, birthdays, rainbows

**A 91. Godwin, Jane & Walker, Anna. All through the year.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin Australia, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07399-3 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1475171

Picture Book. This beautiful book is a personal calendar of a little girl and captures her special memories, her activities and family life. The reader is introduced to the girl's family in the opening pages and is taken on a journey depicting the life of the family through the months of a year. Each double page spread is devoted to one month of the year starting in January and ending in December.

The text is written in evocative, lyrical verse and is accompanied by enchanting illustrations in soft ink and pencil. This is a gentle, heart-warming celebration of the months and seasons; and of a child enjoying an Australian way of life with her family and friends. This book could be used as a springboard to discuss family traditions and activities. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** childhood, memories, seasons, holidays, family, months of the year

**92. Graham, Bob. April Underhill, tooth fairy.**

London : Walker, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32155-5 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1462870

Picture Book. April and Esme Underhill are a couple of trainee tooth fairies and not considered old enough to go tooth collecting yet. So they are delighted to receive an urgent request to visit Daniel Dangerfield to collect his tooth. They convince their parents to let them go and armed with a mobile phone, a coin and much parental advice, the girls begin their first great adventure. This delightful story will charm readers of all ages with its humorous text and wonderfully detailed illustrations which will draw them into the tooth fairy world.

**Useful for:** teeth, fairies

**A 93. Hartnett, Sonya. The boy and the toy / illustrated by Lucia Masciullo.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin, 2010. 36 p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07362-7 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1446758

Picture Book. *The Boy and the toy* tells the tale of a young boy who is an inventor and has invented a toy for his son. The father goes on a trip and the fantastical toy is left behind to keep the boy company. At first, the boy has great fun with the toy. But then things start to go wrong as the toy begins to get jealous and throw rival toys into the ocean. This multi-layered story explores the friendship between the two in a way that children can easily relate to. The prose is deceptively simple, yet skilfully crafted and with rich language. The whimsical illustrations often provide clues to what is not explicitly stated in the text. This interesting tale provides a good opportunity for guided discussion on a number of topics for young and older readers.

**Useful for:** friendship, jealousy, feelings, technology, toys

**94. Hoy, Catriona. Puggle / illustrated by Andrew Plant.**

Kingswood, S. Aust. : Working Title, 2010. [30] p.

ISBN 978-1-921504-01-3 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1447442

Picture Book. A baby echidna named Puggles is taken to an animal refuge after his mother is hit by a car. He is cared for with other sick and injured animals and is eventually released into the wild when he is well again. While the book is in a narrative form there is some interesting factual information about echidnas contained within the text; there is also additional facts on the animal on the end papers as well. The bright acrylic illustrations of the Australian wildlife complement the text well. The book can be used to introduce Australian animals and lead to a discussion about caring for local wildlife.

**Useful for:** echidnas, Australian animals, baby animals, wildlife conservation

**95. Hudson, Cheryl Willis. My friend Maya loves to dance / illustrated by Eric Velasquez.**

New York : Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010. [23] p.  
ISBN 978-0-8109-8328-1 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1466014

Picture Book. Maya's friend narrates this story in rhyme about the many artistic talents of her African-American friend. The willowy Maya is seen on the full and double-page spreads dressed in tap, casual, traditional African and especially ballet clothes, dancing and enjoying all kinds of music whether jazz, classical, reggae or gospel. The narrator is recognised in the illustrations at the end, she is in a wheelchair but the sketchbook on her lap shows she has artistic talents too. The realistic and vibrant oil-painted illustrations enhance this story of friendship and love for the arts. Includes some French ballet terms and words.

**Useful for:** cultural diversity, friendship, dance, performance arts

**96. Hurwitz, Johanna. Amazing Monty / illustrated by Anik McGrory.**

Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2010. 106 p. Bk 3.  
ISBN 978-0-7636-4154-2 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1472779

Illustrated Chapter Book. In this third book in the *Monty* series, Monty gets new class pets, loses a tooth, goes on a visit to the car wash and becomes a big brother to a baby sister. Written in a humorous and positive manner, readers will be able to relate to the characters and see many of their own experiences mirrored in Monty. The soft illustrations match the gentleness of the writing and provide a good visual accompaniment to the story. This endearing early chapter book is great for

sharing or for independent readers in the lower primary.

**Useful for:** school, childhood experiences, pets, baby siblings

**97. Jacobson, Jennifer. Andy Shane, hero at last / illustrated by Abby Carter.**

Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2010. 58 p. Bk 4.  
ISBN 978-0-7636-3600-5 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1460777

Early Chapter Book. Although Andy Shane wants to win the best decorated bike contest at the Home Sweet Home Parade and beat Dolores Starbuckle, what he really wants is to be a real-life hero. During the parade, he finds helping someone in need is more important than winning and he becomes a hero at last. The simple language, large print, short chapters and black and white illustrations make this a great introduction to chapter books for young readers. This story is perfect for reading aloud or for young independent readers to read alone.

**Useful for:** friendship, heroes, parades, bikes, shared reading

**98. Jeffers, Oliver. Up and down.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2010. [38] p.  
ISBN 978-0-00-726384-4 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1476120

Picture Book. A sequel to *Lost and Found*, this touching story is about two friends who separate and then try to manage without each other. A little boy and a penguin are firm friends who enjoy each other's company until one day Penguin feels he must try to fly. Penguin sets off without his best friend at his side but nothing seems to go right. The minimal illustrations capture the emotions of the two characters brilliantly, as well as complement and extend the text. The quality and depth of friendship is explored in the pared-down text and allows children to discuss a number of issues.

There is a satisfying outcome to this heart-warming story that all readers will find reassuring.

**Useful for:** friendship, love, dreams, feelings, visual literacy

**A 99. Kane, Kim. Family forest / illustrated by Lucia Masciullo.**

Prahran, Vic. : Hardie Grant Egmont, 2010. [28] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921564-70-3 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1458313

Picture Book. As a young boy introduces the reader to members of his blended family and explains the relationships between them, he comes to the conclusion that while some people have a family tree, he has a family forest. The bold, bright

illustrations add to the charm of the story, and children will enjoy the humorous pictures that provide literal representations of some common family terms (*half-sister, big brother, step-mother*). This fun look at a modern family structure will see children eager to share their own family situation. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** word play, families, genealogy, relationships

**100. Kemp, Anna. Dogs don't do ballet / illustrated by Sara Ogilvie.**

London : Simon and Schuster, 2010. [28] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8473-8474-4 pbk \$14.99

SCIS No: 1481922

Picture Book. In this amusing story, the young narrator's pudgy dog Biff, secretly loves ballet. He sneakily follows her to her ballet lessons and even to a performance by the Royal Ballet. When the prima ballerina accidentally trips and falls off the stage Biff quickly replaces her and gives an outstanding performance, proving dreams can be achieved. Light-hearted watercolour and crayon sketches add to the humour in the story.

**Useful for:** humour, dance, ambitions, dog stories

**101. Kimura, Ken. 999 tadpoles find a new home / illustrated by Yasunari Murakami.**

Wellington : Gecko, 2010. 40 p.  
ISBN 978-1-87746-727-1 pbk \$15.99

SCIS No: 1464154

Picture Book. Translated from Japanese and first published in 2003. When nine hundred and ninety nine tadpoles grow into little frogs, their pond becomes too small and Mother Frog and Father Frog have to find a new home. But as the frog family hop across a field, a hawk sees them and carries all of them off into the air. Eventually the hawk can't bear the weight anymore and has to let go. They fall and land in a big, new pond. This charming book has some interesting vocabulary and the simple, stylised illustrations are humorous. An enjoyable book that is great for reading aloud.

**Useful for:** frogs, family

**102. Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. Zelda and Ivy : the big picture.**

Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2010. 42 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7636-4180-1 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1478965

Short Stories. Ideal for newly independent readers moving into 'chapter books,' this is another title about the two fox sisters, Zelda and Ivy and their adventures. In these three delightful stories, Ivy,

Zelda and Eugene go to the movies but Zelda finds it scary and hides under the seat; Eugene suggests they play secret agents and find out why their neighbour is wearing goggles; and with some creative actions from Zelda, a campout turns into a camp-in when it rains. Large print text interspersed with colourful illustrations and simple language will entice young children to try reading these happy little stories.

**Useful for:** sibling relationships, friendship, foxes, families, play, cooperation

**A 103. Kwaymullina, Ambelin. How frogmouth found her home.**

Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Press, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921696-01-5 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1463627

Picture Book. In the dawn of the first day, Frogmouths made their homes in the trees except for one, who tries a few different homes. In her search for a suitable place to live, she chases the sun and helps other confused animals to find their homes. Finally, the moon assures her that her place is in the sky at night. Illustrated in vibrant colours in a contemporary style, this is a good resource for introducing traditional Aboriginal stories, especially those of the Western Australian Indigenous community.

**Useful for:** Aboriginal culture and traditions, Australian animals, nocturnal animals, habitats

**104. Lee, Suzy. Shadow.**

San Francisco, Calif. : Chronicle, 2010. [40] p.  
ISBN 978-0-8118-7280-5 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1486095

An imaginative and interactive picture book which needs to be viewed calendar style with the spine horizontal, and pages flipped from bottom to top. The top page shows a young girl playing in a storeroom and the bottom page reflects the shadows cast onto the floor. As the girl's imagination takes hold, the shadow world on the bottom page slowly becomes a fantasy landscape with a threatening creature, and both real and imaginary world's begin to merge. The book is nearly textless and the drawings are executed in charcoal, pencil, black spray-paint and yellow watercolour paint. Students will want to rotate this book to explore the transformations in the top and bottom spreads.

**Useful for:** storytelling, discussion stimulus, creative play, imagination, fantasy

**Lemke, Donald. Zinc Alloy (series)**

London : Raintree, 2010. 33 p. pbk \$10.95 each

Graphic Novel. Lemke and Holgate have created an entertaining series aimed at middle primary readers, and boys especially will be attracted to these full-colour, easy-to-read graphic novels rife with humour and action. Each book includes a cast of characters, discussion questions and writing prompts. Other titles are available in this series and while there is no prescribed reading order, it is recommended that the titles **Super Zero** and **Revealed!** be read first.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**105. Revealed! / illustrated by Douglas Holgate.**  
ISBN 978-1-406-21672-1

**SCIS No:** 1473587

When Zack reveals that he is the superhero Zinc Alloy people begin to treat him with more respect. However, wearing a robot suit 24/7 has its drawbacks and Zack learns a very important lesson.

**Useful for:** superheroes, robots, humour, fame, popularity

**106. Super zero / illustrated by Douglas Holgate.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21673-8

**SCIS No:** 1473586

When comic book fanatic Zack Allen creates his very own robot suit the world is introduced to its newest superhero: Zinc Alloy.

**Useful for:** superheroes, robots, humour

**A 107. Lester, Alison. Magic beach.**

Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen & Unwin, 2010. [30] p.

ISBN 978-1-7423-7312-6 hbk \$19.99

SCIS No: 1470746

Picture Book. This is a child's view of idyllic family days at the beach where every wonderful fantasy can come true. Clear, detailed illustrations of the family, friends and the dog enjoying their fun-filled holiday, alternate with the children's imaginative fantasy adventures with sandcastles and dragons, and pirates. The rhyming text on each page is a bonus for reading and sharing the story with young students. This is a 20th anniversary edition of this delightful story which has many curriculum applications for younger students, including encouraging them to write stories about their own Magic Beach.

**Useful for:** beach, holidays, adventure, fantasy

**108. Lewis, Rose A. Orange Peel's pocket / illustrated by Grace Zong.**

New York : Abrams, 2010. [30] p.

ISBN 978-0-8109-8394-6 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1452055

Picture Book. This is a charming story about an adopted Chinese-American girl nicknamed "Orange

Peel". One day, following a classroom discussion about China, her classmates begin to ask her questions about her birth-place and what it's like. Orange Peel is determined to find out the answers to their questions so she visits several local Chinese shop keepers to find out more about China. Each one gives her some information and when she leaves, each adult secretly drops a memento into the pocket of her dress. The next day she uses her treasures to tell her class about her homeland. The story is accessible to preschool listeners and early readers, and will resonate with children who want to know more about where they were born. This will be an excellent resource when looking at the food and traditions of China as well as an introduction to other different countries and cultures. The rich warm colours of the inviting illustrations match the cheerful tone of the story.

**Useful for:** China, Asian studies, different cultures, news telling

**109. Long, Sylvia. Sylvia Long's Thumbelina.**

San Francisco, Calif. : Chronicle, 2010. [47] p.,

1 folded leaf

ISBN 978-0-8118-5522-8 hbk \$26.95

SCIS No: 1453831

Illustrated Story. This is a beautifully illustrated version of Hans Christian Andersen's tale about a thumb-size girl and her adventures. Tiny Thumbelina is courted by a succession of suitors - a toad, a beetle, and a mole but escapes a life of misery with the help of a swallow whose life she saves. This version follows the familiar story line of the original story and effectively condenses the narrative but it is still full of detail. The gorgeous jewel-toned illustrations are a visual feast and depict the story's settings in detail. The impressive use of the spreads sometimes held in vertical mode will keep the reader engaged in the story. Children, in particular girls will delight in the happy ending where a foldout reveals the wedding of Thumbelina and her prince. Although the text is rather dense, the book will attract competent readers and is suitable as a read aloud.

**Useful for:** fairytales, fairies, Hans Christian Andersen, visual arts

**A 110. Macleod, Mark. Wrong way / illustrations by Judith Rossell.**

Pymble, N.S.W. : HarperCollins, 2010. [30] p. (ABC books)

ISBN 978-0-7333-2422-2 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1456976

Picture Book. A mother duck takes her three ducklings to the pond to teach them to swim. While two of the ducklings (Right Way and Your Way) are perfectly well-behaved, the third (Wrong Way)

becomes restless and finds various ways to entertain himself. Although his mother becomes impatient with his behaviour, the story concludes with the message that in some cases, doing things your own way isn't wrong, it's just different - and sometimes a lot more fun! This charming story would make a lovely read-aloud and children will delight in the antics of the cheeky little duckling captured beautifully by the lively illustrations.

**Useful for:** ducks, individuality, behaviour, family, read-aloud

**A Mates : great Australian yarns (series)**

Malvern, S. Aust. : Omnibus, 2010.

pbk \$11.99 each

Illustrated Chapter Book. *Mates* is a series of easy-to-read chapter books for newly independent readers. Stories are all written by well-known Australian children's authors and contain full-colour illustrations that add value to the text.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 111. Lockett, Dave. Crooked Mick.**

**Illustrated by Andrew Joyner.** 55 p.

ISBN 978-1-86291-815-3

SCIS No: 1454577

One night, as a jackeroo and a drover exchange stories around their campfire, an old bushman joins in with his own stories of Crooked Mick of the Speerwah. The drover and the bushman compete with each other telling tall tales which become more and more unbelievable as the night wears on.

**Useful for:** The Outback, tall tales, humorous stories

**A 112. Moloney, James. How to talk to a frill-neck lizard. Illustrated by Simone Linehan.** 54 p.

ISBN 978-1-86291-814-6

SCIS No: 1457987

This humorous tale features a lizard named *Tarantula* that is the fastest lizard Bern and Cody have ever seen. Students will enjoy the lizard's adventures and hilariously disastrous end to the campaign to win the big race. Simone Linehan's quirky illustrations perfectly caricature the Australian outback and the chaotic finale to the story.

**Useful for:** The Outback, Australian animals, humorous stories

**A 113. Matthews, Penny. Zizzy / illustrated by Danny Snell.**

Malvern, S. Aust. : Omnibus Books, 2010. [30] p.

ISBN 978-1-86291-797-2 hbk \$26.99

SCIS No: 1470577

Picture Book. Zizzy is a sloth and lives in a thick rainforest on a big tree. He is happy in his tree until he catches sight of the sea. Curious to see what the rest of the world looks like, he makes his way slowly out of the rainforest, overcoming obstacles along the way towards the sea. But very soon, he wants to go home and when he does return to his tree, Zizzy's dreams are filled with being able to do anything at all. This is an enchanting story that is perfectly complemented by the beautiful illustrations of the lush rainforest drawn in rich blues and greens.

**Useful for:** sloths, rainforest, dreams

**114. Mayhew, James. Ella Bella, ballerina and Swan Lake / [text and illustrations, James Mayhew].**

Sydney : Orchard, 2010. [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-408-30076-3 hbk \$28.99

SCIS No: 1483229

Picture Book. Another in the Ella Bella Ballerina series which introduces ballet stories to the very young. Ella Bella turns on the music box again after ballet class and this time is transported to Swan Lake. She meets Odette, learns her story and is swept into the performance. Mayhew's watercolour and ink drawings of the characters, costume and set are true to the traditional ballet. The last page provides information on Tchaikovsky and his famous ballet.

**Useful for:** narrative ballets, characters in ballets, costumes, imagination

**115. Mayhew, James. Katie and the waterlily pond : a magical journey through five Monet masterpieces.**

London : Orchard, 2010. [32] p. (Katie)

ISBN 978-1-408-30463-1 hbk \$28.99

SCIS No: 1478509

Picture Book. Katie goes on another art adventure, this time to the Monet exhibition. The gallery has a painting competition. Katie steps into the world of four of Monet's masterpieces and is inspired to paint. Three disastrous attempts are followed by her last painting, which she rescues from the lily pond, winning an award. The final page provides information on Monet and the paintings featured.

**Useful for:** art galleries, art appreciation, impressionist artists, imagination

**116. McDonald, Megan. Stink : solar system superhero / illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.**

Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2010. 118 p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-4321-8 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1453393

Early Novel. When Stink discovers that Pluto has been downgraded from a planet to a dwarf planet, he launches a campaign in his classroom to restore its status to that of a full-fledged member of the solar system. A rollicking tale of classroom fun which along the way teaches students some interesting facts about the planets - and non-planets. For capable, confident readers.

**Useful for:** space, mnemonics, friendship

**A 117. McKimmie, Christopher. Two peas in a pod.**

Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen&Unwin, 2010. [31] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7423-7304-1 hbk \$29.99  
SCIS No: 1450088

Marvin and Violet have been best friends all their young lives until Violet moves far away. Months later, Marvin's mum surprises him with an airline ticket to visit Violet. This familiar story of friendship continuing over distances is refreshingly told with an Australian flavour from a child's perspective, in hand-lettered style type. There is a lot to discover in the simple, oddly appealing mixed media drawings and childlike ink sketches, depicting Marvin's and Violet's world.

**Useful for:** friendship, visiting, families, imaginative play

**A 118. McKinlay, Meg & Jackson, Mark. The truth about penguins.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921150-48-7 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1467580

Picture Book. When it is announced that penguins are coming to the zoo the animals are all very excited. One by one they share their fanciful stories with squirrel, who doesn't know what a penguin is. Not only is squirrel informed that penguins fly south for the winter, he is also told that they eat pizza, love to sunbake, hate cold water and are serious party animals. Finally, the zookeeper interrupts and sets the record straight; the illustration on the last page, however, provides a humorous twist. With colourful illustrations and conversational text providing opportunities for a variety of voices, this story would make an engaging read-aloud and could be used as a springboard to discover the real truth about penguins.

**Useful for:** penguins, zoos

**119. Mewburn, Kyle & Unka, Vasanti. Hill & Hole.**

Rosedale, N.Z. : Puffin, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-14-350453-5 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1477540

Picture Book. Hill and Hole are best friends but wonder what it would be like to be the other so they decide to exchange places and experience a different view of the day. Eventually they both decide they want to be themselves again and ask the wind to help them but with unexpected results. This simple yet thought provoking story is accompanied by bold, vivid illustrations and can be read at many levels. It provides an original interpretation of the proverb 'the grass is always greener on the other side' and allows opportunities for discussing a number of other issues in the Health Learning Area.

**Useful for:** point of view, friendship

**A 120. Mitchell, Simon & Wood, Ben. Louie, the pirate chef.**

Kingswood, S. Aust. : Working Title, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921504-05-1 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1457894

Picture Book. Louie's parents sign him up to join Captain Blackheart's crew, but while the other pirates are raiding and plundering Louie can think of nothing but mouth-watering mains and tasty deserts. The pirates, who make fun of Louie's aspirations to be a chef, are forced to eat their words when they become stranded on an island and must rely on Louie's talents in order to survive. Wood's lively, colourful illustrations perfectly complement this fun story that challenges stereotypes and goes to show that cooking can be enjoyed by anyone of any age.

**Useful for:** pirates, cooking, food, stereotypes

**121. Moore, Inga. Six dinner Sid : a Highland adventure.**

London : Hodder Children's, 2010. [30] p. (Six dinner Sid)  
ISBN 978-0-340-98894-7 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1449334

Picture Book. **A Highland Adventure** is a sequel to Smarties Prize Winner **Six Dinner Sid**. This book follows the adventures of Sid when he is taken on holiday to Scotland by all of his owners. There he meets Jock, a Scottish wildcat, who thinks that city cats are soft until he is rescued from a fierce eagle by Sid. This is a gentle and well paced story, the vocabulary is clear but engaging and Sid is a charming character. Cat fans will enjoy the story and it is suitable for a read aloud or for newly independent readers to read by themselves.

**Useful for:** cats, friendship, problem-solving

**A 122. Morrison, Yvonne & McKenzie, Heath. The cocky who cried dingo.**

Prahran, Vic. : Litte Hare, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921541-42-1 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1479307

Picture Book. A cockatoo loves to play tricks and one night thinks up of a prank to wake the other birds from their sleep. He shrieks out and pretends he is being attacked by a dingo. The other birds come to his rescue, but they are annoyed to find they have been tricked. The next night, Cocky tries the same trick and it works once again. But on the third night, along comes a real dingo and Cocky is trapped by the big creature's paw. He calls out to the other birds but this time, they don't believe him and Cocky has to find a way to get himself out of trouble. This Australian version of Aesop's *The boy who cried wolf* is told in fast-paced rhyme with lots of humour and are complemented by the entertaining illustrations. As a fun read and cautionary tale it works quite well with a suitable ending where the cocky learns his lesson.

**Useful for:** rhyming story, Australian birds, cautionary tale, Aesop's fables

**123. Myron, Vicki & Witter, Bret. Dewey : there's a cat in the library! / illustrated by Steve James.**

London : Simon & Schuster, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8473-8913-8 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1446647

Picture Book. Based on a true story about an abandoned kitten found in the Spencer Library return box, this heart-warming tale recounts how this kitten became Dewey Readmore Books, the resident library cat. Dewey keeps the library patrons and staff company as they perform their tasks and is soon loved by everyone. Children will enjoy this simply told story and the idea of a pet cat in the library will appeal to them. Beautiful full-page illustrations executed in soft colours create a warm ambience for the library and effectively show the cute personality of Dewey. Suitable for newly independent readers.

**Useful for:** cats, libraries, people and animals, pets, caring for animals, biography

**124. Norac, Carl. Big Bear little brother / illustrated by Kristin Oftedal.**

London : Macmillan Children's Books, 2009. [25] p.  
ISBN 978-1-405-03507-1 hbk \$26.95  
SCIS No: 1449829

Picture Book. A solitary polar bear responds to a little boy's cry and breaks the latter's fall from a cliff top. Alone in the vast cold, white wilderness of the Arctic they travel together becoming friends, sharing fun and affection despite their differences. A sudden storm approaches and Big Bear protects

and warms Minik and tries to get him home. When a hunter (Minik's dad) appears, it is Minik's turn to protect Big Bear. A lovely sense of stillness, wonder, dreaming and at-oneness with the environment begins, ends and weaves through this gentle story. This is reflected in Oftedal's evocative illustrations whose softness of line and shading and muted, minimalist colour play down the harshness of the Arctic while at the same time capturing it beautifully.

**Useful for:** friendship, polar bears, Inuits, Arctic environment

**A 125. Oliver, Jo. Tatiara.**

Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Frontier, 2010.  
[28] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921042-22-5 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1449853

Picture Book. The young girl in this story wears a back brace and is unable to swim but it is something she has always wanted to do. One day she spies an injured seal which she names Tatiara. Wanting to help the injured seal thrive, the little girl begins fishing to catch fish for her the seal and a warm friendship soon develops. When the girl is finally able to remove her brace, the family all goes for a swim, and she gets to swim with Tatiara. Young readers will enjoy this heart-warming story which is supported by watercolour illustrations in soft, muted tones of blue, green and brown.

**Useful for:** seals, whales, ocean, friendship, disabilities

**A 126. Olsen, Penny. The best nest / adapted by Penny Olsen ; [illustrators, Neville Cayley ... [and others]].**

Canberra, A.C.T. : National Library of Australia, 2010. 37 p.  
ISBN 978-0-642-27704-6 pbk \$17.95  
SCIS No: 1469915

Illustrated Story. Adapted from a book published in 1945, *Birds with their own nests agree, theirs is the best that could possibly be* by C. E. Stamp. This book is about two robins, Rocky and Ruby Robin who have decided to build a nest. They visit all their friends to decide what sort of nest would be best. Each bird sings the praises of their own particular nest but the robins always find something which is not quite right. The story compares and contrasts the different types of nests of Australian birds and is complemented by beautiful drawings from the National Library of Australia's collection. This story makes good use of different font types, and the lovely images and high quality glossy pages make this a very attractive book. At the back

of the book are individual descriptions of the featured birds and their habitats.

**Useful for:** nests, birds, comparing and contrasting, decision making, homes

**A 127. Orr, Wendy. *The princess and her panther* / illustrated by Lauren Stringer.**  
Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen & Unwin, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7423-7424-6 hbk \$22.99  
SCIS No: 1465060

Picture Book. Two young sisters dress up, one as a princess, the other as a panther, and go on an imaginative camping adventure in their backyard. After crossing the sandpit desert they pitch their regal red tent on lush oasis grass. At nightfall, their courage is tested by the night noises outside the tent. Descriptive language and repetition enrich the text. The richly coloured acrylic paintings flow over the pages and bring the real and imaginary worlds together.

**Useful for:** sibling relationships, imaginative play, bravery, confronting fear

**A Park, Mac. *Boy vs beast : battle of the worlds* (series)**  
Elwood, Vic. : Pop & Fizz, 2010. 77 p.  
pbk \$9.99 each

Early Chapter Book. Kai Masters is a Border Guard, selected by the Border Masters to protect Earth from the mega-beasts that inhabit the surrounding lands of Beastium. With his robotic dog BC by his side Kai must battle creatures reminiscent of those from Pokémon using high-tech gadgets and bonus items provided by the Border Masters. Four pages of graphic novel-like illustrations capture the climax of the battle, adding to the computer game feel. With simple language, large text and illustrations that take the form of screen shots, beast ID cards and labelled diagrams of Kai's equipment these easy-to-read stories will particularly appeal to reluctant boy readers. Other titles are available in this series.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 128. Aquatan.** Book 1.

ISBN 978-1-921684-08-1

SCIS No: 1461280

Earth is under attack from a serpent-like water beast and it is up to Kai to save the day.

**Useful for:** technology, monsters, battles

**A 129. Terradon.** Book 2.

ISBN 978-1-921684-09-8

SCIS No: 1461284

In this second book in the *Boy vs Beast* series Kai uses his newly acquired equipment in his battle

against the rock beast from the land of Terradon.

**Useful for:** technology, monsters, battles

**A 130. Park, Ruth. *The muddleheaded wombat* / illustrated by Noela Young.**

Pymble, N.S.W. : HarperCollins, 2010. 340 p.

ISBN 978-0-7322-8436-7 hbk \$39.99

SCIS No: 1487824

Illustrated Book. Australian Classic. This volume combines four books on the adventures of the Muddleheaded Wombat. First written for a daily children's serial on ABC radio, these stories are perfect for reading aloud to a class. Scattered with spoonerisms and malapropisms, Wombat's dialogue and the antics of his inseparable friends, Mouse and Tabby Cat will be enjoyed by a new generation. This attractively presented redesigned edition contains the original coloured line drawings by Noela Young.

**Useful for:** reading aloud, Australian literature, animal stories

**131. Pauli, Lorenz. *Good for you, good for me* / illustrated by Kathrin Scharer ; [translated by Catherine Chidgey].**

Wellington : Gecko, 2009. [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-87746-738-7 pbk \$15.99

SCIS No: 1431166

Picture Book. Dormouse whilst playing his flute comes across Bear who suggests swapping the cushion he is sitting on for the flute. But Bear can't play the flute so a game of give and take follows until they realise that friendship is more about giving than taking. The skilful watercolour and ink sketched illustrations perfectly match this warm, gentle story with a subtle message.

**Useful for:** friendship, reading aloud, generosity, values

**132. Peet, Mal & Graham, Elspeth. *Cloud tea monkeys* / illustrated by Juan Wijngaard.**

London : Walker, 2010. [43] p

ISBN 978-1-406-30092-5 hbk \$29.95

SCIS No: 1454745

Illustrated Story. Tashi rises early every morning to accompany her mother to a tea plantation where women pick tea all day. While her mother works, Tashi plays with a group of monkeys. When her mother falls ill, Tashi decides to take her place picking tea hoping to earn money for the services of a doctor. But she is far too small to harvest the tender shoots, and her efforts earn the anger of the cruel Overseer. Sensing her distress, the monkeys snatch up her tea basket and disappear up into the mountain, returning with a basketful of lovely green

tea. Inspired by Himalayan legends of tea-picking monkeys, this poignant tale is simple and moving. The lyrical storytelling is descriptive and full of vivid characters. The tale is well complemented by the expressive and sumptuous full page illustrations with additional spot illustrations. The fairly dense text makes it suitable for able readers or for a teacher to read aloud to younger students.

**Useful for:** poverty, monkeys, legends, animal and human relationships

**A Pelling, Lenny. *Pen pals forever (series)***

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010.  
63 p. pbk \$9.95 each

Early Novel. *Pen Pals Forever* is a series of books familiarising children with pen pal friendships and the endangered art of writing letters. The stories encourage children to keep in contact with family and friends who live any distance from them through writing letters and postcards. The books are written using a combination of a narrative and letter format, and in language which is accessible to beginning readers. They are illustrated with black and white pencil drawings that support the text and make the story visually appealing. This series will appeal to children learning to read, especially girls in the lower primary.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 133. Summer days / Lenny Pelling. Bk 1.**

ISBN 978-1-86471-900-0  
SCIS No: 1449200

The first in the *Pen pals forever* series, **Summer Days** introduces two girls Polly and Jez who are pen pals just like their mothers and grandmothers have been throughout the years. Polly is travelling around Australia and writing to Jez telling her about her adventures. Jez is also participating and enjoying Polly's trip through her letters from baking a cake to learning to knit at home.

**Useful for:** letter writing, travelling, friends, pen pals, holidays

**A 134. School days / Lenny Pelling. Bk 2.**

ISBN 978-1-86471-901-7  
SCIS No: 1448821

This is the second book in the *Pen Pals Forever* series. In **School days** Polly and Jez return to school after the holidays, and this year they are both starting at new schools. Polly is staying with family at a sheep farm, where she will go to school over the internet. Jez is worried that she won't have anything interesting to write to Polly about. In the end they find that they do have lots to write to each other about their school days.

**Useful for:** letter writing, friends, pen pals, school

**A 135. Ramage, Jan. Stranded / illustrated by Mark Willson.**

Fitzroy, Vic. : Black Dog, 2010. 31 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7420-3097-5 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1464096

Picture Book. Based on a true event in Busselton, Western Australia where wildlife officers and community volunteers attempted to rescue 100 beached false killer whales. It is seen from the perspective of young Ben who discovers the whales while fishing and helps save a young whale. The full-page oil paintings of beach and sea scenes are bathed in strong colour and light, capturing the brightness of the Australian outdoors.

**Useful for:** endangered species, animal rescue, cooperation, community spirit, bravery, values

**136. Ray, Jane. Ahmed and the feather girl.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8450-7988-8 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1478971

Picture Book. With folkloric qualities, this enchanting story is set in the Middle East. An orphaned boy, Ahmed works for a travelling circus. When he finds a golden egg, it is taken from him by the circus owner, Madame Saleem. From the egg hatches a beautiful child, who becomes the main attraction for the circus. Ahmed sets the feathered girl free and later she returns to repay the favour. Jane Ray's magical illustrations transport the reader to a different time and place.

**Useful for:** fantasy, dreams, exploitation, freedom, friendship

**137. Rayner, Catherine. Norris : the bear who shared.**

London : Orchard, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8461-6308-1 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1457940

Picture Book. Norris loves plorrings, but he isn't the only one. Tulip the racoon and Violet the mouse climb the plorrige tree to enjoy the smell and feel of the fruit, but just as they are about to have a taste, the plorrige drops into the hands of Norris who is waiting below. Norris, being a wise and kind bear, shares the fruit and makes two new friends. With large, bold illustrations and a simple layout this charming story is perfect to read-aloud and could be used to prompt discussion about the benefits of sharing.

**Useful for:** friendship, sharing, kindness, senses, animals

**Rayner, Shoo. *Monster boy. Orchard crunchies (series)***

London : Orchard, 2010. pbk \$12.99 each

Illustrated Chapter Book. Connor O'Goyle is part monster and works for the Ministry of Monsters as their Number One agent with his winged dog Trixie by his side. He uses a range of incredible motorbikes designed by his mother to control and help various monsters like a mummy, dinosaur and a dragon. These fun and easy-to-read series of books have a range of interesting technological gadgets like a MiPod which texts Connor information presented in the form of pictures, reports and diagrams. Simple language, large print and supporting black and white illustrations make these books accessible to beginning readers, especially boys and are great as examples of a narrative with a mix of some different text types.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**138. Dino destroyer.** 38 p.

ISBN 978-1-408-30248-4

SCIS No: 1451829

T-Rex is on the rampage attacking and destroying everything in sight. Connor has to stop him before he destroys the whole town.

**Useful for:** using technology, problem solving, monsters, narrative

**139. Mummy menace.** 46 p.

ISBN 978-1-408-30249-1

SCIS No: 1451831

All the toilet paper in the forest has disappeared and something scary is happening. Connor sets off to investigate and comes to the aid of a hapless Mummy.

**Useful for:** using technology, problem solving, monsters, narrative

**Reynolds, Aaron. *Graphic sparks. Tiger Moth (series)* / illustrated by Erik Lervold.**

London : Raintree, 2010. 33 p. pbk \$10.95 each

Graphic Novel. With full-colour illustrations, distinctive characters and attractive, easy-to-follow page layouts these books from the *Graphic sparks. Tiger moths* series are a perfect introduction for those who are new to this highly-visual format. Littered with word play and witty one-liners these humorous quick-reads are targeted at boys but have universal appeal. Each book also includes discussion questions, writing prompts and real-life facts related to the story. This entertaining series is aimed at middle primary readers and features Tiger Moth, a young insect ninja, and Kung Pow, his woodlouse apprentice, as the stars of these stories.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**140. The fortune cookies of Weevil.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21667-7

SCIS No: 1464990

Criminal mastermind Weevil is using fortune cookies to deliver messages to every gang in the city, and it is up to Tiger Moth and Kung Pow to put a stop to his evil plan.

**Useful for:** good verses evil, humour, visual literacy, insects, challenged and reluctant readers

**141. Insect ninja.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21664-6

SCIS No: 1464991

When a valuable painting goes missing from Antennae Primary School it is up to best friends Tiger Moth and Kung Pow to solve the mystery.

**Useful for:** good verses evil, humour, visual literacy, insects, challenged and reluctant readers

**A 142. Riddle, Tohby. *My uncle's donkey.***

Camberwell, Vic. : Viking, 2010. [30] p.

ISBN 978-0-670-04033-9 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1469724

Picture Book. The donkey in *My uncle's donkey* is unlike other donkeys and is allowed in the house.

Inside the donkey talks to his friends on the phone, does hoof stands and cartwheels, takes long baths and stays up late. Children will be charmed by this dancing, juggling and anarchical donkey. The straight forward text is accompanied by the humorous and whimsical illustrations in a limited palette of mostly black, white and red. This simple picture book will appeal for its silliness and incongruous humour, and readers will wonder if the donkey is real as there is no actual interaction between the uncle and the donkey.

**Useful for:** donkeys, humour, imagination, pets

**Rippin, Sally. *Billie B Brown (series)* / illustrated by Aki Fukuoka.**

Prahran, Vic. : Hardie Grant Egmont, 2010. 44 p.

pbk \$7.95 each

Early Chapter Book. With large font, short sentences and pictures every few pages the *Billie B Brown* series is targeted at emerging readers and will be popularly received by lower-primary girls in particular. Billie is a smart, sassy character and in each story Rippin subtly challenges gender stereotypes while exploring issues and emotions children will easily identify with.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**143. The bad butterfly.**

ISBN 978-1-921564-92-5

SCIS No: 1449722

Billie and her best friend Jack have started ballet classes. Jack and the boys make excellent stomping trolls, but when Billie tries to be a dainty butterfly like the other girls things end in chaos. While practicing together Billie and Jack come up

with an idea, and with the teacher's permission the two decide to swap roles.

**Useful for:** feelings, friendship, ballet, gender stereotypes

**144. The midnight feast.**

ISBN 978-1-921564-94-9

SCIS No: 1456391

Billie and her best friend Jack have decided they are big enough now to camp in the backyard, but once the sun goes down they begin to feel afraid. Luckily Billie has a great idea, and she and Jack soon find a much better place to pitch their tent.

**Useful for:** feelings, friendship, camping, fears

**145. The second-best friend.**

ISBN 978-1-921564-95-6

SCIS No: 1456390

Billie has plans to build a cubby with her best friend Jack, but when a girl in her class invites Billie over to play she accepts. A funny feeling in Billie's tummy helps her to realise that she has made the wrong choice and she quickly thinks of a way to set things right.

**Useful for:** feelings, friendship, school

**146. The soccer star.**

ISBN 978-1-921564-93-2

SCIS No: 1456392

When Billie is told by the boys in her class that "girls can't play soccer" she feels sad and cross, but with the help of her best friend Jack she is able to prove that she can play just as well (if not better!) than the boys.

**Useful for:** feelings, friendship, soccer, gender stereotypes, school

**147. Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. Spoon / illustrated by Scott Magoon.**

New York : Disney/Hyperion Books, 2009. [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-423-10685-2 hbk \$19.99

SCIS No: 1460964

Picture Book. Spoon is normally a happy little utensil but becomes disgruntled when he thinks Knife, Fork and Chopsticks have a more interesting life than him but the other utensils wish they were like Spoon. That night, Spoon learns to appreciate what he has when his mother points out the good things about being a spoon such as plunging headfirst into a bowl of ice-cream and twirling around a mug. This gentle little story teaches children to accept themselves and appreciate what they have. The clever play on the words marries well with the delightful illustrations which add humour and interest to the story.

**Useful for:** self-esteem, being an individual, attitude, humour

**Ryan, John. Captain Pugwash (series)**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's, 2010.

pbk \$14.95 each

Illustrated Short Stories. These light-hearted pirate stories about the cowardly and greedy Captain Pugwash, his less-than-useful band of pirates and Tim, the cabin boy who is the only person who gets things done are sure to entertain. Ryan's original illustrations add to the humour and will be enjoyed by a new generation of young readers.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**148. Captain Pugwash and the Pigwig.** 94 p.

ISBN 978-1-8478-0025-1

SCIS No: 1458038

Three stories of the adventures of the bumbling Captain Pugwash and his crew. In the title story, Pugwash's crew make a pet of the piglet bound for his dinner. The spoilt pig depletes the food supplies and takes over the captain's cabin. In **Captain Pugwash and the Parrot**, the crew buy a badly-behaved parrot for Pugwash's birthday. In the last story **Captain Pugwash and the Poop Deck**, Cut-throat Jake ties up Pugwash and takes over the ship. As usual, Tom the cabin boy comes to the rescue. First published in 1991.

**Useful for:** pirates, adventures, reading aloud

**149. Captain Pugwash and the wreckers.** 87 p.

ISBN 978-1-8478-0026-8

SCIS No: 1458040

Two stories of the adventures of the bumbling Captain Pugwash and his crew. In the first, **Pugwash and the Midnight Feast**, Cut-throat Jake's band of buccaneers gate-crash a secret banquet put on by Pugwash's crew; then they are all kidnapped by islanders. In the title story, Cut-throat Jake devises a plan to steal the load of silver bullion Pugwash has been contracted to deliver. First published in 1984.

**Useful for:** pirates, adventures, reading aloud

**150. Seabrooke, Brenda. Wolf pie / illustrated by Liz Callen.**

New York : Clarion, 2010. 46 p.

ISBN 978-0-547-04403-3 hbk \$22.95

SCIS No: 1465204

Early Chapter Book. After failing to blow down the sturdy brick house built by the three Pygg brothers, Wilfong Wolf refuses to leave, hanging around outside their window all winter. He joins in their singing, guesses the riddles and spoils the hide-and-seek and card games by calling out. Eventually he befriends the Pyggs but when the wolf pack arrive demanding pig dinners, Wilfong and the Pyggs must find a way to satisfy the wolves and save themselves. The answer is wolf pie but with a surprise. An interesting twist on the story of **The three little pigs**, this entertaining book has wit and humour, and engaging descriptive language that will extend emerging readers. Students will enjoy the surprises in the story and the colourful quirky illustrations that intersperse the text.

**Useful for:** fractured fairytales, pigs, wolves, friendship, trust, humour

**A 151. Skinner, Tom. The sorcerer's apprentice [sound recording] / author Tom Skinner ; illustrator Annie White.**

Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Frontier, 2010. 1 CD (ca. 18 min.) + book. (Music box)  
ISBN 978-1-921042-09-6 hbk + CD \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1483175

Picture Book + Compact Disc. Set at a car and camel wash run by a sorcerer with his apprentice Rizwan. This story narrated by Antonia Kidman is backed by Paul Dukas's musical composition *The sorcerer's apprentice*. While the sorcerer is away, Rizwan tries to impress the Mayor's daughter by concocting spells for washing dusty camels and the mayor's limousine. The sorcerer returns just in time to put things right. Colourful drawings support the text in the picture book. Brief information about the composer and the poem on which the story is based are included.

**Useful for:** classical music, magic, responsibility, disobedience

**152. Smith, Lane. The big elephant in the room.**

New York : Disney/Hyperion, 2009. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-423-11667-7 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1469161

Picture Book. When a friend (Friend A) asks another friend (Friend B) if they can discuss 'the big elephant in the room', the latter immediately understands the phrase in the colloquial sense: that which is too uncomfortable to discuss. Because he has a guilty conscience about all the unkind things he has done to Friend A, Friend B unwittingly confesses to a litany of his misdemeanours and failures as a friend, before Friend A has a chance to tell him he is referring to a real elephant in the room. Another delightful book from Lane Smith using his characteristic hilarity and comic animal characters to teach about language and values. This is a story about friendship, and understanding a literal meaning for that inferred by a common colloquialism.

**Useful for:** friendship, humour, colloquialisms, literal and inferential comprehension

**153. Smith, Lane. It's a book.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker Australia, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921720-14-7 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1475181

Picture Book. Dry humour underpins the storyline of this clever book. The title page introduces the

reader to the characters: Monkey is quietly reading a book, Jackass has his laptop and Mouse is the observer, with the final word. Jackass applies all the busyness of features of an Internet-connected laptop to questions he asks about the book; Monkey responds with laconic one liners. Things change when Jackass gets a hands-on look at the book! Simple in concept and with block cartoon illustrations, which reflect the fidgety innocence of Jackass and the growing frustration of Monkey, this book is a sure-fire trigger for discussion and exploration of ICT tools mentioned in the story.

**Useful for:** information literacy, Web 2.0 tools, characterisation, humour, shared reading, read-aloud

**A 154. Spaulding, Norma. Molly's memory jar / illustrated by Jacqui Grantford.**

Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Frontier, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921042-35-5 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1448223

Picture Book. Molly grieves for the loss of her dog Lucy. Her father has an idea to help ease her grief. He asks her to recall memories of times with Lucy and to choose a coloured glass ball to represent each memory. The jar of bright glass balls sooth Molly when she is sad. Beginning in black and white, the oil-on-canvas illustrations transform with colour as Molly recounts each memory in this gentle, reassuring book.

**Useful for:** death of a pet, coping with grief, remembering loved ones

**A 155. Spillman, Ken. Jake's monster mess / illustrated by Chris Nixon.**

Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle, 2010. [42] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921696-03-9 pbk \$10.95  
SCIS No: 1446486

Early Chapter Book. Jake (from *Jake's gigantic list*) is back in this humorous story that many young children will relate to. When Jake is asked to tidy his room, he decides to surprise his dad by sorting and reorganising the clutter in his drawers and cupboards as well. Although he has the best intentions, things go from bad to worse until what was originally a small mess gradually grows to become an out-of-control monster mess. Nixon's grey-scale pencil drawings are full of movement and perfectly capture the chaos of Jake's room from multiple perspectives. Short chapters, simple language and a familiar topic make this story accessible to reluctant and emerging readers, especially boys.

**Useful for:** humour, cleanliness, families

**156. Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. A small brown dog with a wet pink nose / illustrated by Linzie Hunter.**

New York : Little, Brown, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-0-316-05830-8 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1451913

Picture Book. Amelia wants a dog so much but her parents will not give in. To their surprise, Amelia adopts an imaginary dog and seems satisfied. They go along with the game even agreeing to look for it if it gets lost. It does get lost and her parents take Amelia to the dog pound. The cheerful coloured illustrations in almost comic book format will be enjoyed by readers. Amelia's crafty plot is confirmed on the back endpapers.

**Useful for:** pet ownership, parent and child relationships, imagination, inventiveness

**A 157. Tanner, Jane. Love from Grandma.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Viking, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07409-9 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1473239

Picture Book. In this simple but beautifully told story, Emily who has always been cared for by Grandma while her parents are at work is told that they are moving to another city. Grandma promises to visit when the potted strawberry plant she gives to Emily has ripe berries. The special relationship between granddaughter and grandmother is wonderfully reflected in the expressive and almost realistic watercolour and pencil illustrations.

**Useful for:** grandparent/grandchild relationships, separation, patience, reunions

**A 158. Thompson, Carol. Chill / words and illustrations by Carol Thompson.**

Surry Hills, N.S.W. : Littel Hare, 2010. 32 p.  
ISBN 978-1-921541-73-5 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1471030

Picture Book. Dolly the Pig and Jack the Rabbit are best friends and play together all day long. One day they decide to paint portraits of one another but each gets offended by the picture which the other has drawn. The pair storm off angrily but after a while they realise how much they miss each other. When they meet up, they are good friends once again. This book takes a light-hearted look at how to deal with anger and sadness by relaxing and positive thinking. The charming pencil and watercolour illustrations on double page spreads and vignettes enhances a simple narrative. This book will promote discussions about friends and managing emotions.

**Useful for:** friendship, emotions, feelings, anger management

**159. Voake, Steve. Hooley Higgins and the shark / illustrated by Emma Dodson.**

London : Walker, 2010. 112 p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32234-7 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1458123

Early Chapter Book. A shark has been spotted in Shrimpton-on-Sea's bay and the local chocolate shop has a huge egg for sale. Hooley Higgins, Twig and Will decide to capture the shark so that they can charge admission and buy the chocolate egg. This well-written story is easy to read with comical black and white pictures and different fonts that add to the book's appeal for reluctant readers. More confident readers who are looking for a light-hearted read will also find plenty to enjoy. This book is suitable for reading independently and also for reading aloud.

**Useful for:** sharks, bullies, friendship, reluctant readers

**A Waarda series for young readers (series)**

Fremantle, W.A. : Fremantle Press, 2010.  
pbk \$9.95 each

Illustrated Chapter Book. The *WAARDA series for young readers* is designed to support literacy needs of Indigenous children and to introduce non-Indigenous children to Indigenous story-telling. The Nyungar word Waarda means 'talking and sharing stories and information' in the language of the Aboriginal people of the South-West of Western Australia. Stories are written by Indigenous authors from a variety of backgrounds and places, illustrated by Tracey Gibbs and edited by Sally Morgan who has also done the cover artwork. Teaching Notes are available from the Fremantle Press website.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 160. Dudgeon, Pat & Dudgeon, Laura.**

**Lilli and her shadow.** 44 p.  
ISBN 978-1-921696-05-3  
SCIS No: 1446495

Lilli and her family are moving to the city, and Lilli is worried that she will be lonely. However her Nan sends her a special friend, a mysterious, magical dingo-cat called Shadow to keep Lilli company. But she realises that Nan needs Shadow much more than she does, and sends Shadow home to be with her grandmother.

**Useful for:** family relationships, change, grandmothers

**A 161. Kickett-Tucker, Cheryl. Barlay!** 45 p.

ISBN 978-1-921696-11-4  
**SCIS No:** 1464718

Sarah and her brothers listen to Nan's cautionary tale of the 'woordatj'. Later when the family go on a

picnic to Rocky Pool, they have a good time and learn how to lay a trail. But then the woordatj tale becomes all too real. This simple story is well written and features Noongar words (with translations) throughout.

**Useful for:** early readers, early literacy, traditional tales, family, Indigenous Australians, cultural understanding, Noongar vocabulary

**A 162. Morgan, Sally. The magic fair.** 45 p.

ISBN 978-1-921696-12-1

SCIS No: 1464733

Kayla is excited when the Magic Fair finally comes to town but her Uncle Mike warns Kayla and her cousin Peter to be careful, because strange things happen at the fair. Peter ignores his warning and steals Kayla's purse and she has no money to buy a present for her mother's birthday. But when she visits the lolly stall, things take an interesting turn.

**Useful for:** magic, imagination, bullying

**A 163. Oxenham, Darlene. Beach sports**

**car.** 44 p.

ISBN 978-1-921696-06-0

SCIS No: 1446503

Annie, who lives in a caravan by the beach, recounts this story. When her Dad tells her he is going to get a beach sports car she becomes 'crazy with excitement', but the battered reality is far from her imagined shiny red convertible. However, Dad shows her that with imagination, ingenuity and hard work, dreams can become a reality.

**Useful for:** early readers, early literacy, traditional tales, family, Dads, beach themes, cars, Indigenous Australians, cultural understanding

**164. Waddell, Martin. The Orchard book of Hans Christian Andersen fairy tales / [retold by] Martin Waddell ; [illustrations] Emma Chichester Clark.**

London : Orchard, 2010. 127 p.

ISBN 978-1-8461-6938-0 hbk \$34.99

SCIS No: 1483190

This attractively presented compendium retells nine classic fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen such as *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Little Match Girl*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, and *The Little Mermaid*. The retellings stay true to the original stories, and the writing is lively and engaging. The vocabulary is suitable for young readers, yet is exciting enough for older readers to enjoy. The gorgeous illustrations found throughout the book complement the text perfectly. Children will be attracted to this colourful publication and the print size and layout supports young readers. The stories are ideal for personal reading or read aloud and shared to a class. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** classic fairy tales, folk tales, magic

**A 165. Whatley, Bruce. The little drummer boy.**

North Sydney, N.S.W. : Random House Australia, 2010. [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-86471-990-1 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1480650

Picture Book. The little drummer boy is a wooden Christmas ornament who is given to a girl named Annie by her grandfather. It is loved and treasured and always hangs near the top of the Christmas tree. Over the years, readers see Annie and her family mature from a child to a parent then a grandmother, until like the little drummer boy she becomes a little 'faded' but well-loved. **The Little Drummer Boy** is a touching tale about Christmas traditions and the love and warmth of family life. Whatley's bold illustrations are like snapshots which capture moments in time. This warm and gentle story makes a great read aloud, especially leading up to Christmas.

**Useful for:** Christmas, traditions, toys, family

**A 166. Whatley, Bruce & Whatley, Ben Smith. Zoobots.**

Sydney : Angus & Robertson, 2010. [29] p.

ISBN 978-0-7322-8482-4 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1450962

Picture Book. Zebo and her friends Hyde and TC are endearing animal characters composed from junk from Junk Jungle, a junkyard where they live. Zebo longs for another friend to add to the ones she already has. Their attempts to build a friend from recyclable junk fails but a new friend is not far way. The computer-generated artwork has the appearance of screen animation and will appeal to children. This picture book can be used to open discussions on how friendships are made.

**Useful for:** recycling, friendship, recycled art, social skills

**167. Wild, Margaret. Leo the littlest seahorse / illustrated by Terry Denton.**

London : Penguin, 2010. [32] p.

ISBN 978-0-670-07355-9 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1474633

Picture Book. Two seahorses Potbelly and Polly have one hundred babies and all the seahorses have only days to learn the ways of the ocean before they leave their home. Leo the littlest seahorse is finding it hard to learn these survival skills. The other seahorses can swivel their eyes and grip onto coral but not Leo. Then he accidentally learns a very important skill - how to camouflage himself. **Leo the littlest seahorse** is a warm and endearing story and readers will identify

with little Leo as he tries hard to learn the skills that he will need to stay alive in the big underwater world. The colourful illustrations of the coral in which the sea horses inhabit are gorgeous and the seahorses are charming and full of character. The story allows for children to explore and discuss an interesting and different family dynamic which is that of the father having the babies and the mother supporting him through this process.

**Useful for:** seahorses, parenting, learning skills, role reversal, sea creatures, families

**A 168. Wild, Margaret & Huxley, Dee. The miracle of the little wooden duck.**

Kingswood, S. Aust. : Working Title, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921504-12-9 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1455137

Picture Book. Everyday, a young girl caresses the little green wooden duck that sits on her windowsill, 'wishing it would love her back'. One day a violent storm blows the duck off the sill into the river below and it is washed away. This is a refreshing offering on a timeless theme in children's literature - loving a favourite toy so much that it comes to life. Wild's language has a fairytale quality and the strong brush strokes in Huxley's oil-painted illustrations with curving and swirling lines add to the mood and capture the natural elements.

**Useful for:** toys, wishing, transformation, fairytales

**169. Williams, Marcia. My great lost dog adventure!**

London : Walker, 2010. [36] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31911-8 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1447742

Picture Book. Seven-year-old Iggy loves dogs and he has a special relationship with Fred, his Grandpa's dog. When Fred is 'rehomed' after his Grandpa's death, Iggy is determined to find his friend. Presented as a journal recount in Iggy's voice, funny, energetic, comic style illustrations and text in eclectic page layouts tell of his efforts to achieve his goal within the context of his family and school. It includes extra doggy information that has bearing on his quest. This rich, clever, touching, laugh-out-loud book is multilayered and one to motivate early readers who love dogs or love to peruse detailed drawings. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** dogs, family, grief, boys, grandparents, humour

**170. Willis, Jeanne. Caterpillar dreams / illustrated Tony Ross.**

London : Andersen, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8427-0913-9 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1459670

Picture Book. Two caterpillars - one stripy, one plain - dream of all the wonderful things they will do together when they become butterflies. Nature has different plans for them however, and while one becomes a butterfly, the other becomes a moth of the night. As Willis points out, 'We can't all be butterflies...the world needs moths just like it needs the moon.' This simple yet lyrical story has many layers. It would be perfect for use with younger children as part of a topic on insects or life-cycles, while older children could dig deeper and explore the underlying themes of self-acceptance, following your own path and celebrating diversity.

**Useful for:** nature, life-cycles, insects, self-acceptance, diversity, dreams

**171. Willis, Jeanne. The Nanny Goat's kid / illustrated by Tony Ross.**

London : Andersen, 2010. [24] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8493-9036-1 hbk \$32.95  
SCIS No: 1459671

Picture Book. Nanny Goat can't have children so she adopts one instead. He is different from all the other kids - he's a tiger cub. Nanny Goat does her best with the difficult Kid who won't eat grass, and scares his cousins. When they go missing everyone blames the Nanny Goat's Kid. This comical story cleverly conveys the anxieties of parenting, and the comments of the Nanny Goat's sisters are like a chorus of commonly heard platitudes. While the book is aimed at young readers, the humour and pathos will also appeal to adults.

**Useful for:** family, goats, adoption, mothers, differences

**172. Wormell, Christopher. One smart fish.**

London : Jonathan Cape, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-0-224-08354-6 hbk \$32.95  
SCIS No: 1449152

**Awards:** *Best Picture Book for children up to five-years-old, Booktrust Early Years Awards 2010 [UK]; Nominated for CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2011 [UK]*

Picture Book. Published to tie in with Charles Darwin's bicentenary celebrations, this entertaining story is of how one very smart fish left the sea and help start the process of evolution. A small fish dreams of walking on land and it makes a set of feet and manages to walk on to the beach. But he gets tired of being the only fish out of water, so jumps back into the sea to join his friends. A few million years later the other fish follow in his footsteps and begin to grow their own feet, eventually evolving into all the creatures that now populate the earth. This book manages to inform and delight at the same time and will stimulate lots

of interest and debate. The text is gently humorous and written in a friendly, conversational style. The illustrations of the underwater world are a real joy to pore over, and children will love spotting all the different types of fish. It is a worthwhile addition to a library collection and will be read time and time again. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** fish, evolution, dreams

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**A 173. Yeh, Kat. The magic brush : a story of love, family and Chinese characters / illustrated by Huy Voun Lee.**

Sydney : Bloomsbury, 2011. [32] p.

ISBN 978-1-408-81545-8 pbk \$14.99

SCIS No: 1492743

Picture Book. Jasmine and Tai-Tai's grandfather came to live with their family. For the next six months, while little Tai-Tai has his afternoon sleep, Grandfather (Agong) uses a creative story-telling technique to teach Jasmine Chinese writing characters and make them come alive. It is a special time of intimacy and learning. When Agong becomes ill and dies, Jasmine's sadness is mitigated when she imitates the action of her grandfather and teaches her little brother the 'magic' of writing. This story of the warmth of family and the passing on of culture through family is colourfully brought to life in illustrations using the Chinese folk art tradition of paper-cut collage. Chinese characters are incorporated into the pictures as well as in isolated corners of the pages. Factual information on pronunciation and traditional Chinese art and food completes the book.

**Useful for:** cultural understanding, writing, imagination, China, traditions, family, grandfather, brother-sister relationships, art techniques, grief

## PART TWO : MIDDLE CHILDHOOD

The Curriculum Framework describes the phases of development in the following way:

Early Childhood - typically Kindergarten to Year 3

Middle Childhood - typically Years 3 to 7

Early Adolescence - typically Years 7 to 10

This recognises that each student develops and achieves in different ways and at different rates. Although the majority of the titles in this section will suit students in the Middle Childhood phase, this is not intended to be prescriptive but to give guidance. As learning progresses the phases of development overlap, and some titles may suit students in either the Early Childhood or Early Adolescence phase.

### A 174. Abela, Deborah. *Grimsdon*.

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010.

278 p.

ISBN 978-1-7416-6372-3 pbk \$16.95

SCIS No: 1470331

Novel. A massive wave broke the barriers of Grimsdon and sea water flooded the city leaving it partially in ruins. Some people were lost and most of the city's inhabitants had fled and the buildings abandoned. Isabella Charm and her friend Griffin stayed on in Grimsdon and live with three other children in a deserted mansion. They are later joined by Xavier Stone and his home-made flying machine, and he is accepted into their group, despite Griffin's suspicions. Together they survive with the help of Griffin's brilliant inventions, Isabella's fighting skills and by looking after each other. The children find new ways to create power, find food and defend themselves from hidden dangers, like bounty hunters, sneaker waves and even sea monsters. This is a fun and interesting tale of suspense and adventure that is fast paced and easy to follow. This story has a wide appeal, due to the presence of both male and a female protagonist although the adults are portrayed as thugs or bullies, with the exception of an eccentric scientist. Recommended for a wide range of readers in the mid to upper primary levels.

**Useful for:** climate change, friendship, fantasy, adventure, floods

### 175. Aguiar, Nadia. *Secrets of Tamarind*.

London : Puffin, 2010. 331 p.

ISBN 978-0-14-138433-7 pbk \$16.95

SCIS No: 1490688

Novel. In this sequel to *The lost island of Tamarind* Simon, Maya and Penny pay a return visit to Tamarind when they find the island under threat from the evil Red Coral Project and its leader, Dr Fitzsimmons. Once more the children must save the island that only they can reach by sailing in their boat, the *Pamela Jane*. They solve mysteries surrounding the their friend Helix's past,

the magical element ophalla and save the island from being lost forever. This gripping adventure story has rich, lyrical descriptions, creative settings and interesting characters. Readers who have enjoyed the first book will find this book just as appealing.

**Useful for:** islands, adventure, fantasy, family relationships, survival, friendship

### 176. Almond, David. *The boy who climbed into the moon / illustrated by Polly Dunbar*.

London : Walker, 2010. 122 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-31457-1 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1454754

Illustrated Novel. Paul is an only child who lives with his parents in the basement flat of a 29 storey apartment block. When his parents let him take a day off school ('school didn't seem to like him'), he decides to 'go and touch the sky'. And so begins a marvellous adventure which, while physically doesn't take him beyond the top floor or the neighbouring garden, stretches the imagination and understanding beyond bounds. Through warm, quirky characters, words, ideas and fantasy, perceptions are altered so that 'the moon is a hole in the sky' and 'sausages are better than war'. With a light touch that is beautifully complimented by Dunbar's illustrations, Almond comments on the incongruity of war and its effects, schools, the ubiquitous survey (personified in the lift inspector) and community spirit. Deceptively simple this is a modern fable about transformations that occur when perceptions are altered. It can be read at a number of levels so is suitable for all ages. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** family, community, war, surveys, fantasy, fables, the moon, perceptions

### 177. Anderson, Sorrel. *The Clumsies make a mess / illustrated by Nicola Slater*.

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2010. 198 p.

ISBN 978-0-00-733090-4 pbk \$12.99

SCIS No: 1456393

Early Novel. Howard Armitage works in a dull office job, but that soon changes when he discovers two talking mice living under his desk. The absurd storylines and humorous antics of the furry pair will appeal to reluctant readers, as will the imaginative layout featuring text in different sizes, fonts and arrangements. Cartoon-like illustrations interspersed with and superimposed on photographs of everyday objects add to the charm.  
**Useful for:** humour, reluctant readers, boys' reads, mice

**178. Angleberger, Tom. The strange case of Origami Yoda.**

New York : Amulet Books, 2010. 141 p.  
 ISBN 978-0-8109-8425-7 hbk \$19.95  
 SCIS No: 1461534

Illustrated Novel. Structured by Tommy as individual recounts and comments about specific events sandwiched between the April and May PTA Fun Nights, this is a humorous take on early adolescent boy-girl social awkwardness. The catalyst that takes a group of four sixth grade 'loser' guys to greater self-belief and 'normalcy' is a finger puppet made and worn by Dwight, who has the reputation for being decidedly weird and definitely not 'cool'. Dubbed Origami Yoda (after wise Yoda of Star Wars), this finger puppet becomes the conduit of such effective advice that it has the students wondering if it is real or not; thus Tommy's 'scientific study' based on witness reports and evidence. Small doodles peppered throughout the book add to its charm and interpretation.

**Useful for:** reluctant readers, pubescent boys, social skills, friends, school

**A 179. Baker, Jeannie. Mirror = Mira't.**

London : Walker, 2010. [18, 18] p. : chiefly col. ill.  
 ISBN 978-1-406-30914-0 hbk \$39.95  
 SCIS No: 1469836

Picture Book. This is a wordless picture book that uses collage to tell the parallel stories of an Australian and a Moroccan family. The Moroccan family's story reads right to left, while the Australian family's story is reflected left to right. Similarities and differences in the daily lives of the two families are depicted covering daily routines, food, transport and shopping. A rug made in Morocco and purchased in Australia appears in both families' stories. This book is unusual and beautiful in its design. It opens out on both the left and right hand sides and the two stories are meant to be read in conjunction with one another. Although wordless, the title and explanatory texts are in English and Arabic. Jeannie Baker's trademark collage invites discussion about our common humanity despite outward differences.

**Useful for:** cultural understandings, exploring visual texts, visual arts.

**180. Base, Graeme. The Legend of the Golden Snail.**

Camberwell, Vic.: Viking, 2010. [49] p.  
 ISBN 978-0-670-07349-8 hbk \$29.95  
 SCIS No: 1473241

Picture Book. Wilbur loves the story of the *The Legend of the Golden Snail* (reproduced in miniature book form with wood cuts before the main story). With grandiose hopes of being the new Grand Enchanter, he sets out on a sea quest to find the enchanted snail. He finds creatures that need his help and who later help him; and when he finds the enchained golden snail, he gallantly decides to give it its freedom. A folktale for all ages, this book encourages a positive and compassionate view of the world. The illustrations are a departure from Base's signature complex, minutely detailed style: sweeping cloudscapes and broad, uncluttered seascapes reflect the reality of being on the open sea and of the open, limitless potential of life's journey. And don't be deceived: the quirky detail is there, albeit in camouflage. Readers are also challenged to spot the hidden snail 'n' crossbones in every picture. More entertainment is found in the place names on the map that forms the endpapers. Go to Graeme Base's website to complete the Golden Snail challenge, see the book trailer and hear him talk about this book. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** journeys, adventure, fantasy, the ocean, values, metaphor and imagery, word play

**A 181. Bateson, Catherine. Mimi and the blue slave.**

North Sydney, N.S.W. : Woolshed, 2010. 217 p.  
 ISBN 978-1-86471-994-9 pbk \$16.95  
 SCIS No: 1477290

Novel. When Mimi's father dies unexpectedly, Mimi and her mother are overcome with grief and struggle to face the new future that lies before them. While Mimi's mother becomes 'shipwrecked by despair' and takes to bed, Mimi fights hard to keep her head above the surface, relying on her imaginary companion Ableth for support and guidance. A blue slave belonging to Griselda the Pirate Queen (Mimi's make-believe identity), Ableth appears in times of need with words of wisdom and encouragement. As time passes, however, newly-formed friendships help heal Mimi's heart until Ableth eventually earns his freedom. Told from Mimi's perspective, this gently unfolding tale of loss, hope and friendship explores the sensitive topic of death in a way that is accessible to a middle/upper primary audience.

**Useful for:** grief, loss, friendship, family relationships, imaginary friends

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**A 182. Bauer, Michael Gerard. Just a dog.**

Malvern, S. Aust. : Omnibus, 2010. 130 p.  
ISBN 978-1-86291-887-0 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1476701

Novel. Mr Mosely isn't a pedigreed dog, but he is just the dog Corey and his family want: he is loyal, protective and loving. And he is much more than that. He might well be the one thing that holds them all together. This is the poignant story of a boy and his dog and the dog's place and influence as one of the family. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** families, dogs, pets, love

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**A 183. Bongers, Christine. Henry Hoey Hobson.**

North Sydney : Woolshed Press, 2010. 232 p.  
ISBN 978-1-86471-995-6 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1464749

Novel. Henry Hoey Hobson and his single mother are constantly moving house and yet again Henry is faced with the task of trying to fit in at a new school. Being the only boy in Year Seven and being stand-out tall and wearing braces, he is immediately a target for bullying - despite the efforts of a caring Principal. When three strange black-clothed adults move in next door the plot thickens. And then his mother is involved in a car accident. Evoking empathy with Henry's emotional turmoil and anxiety, the plot races along as Henry faces challenges, stands up to bullies, finds a father and discovers that loyal friendships can be made with the most unlikely of people. Altogether this is a most wholesome book with well-drawn characters and a lovely depiction of a protective, loving relationship between mother and son. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** family, relationships, neighbours, stereotypes, swimming, schools, bullying, belonging

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**184. Broach, Elise. Masterpiece / illustrated by Kelly Murphy.**

London : Walker, 2010. 297 p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32183-8 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1451636

Novel. Marvin is a very talented beetle and his family live in a New York apartment kitchen that belongs to the Pompaday family. When James receives a pen-and-ink drawing set for his birthday, Marvin discovers a talent for drawing in the style of Albrecht Durer, a German painter. The two friends

become involved in a plot to steal a Durer drawing from the Metropolitan Museum and must find a way to save the masterpiece from the thieves. The short chapters, well pitched language, engaging plot and the warm friendship between the two characters will make this book appealing to a wide range of middle primary readers. The black and white illustrations add humour and support the detailed narrative.

Suitable to be read by a teacher as a class novel or for individual reading.

**Useful for:** friendship, animal and human relationship, family relationships, art history, art appreciation

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**185. Burne, Cristy. Takeshita demons / illustrated by Siku.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's, 2010. 138 p.  
ISBN 978-1-8478-0115-9 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1468760

Novel. It's not everyday the relief teacher turns out to be a Japanese demon, but that is just what happens to Miku Takeshita. In Japan her family was protected from the demons and bad spirits by a zashiki-warashi, a friendly child ghost. After they move to London, strange things start to happen. When she recognises the new teacher as a nukekubi (cut-throat demon) and her baby brother is kidnapped, it falls to Miku and her friend Cait to rescue the baby and destroy the demon spirit. With help from a good spirited Dragon Woman, the girls fight the evil spirit and return equilibrium to their world - for the time being. This first book in a new exciting series is illustrated with Manga-like sketches which enhance the storyline.

**Useful for:** Japan, friends, evil spirits

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**A 186. Carmody, Isobelle & Spudvilas, Anne. Night school.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin Viking, 2010. [32 p.]  
ISBN 978-0-670-07207-1 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1444033

Picture Book. When a group of children arrives at school with blankets, food and candles, they discover their sleepover is more than a social event. Their teacher challenges them to 'Follow the path of the light' through dark, shadowy corridors to specific rooms where they must write their names. Unbeknown to this group of children, older boys wearing masks have been set up to heighten the sense of menace and ghostliness. Individually and together, the children muster the courage to face the sinister shadows. They use the light (their candles) to uncover the reality of the shadows and emerge into daylight with their fears conquered. Carmody's powerful writing is brought to life by the illustrations of Anne Spudvilas. Her evocative nightmare images are reminiscent of fairytales by

the Brothers Grimm – although the background presence of teacher and caretaker alleviates the darkness of this haunting, mysterious tale. This book works at a number of levels and has potential for much discussion.

**Useful for:** sleep-overs, school camps, overcoming fear, role play, courage, collaboration mystery

**A 187. Carmody, Isobelle. The red wind.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin Viking, 2010. 221 p.  
(The kingdom of the lost ; bk. 1.)

ISBN 978-0-670-07403-7 hbk \$19.95

SCIS No: 1472091

Illustrated Fantasy Novel. Brothers Bily and Zluty are two little furry creatures who have built themselves an idyllic, self-sufficient life in a cottage on a barren plain. While Zluty is on his annual 10-day trip to gather supplies, a freak red storm hits. Alternating chapters recount the resourcefulness, courage and compassion of each brother as each faces challenging consequences of this frightening storm. Reunited, and with their home destroyed and Winter approaching, they set out for the West in the company of Redwing and a mysterious wounded monster. Beautifully written, and with skilled character development and charming black and white illustrations interspersed throughout, this is the first book in the *The Kingdom of the Lost* series. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** brothers, refugees, relationships, survival, values

**A Carter, Charlie. Battle boy : spying on the past (series)**

Sydney : Pan Macmillan Australia, 2010. 88 p.  
pbk \$7.99 each

Early Novel. The fast-paced stories in the *Battle Boy* series, with their emphasis on technology, time travel and battles, will particularly appeal to reluctant boy readers. The series website includes teacher notes and support information for young readers.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 188. Aztec attack. Book 5**

ISBN 978-0-330-42558-2

SCIS No: 1458609

In Napoleon August Smythe's sixth mission as Battle Boy 005, he is sent back to 16th century South America to the time of the Aztecs and Spanish Conquistadors, to find Battle Boy 004 who went 'missing in action' some months before.

**Useful for:** battles, history, time travel, Aztecs, Spanish colonisation

**A 189. Battle bust-up. Book 6**

ISBN 978-0-330-42559-9

SCIS No: 1458619

The 1943CE Battle of Kursk between the Germans and the Russians and the 333BCE Battle of Issus between and King Darius III of Persia have contaminated each other's eras of time. In Napoleon August Smythe's fifth mission as Battle Boy 005, he must travel back and restore order to time.

**Useful for:** battles, history, time travel, Alexander the Great, World War II

**A 190. Collins, Paul & Thompson, Jo. The glasshouse.**

Ormond, Vic. : Ford St, 2010. [29] p.

ISBN 978-1-921665-04-2 hbk \$26.95

SCIS No: 1473927

Picture Book. Clara lives a withdrawn life in a glasshouse where she grows pumpkins for sale. All goes well until a boy peers in. This prompts her to peek outside and the imperfection she sees sends her into a panic. She becomes so obsessive about keeping her glasshouse environment perfect that she neglects the actual pumpkins and buyers stop coming. The reappearance of the boy with his message of companionship and 'it's what's inside that counts' triggers a painful but transformative crisis in Clara. The juxtaposition of Clara's freckled face with the skin of the pumpkin, and the manga eyes symbolising the windows to the soul (the 'inside') are just two of the clever conceits to be discovered in Thompson's stunning illustrations. They marry beautifully with this multi-level parable that will resonate with all ages. Teachers' notes are available on the Ford St Publishing website.

**Useful for:** personality, self-knowledge, self-esteem, plants, gardening, friendship, values, allegory

**191. Cottin, Menena. The black book of colours / illustrations by Rosana Faria / translated by Elisa Amado.**

London : Walker, 2010. [21] p.

ISBN 978-1-406-32218-7 hbk \$19.95

SCIS No: 1449333

Picture Book. Thomas is blind, but that doesn't mean he misses out on the rich rainbow of colours that fills our world. His mother has worked with him to identify the smell, feel, taste and sound of colours. Innovative and intriguing, this book is presented from Thomas's viewpoint and incorporates Braille text. The white typeset text is on the left of each completely black double spread, with raised black line drawings on the right. Evocative text describes colours through sensory

imagery to allow sighted readers to understand how blind and low vision people may experience colour. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** disability awareness, Braille, imagery, sensory picture books

**192. Cowley, Joy & Bishop, Gavin. Friends : Snake and Lizard.**

Wellington : Gecko, 2009. 126 p.  
ISBN 978-1-87746-725-7 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1434869

Illustrated Story. Unlikely friends, Snake and Lizard share a burrow in the desert and offer a service as Helpers to other animals. Various daily events trigger much philosophising and compromise which is underlined by a humour and ignorance that young readers will pick up and enjoy. Bishop's colourful illustrations marry perfectly with the text of this fantasy.

**Useful for:** animals, deserts, comparison with real snakes and lizards, friendship, conflict management

**A Craig, Claire. Harriet Bright (series) / illustrated by Melanie Feddersen.**  
Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. pbk \$14.95 each

Short Stories. The humour-filled books of the *Harriet Bright* series contain short stories which are innovative in style and plot and star nine-year-old Harriet as the precocious, creative heroine. She entertains readers with her idiosyncratic, comic actions and observations of life. The appealing layout features words in different sizes and font styles as well as the occasional list, letter, article or black-and-white computer-generated illustration.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 193. Harriet Bright : the star you are.**

115 p. Book 1.  
ISBN 978-0-14-330506-4  
SCIS No: 1455144

In ***Laugh out loud***, Harriet, with the help of friends, collects facts and conducts interviews to find out why adults don't laugh as often as children. In ***Only, lonely me***, she discovers her namesake while researching family history for a class project. ***Talent take two*** sees Harriet and her best friend Melly find their special talents for the neighbourhood talent quest.

**Useful for:** school stories, child logic, fact-finding, genealogy, poetry

**A 194. Harriet Bright : holiday hullabaloo.**

123 p. Book 2.  
ISBN 978-0-14-330507-1  
SCIS No: 1479005

The four stories in this book share a common theme: holidays. In ***On the first day of Christmas***, Harriet wakes early on Christmas morning and tries different strategies to keep herself in bed until 7am when she is allowed to get up. She is bored in ***Summer holiday friend*** and invents an imaginary friend who causes all sorts of trouble. In the ***The problem with Pluto*** the fact that Pluto loses its status as a planet, causes Harriet to be concerned about the issue of self-worth and she organises civil action (a petition, letter-writing and a demonstration) to have Pluto reinstated. In the brilliantly written ***My very best holiday ever*** Harriet and Melly collaborate to create a story about a holiday.

**Useful for:** Christmas, families, friends, holidays, planets, story-writing, spelling, self-esteem, vocabulary, values, poetry

**195. Cushman, Doug. Mystery at the Club Sandwich.**

New York : Clarion, c2004. 30 p.  
ISBN 978-0-618-41969-2 hbk \$21.95  
SCIS No: 1477567

Picture Book. With amusing animal characters, this is a pun-peppered romp with private investigator, Nick Trunk, as he works to solve the case of a famous singer's missing marbles. Greyscale illustrations and corny humour contribute to the hilarity of this spoof of the black and white detective movies of the 20th century. A book for the child with a sophisticated sense of humour. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** detective yarns, humour, spoofs, mystery, puns, English language

**196. Dahl, Roald. The BFG [sound recording]**

London : Puffin Audiobooks, 2010. 4 CDs (4 hr.) + 1 book.  
ISBN 978-0-14-133216-1 pbk + CDs \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1480636

CD + Novel. Because Sophie sees a giant, she is kidnapped by him to prevent her telling. He is the Big Friendly Giant (BFG) who blows happy dreams to children in their sleep. But other giants are not so friendly. A perennial favourite and one of Dahl's best books, this is a marvellously inventive romp featuring Sophie and her adventures with the BFG as together they set out to save the world from the evil human-eating giants. The clever and witty nonsense language makes it a perfect choice for reading aloud. First published 1982. In the audio version, Natasha Richardson gives a rich, warm, animated reading of this popular book. Her narration is lively and engaging, and her rendition of the various characters skilfully conveys their emotion, humour and play with words.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, listening, humour, adventure, children, giants, fantasy

**197. Dale, Anna. *Magical mischief.***

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 300 p.  
ISBN 978-1-408-80043-0 pbk \$15.99  
SCIS No: 1471180

Novel. Mr Hardbattle runs a dusty old bookshop where magic has moved in and regularly causes chaos. Although the magic has driven away many customers, Mr Hardbattle has become used to it. But now he is facing a huge rent increase and he has to find a new home for the magic. While he is away searching for the new home, his friends, Arthur and Miss Quint help look after the shop. However, Miss Quint cannot resist wishing some characters out of the books. Three of the characters turn out to be rather unsavoury and shady. *Magical Mischief* is a clever mix of traditional and contemporary story telling, and has many quaint and charming characters which all have different personalities and foibles. This fun and quirky book is suited to confident readers; or can be read aloud in instalments in a shared story time with a younger audience.

**Useful for:** magic, fantasy, adventure, friendship

**198. Darlison, Aleesah. *Musical mayhem : the fabulous diary of Persephone Pinchgut / illustrator, Serena Geddes.***

Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Frontier, 2010.  
154 p. (Totally twins)  
ISBN 978-1-921042-34-8 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1477643

Illustrated Novel. Ten-year-old Persephone 'Perse' Pinchgut is continually being compared to her identical (and seemingly perfect) twin sister Portia. When their teacher announces the class will be performing an end-of-term musical Perse is horrified at the thought of having to sing in front of an audience, but as usual the confident and talented Portia can't wait to be in the lime-light and does nothing to ease her sister's apprehension. With her single mother preoccupied with a range of new-age ventures and her father living overseas, Perse turns to her diary to vent her frustrations, insecurities, fears and triumphs, taking the reader with her on an entertaining journey. With contemporary language and a likable female protagonist this light-hearted, funny story will appeal to many young girls. A blog site written from Persephone's perspective extends the story and adds further interest.

**Useful for:** twins, sisters, sibling rivalry, diaries, fears, friendship

**D'Ath, Justin. *Phoebe Nash (series)***

Mosman, N.S.W. : Laguna Bay, 2010.  
pbk \$14.95 each

Phoebe Nash is a new age heroine. She's a smart, adventure-loving girl who stumbles into mystery adventures. Stories in the series feature Phoebe's relationship with an African boy who she first meets on a family holiday in Africa. While the stories have related characters, they can be read as stand-alone books.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 199. *Phoebe Nash : girl warrior.* 117 p.**

Book 1.  
ISBN 978-0-9805664-2-0  
SCIS No: 1471458

Phoebe Nash, a 13-year-old Australian holidaying with her family in Africa witnesses the kidnapping of a local politician, who gives her his mobile phone for safekeeping. Phoebe rings a number on the phone and reports to the man's son, Sospeter, what she has seen. She then accompanies Sospeter on the back of a motorbike in an audacious rescue bid. Fascinating facts about the African continent are woven through this action-packed story which will appeal to readers across a range of ages.

**Useful for:** Africa, adventure, girl's reads

**A 200. *Phoebe Nash : detective.* 137 p.**

Book 2.  
ISBN 978-0-9805664-3-7  
SCIS No: 1485953

Characters from the first adventure are re-united on Australian soil when Sospeter Kipruto and his mother, arrive to open a special display of African masks in Phoebe's home town at the museum where Phoebe's mother works. Their arrival is disrupted by demonstrators protesting the killing of a white rhino – supposedly by Sospeter's father, now President of their country. When a masked gunman fires a paintball gun, Phoebe is slightly injured while protecting Mrs Kipruto. The centrepiece of the museum's display is the Blue Leopard Mask and when a sapphire from it goes missing, Phoebe becomes a detective to track down the thief and disprove the shooting allegations. While somewhat less exciting than the first book, this will still find an audience wishing to follow Phoebe's adventures.

**Useful for:** African art, conservation, environmental responsibility

***DC Super heroes (series)***

London : Raintree, 2010. pbk \$10.95 each

Illustrated Short Story. The *Super Heroes* series of easy-to-read chapter books comprise new stories based on the original super hero comics with crisp

cut illustrations in colourful comic style. The vocabulary is descriptive but controlled and suitable for challenged, reluctant and early independent readers. Each book includes a biographical sketch of a main character, discussion questions and writing prompts for further investigation and reflection of issues raised in the story.

**Useful for:** super heroes, comics, cult fiction, justice, law and order, science fiction, values

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**201. Dahl, Michael. The man behind the mask / illustrated by Dan Schoening.** 48 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-21564-9

SCIS No: 1460344

Twenty years after the murder of his parents, Batman chances upon, pursues and captures the man who killed his parents.

**202. Dahl, Michael. Trial of the Amazons / illustrated by Dan Schoening.** 55 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-21636-3

SCIS No: 1473572

Tells the story of how Diana, Amazonian Princess of Themyscira, became Wonder Woman with the mission to champion peace and harmony among mortals.

**203. Kupperberg, Paul. Meteor of doom / illustrated by Shawn McManus and Lee Loughridge.** 48 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-21507-6

SCIS No: 1473572

Superman thwarts Lex Luthor's plans to capture the Deep Space Probe as it returns to earth.

**204. Deary, Terry. The eye of the Viking god / illustrated by Helen Flook.**

London : A&C Black, 2010. 61 p. (Terry Deary's Viking tales)

ISBN 978-1-408-12240-2 pbk \$12.99

SCIS No: 1482431

Early novel. Younger readers will engage with the story of 'Fleece', enslaved by Viking Raiders and taken far from her home. The young girl is bullied by all the villagers and forced to mind the sheep herd. One day she befriends a stranger who is searching for a way to return to his home country and offers to help. Will he be able to help her escape? Black and white illustrations on almost every page will assist reluctant readers to more easily comprehend the story.

**Useful for:** Vikings, slavery, customs

**205. Doherty, Berlie. Spellhorn / illustrated by John Lupton.**

London : HarperCollins Children's Books, 2010. 190 p. (Essential modern classics)

ISBN 978-0-00-733199-4 pbk \$14.99

SCIS No: 1468751

Novel. In **Spellhorn**, first published in 1989, Berlie Doherty uses unique word combinations to create the fantasy world of the Wilderness "Throng round me, Wild Ones - I have wordspeak for you. When the Old Woman sleeps her last forever sleep the Wild Ones must findseek some new Mighty High to fill her place." Laura, who is blind in the real world, is carried to the 'where-place' of the Wild Ones on the back of Spellhorn, the unicorn. As the Wild One's Mighty High she faces many dangers and must finally choose between the two worlds. This multi-layered tale is highly recommended for capable and mature readers.

**Useful for:** language in context, allegory, symbolism, fantasy, blindness, courage

**206. Dolan, Penny. A boy called M.O.U.S.E. / illustrated by Peter Bailey.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 451 p.

ISBN 978-1-408-80138-3 pbk \$22.99

SCIS No: 1489520

Novel. Set in Victorian England, this enchanting story follows the adventures of a boy called Mouse as he attempts to uncover the mysteries of his past with only a silver compass and a handful of memories to guide him. Cleverly told using dual narratives, Dolan creates an atmosphere of tension and intrigue as Mouse's story is paralleled with that of an omniscient narrator. While Mouse remains unaware of the danger he is in as he travels the country searching for home, the reader is given insight into his dramatic history complete with lost parents, a cold-hearted grandfather, a jealous uncle, a loyal nanny and a scheming bookmaker who is now hot on Mouse's trail. Each setting is crafted using rich imagery and period detail, and the reading experience is further enhanced by the large cast of memorable characters from the contemptible villains who wish Mouse harm to the kind-hearted strangers who help him on his journey. Described by the author as a 'historical fairy tale', this delightfully Dickensian novel will appeal to confident, capable readers who enjoy the challenge of a long story. A gilded dust jacket and periodic full-page illustrations add to the charm of this beautifully produced book. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** adventure, historical fiction, journeys, belonging

**207. Duder, Tessa. Jellybean.**

Auckland : HarperCollins, 2010. 160 p.

ISBN 978-1-86950-839-5 pbk \$14.99

SCIS No: 1446893

Novel. Much of Geraldine's young life has been constrained by her concert-cellist mother's rehearsal and performance schedule. A chance

meeting with Gerald, a friend from her mother's past encourages Geraldine to realise both her own passion for music, and her desire to become a conductor. The sensitive depiction of the mother-daughter relationship and the depth and growth of Geraldine's character mean **Jellybean**, first published in 1985, retains its appeal for present-day readers.

**Useful for:** mother-daughter relationships, loneliness, music

**A 208. Fensham, Elizabeth. Bill rules.**

St Lucia, Qld. : University of Queensland Press, 2010. 179 p.

ISBN 978-0-7022-3848-2 pbk \$14.95

SCIS No: 1469292

Novel. This is the companion novel to the 2010 CBCA shortlisted **Matty forever**. Bill and Matty are best friends who hold daily 'thinktanks' in an old outdoor bath in Matty's backyard. When Bill learns that his father is coming home from jail, his world turns upside down. His worries start to mount but Matty has an idea to help Bill's dad keep out of trouble. This is another charming and upbeat story which handles important topics with sensitivity. The main characters of Bill and Matty and their friendship will also strike a chord with many children.

**Useful for:** friendship, families, school stories, courage

**209. Fernald, Karin. The dumpy princess / illustrated by Sophie Foster.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010. 111 p.

ISBN 978-1-8478-0083-1 hbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1478979

Novel. Princess Victoria lives a very sheltered existence surrounded by her over protective widowed and destitute mother, a wicked advisor and her four unkind uncles. Victoria takes solace in her dolls and pets and through her loyal governess Lehzen, one good German cousin called Albert and her beloved spaniel Dash, she gradually comes to understand that one day she may become Queen of England and this is indeed what happens. Through this story, children will gain a real sense of what life was like for the young Victoria growing into her Royal position. The delightful child-like illustrations add to this appealing early reader book and it would also make a good read-aloud classroom story as a good introduction to this period of history.

**Useful for:** history, royalty, childhood

**A 210. Flynn, Pat. The trophy kid / illustrated by Tom Jellett.**

St Lucia, Qld. : UQP, 2010. 133 p.

ISBN 978-0-7022-3840-6 pbk \$16.95

SCIS No: 1462437

Novel. This is a companion novel to **The Tuckshop Kid** and **The Toilet Kid**. Marcus Wright, the school tennis star, is obsessed with the game and is determined to win the next state tennis title. He turns to his best friend, tuckshop expert Matt, and his friend Kayla for help. But the stress of always trying to win leads him to discover that he is his own biggest rival. The use of humour to tackle serious health issues makes the story appealing to even reluctant readers and is a useful resource for Health Education.

**Useful for:** mental health, friendship, school stories, tennis, stress

**A 211. Fraser, Janine M. Sarindi's dragon kite / illustrated by Elise Hurst.**

Pymble, N.S.W. : Angus&Robertson, 2010. 123 p.

ISBN 978-0-7322-8776-4 pbk \$12.99

SCIS No: 1477354

Novel. This is the third book about Sarindi, a Javanese boy from a poor, hardworking family. It's Sarindi's birthday, and his father gives him a multi-coloured dragon kite. He can't wait to go to the beach to fly it with his father. But later that day a huge earthquake destroys the nearby town of Bantul, where Sarindi's aunt, uncle and his cousins live. Sarindi and his father immediately travel to the town to help. A touching story and charming black and white illustrations support the text.

**Useful for:** earthquakes, grief, communities, culture, Indonesia, values, family

**A 212. French, Jackie. Dance of the deadly dinosaurs / illustrated by Andrea F. Potter.**

Pymble, N.S.W. : Angus&Robertson, 2010. 317 p. (School for heroes)

ISBN 978-0-7322-8542-5 pbk \$16.99

SCIS No: 1452110

Novel. Sequel to **Lessons for a werewolf warrior**. Boojum Bakr, werewolf puppy and student Hero, venture into the Ghastly Otherwhen (previously the Greedle's home) to rescue his mum. He goes on his mission with the help of his friends - mysterious Yesterday, Princess Princess Sunbeam Caresse of Pewke, Mug the zombie, and Squeak the warrior mouse. But when they get there they find it is not at all what they had expected. This book is best enjoyed as a sequel to the first title and will appeal

to readers who enjoy a fast-moving, humorous adventure and the challenge of a long story.

**Useful for:** werewolves, schools, adventure, heroes, heroines, humour

**213. Funke, Cornelia. Saving Mississippi / translated from the German by Anthea Bell.**

Frome : Chicken House, 2010. 181 p.  
ISBN 978-1-906427-51-1 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1472530

Novel. Translated from the German, **Saving Mississippi** is a charming story about a girl and her love for a horse. Emma spends her summer holiday at her eccentric grandmother Dolly's animal sanctuary. When Mr Clipperbush, an old friend dies, Dolly buys his old horse to save it from the knackery. Things turn unpleasant when the old man's nephew realises he cannot inherit anything unless he looks after the horse and he attempts to get it back. With the help of her grandmother, the local vet and some neighbourhood boys, Emma sets out to foil his plans. This is an engaging read and will appeal to horse loving girls in particular.

**Useful for:** horses, pets, grandmothers

**A 214. Fussell, Sandy. Fire lizard / illustrated by Rhian Nest James.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 284 p.  
(Samurai kids ; 5.)  
ISBN 978-1-921529-46-7 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1475207

Novel. **Fire lizard** sees the amazing group of 'special' children from the Cockroach Ryu Samurai School gaining confidence in their samurai skills and knowledge. As they travel to Daejeon City with their teacher Ki Yaga and HIS teacher Pak Cho, to deliver a message to the dishonest Governor, each learns new respect for how the old ways and new ways must work together to defeat evil. Miko - is chosen as Pak Cho's apprentice and learns the skill of controlling fire that will make him unique within the group. This fast moving tale of another time should appeal to both girls and boys as the journey of the Samurai kids draws to its conclusion.

**Useful for:** Japanese culture, loyalty, cooperation, disability

**215. Gaiman, Neil. Instructions / illustrated by Charles Vess.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. [34] p.  
ISBN 978-1-408-80864-1 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1460632

Picture Book. A handsome cat, possibly Puss in Boots, takes a journey into a fairytale world following a list of instructions taken from many

stories. Along the way the cat meets a kitten and they complete the journey together. Rich language evokes fairytale conventions; and delicate illustrations, evocative of much older books of traditional fairytales, extend the text, referring to many characters and locations from familiar traditional tales. The small format of the book makes it easy to handle and adds to its intimate feel. Much discussion can be generated about the characters, fairytales in general and about who the person giving the instructions might be.

**Useful for:** traditional tales, journeys, instructions (text types), read-aloud, values

**216. Gaiman, Neil. Odd and the frost giants.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 126 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7475-9811-4 hbk \$22.99  
SCIS No: 1488955

Novel. A young Viking boy named Odd must walk with a crutch since he shattered the bones in his leg. His father is dead and his stepfather has little time for his stepson. When winter seems to be lasting forever Odd feels he has to get away. So, taking a smoked salmon, some glowing embers and his father's second best axe, he heads for his father's old woodcutting hut. There he meets a fox, a bear and an eagle who turn out to be Loki, Thor and Odin transformed by a Frost Giant who has exiled them from Asgard. Their exile is the reason why the spring thaw cannot arrive. Odd helps the gods recover their place in Asgard and sends the Frost Giant home. He returns to his village changed and takes his mother, who has left her second husband, back to her homeland in Scotland. Accurate details of Norse myth and culture are used to tell a satisfying story of adventure and success for an ordinary, unappreciated boy. Gentle humour is also woven throughout.

**Useful for:** Vikings, myths

**217. Gardner, Sally. Sally Gardner's magical children stories 3-in-1. Volume 2 [sound recording].**

London : Orion Audiobooks, [2010]. 3 CDs (3 hrs.)  
ISBN 978-1-409-11574-8 CDs \$34.99  
SCIS No: 1481250

Audiobooks. This package of three CDs is a re-issue of highly entertaining readings, by male and female voices and enhanced by sound effects, of three popular Sally Gardner books. In **The Smallest Girl Ever**, Ruby Genie is the orphaned daughter of famous parents, a genie and a magician, and so it is expected she too will have magic powers. Instead, all she is good at is reading and each time she experiences fear she gets smaller. Resilient and brave through many adventures, she eventually finds love and security

and her latent magical powers with Aunt Hat. **The Boy with the Magic Numbers** tells the story of Billy Pickles, whose Dad gives him a money box. This later proves to be magic with numbers and triggers a mixed bag of adventure which includes solving crime, fame, the warmth of family and friendship, and fortune for Billy and his mother. Tommy Twinkle, who is deserted by his single mother and lives with his grandfather, is the hero of **The Boy with Lightning Feet**. Fat and bullied relentlessly at school, he embarks on a diet and fitness regime encouraged by Grandpa's friend, May, and Great-Uncle Vernon. This brings out his inherited gift for football (soccer) and by the end of the story life has changed for all of them and former bullies have become close friends.

**Useful for:** listening, read-along-with, challenged readers, bullying, families, adventure, football (soccer), magic, relationships, fantasy, fitness, self perception

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**218. Gavin, Jamila. Danger by moonlight / illustrated by Suzanne Barrett.**

London : Walker, 2010. 107 p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31981-1 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1458128

Novelette. Historical. Simply written in recount style, twelve-year-old Filippo relates the story triggered by his father's departure to work at the court of Emperor Shah Jehan in Agra, India. Geronimo Veronese had left his jewellery business, pregnant wife and two sons in Venice. Twelve years later a mysterious visitor arrives at the family home. He tells them that Geronimo had been captured on his return journey home six years earlier and was still being held for ransom. Filippo is charged with the dangerous mission to find and ransom the father he has never seen. He is to use the family treasure crafted by his father: the exquisite diamond setting known as 'The Ocean of the Moon'.

**Useful for:** India, Venice, adventure, Taj Mahal

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**A 219. Gleeson, Libby & Greder, Armin. The great bear.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. [35] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921529-69-6 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1456247

Picture Book. A sparse, evocative text in free prose style combined with sombre, visually powerful illustrations tell the sad story of a dancing bear's life of torture and final liberation through death. This unforgettable book will stimulate discussion about how the author and illustrator elicit audience response. First published in USA, 1998. It can also be compared to Elizabeth Stanley's highly

acclaimed **The Deliverance of the Dancing Bears**.

**Useful for:** family, humour, stereotypes, cars, saving money

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**220. Gourlay, Candy. Tall story.**

Oxford : David Fickling, 2010. 295 p.  
ISBN 978-0-385-61894-6 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1474527

Novel. Told in alternating chapters from the viewpoints of the two main characters, Amandolina (Andi) and Bernardo **Tall Story** draws on tales of Bernardo Carpio, a legendary figure in Philippine mythology who is said to be the cause of earthquakes. When Bernardo, who has lived all his life in the small village of San Andres in the Philippines, finally receives residency papers he is united with his mother, step father and sister who live in London. Bernardo's move is complicated by his fear of deserting his friends and family and leaving the village vulnerable to earthquakes. Despite their very different life experiences and Andi's small stature as opposed to Bernardo's Giantism they share a love of basketball which provides a unifying focus throughout the novel. Gourlay's writing develops a keen sense of place and culture and the family's relationships are sensitively explored and developed. The well structured plot, which has a number of sub-plots and interesting twists, combined with short chapters move the story along and maintain the reader's interest through to a satisfying and dramatic conclusion. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** family relationships, natural disasters, Giantism

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**Graphic revolve (series)**

London : Raintree, 2010. 63 p.  
pbk \$12.95 each

Graphic Novel. Classic stories are retold in graphic form in the *Graphic Revolve* series. Titles feature quality illustrations by a variety of illustrators, simple text, interpretive and critical thinking discussion questions, writing prompts to stimulate creative writing, and information about original authors and stories.

**Useful for:** literature, challenged and reluctant readers, fairy stories

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**221. L. Frank Baum's The wizard of Oz / retold by Martin Powell / illustrated by Jorge Break.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21420-8  
SCIS No: 1464982

Dorothy and Toto are swept up in a tornado and end up in the Land of Oz. In their quest to return home, they join forces with Scarecrow, Tin Man

and Lion to have their wishes granted by the Wizard of Oz.

**222. Kipling, Rudyard. Rudyard Kipling's The jungle book / retold by Carl Bowen / illustrated by Gerardo Sandoval.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21419-2  
SCIS No: 1464884

This tells the story of Mowgli, whom wolves save and bring up as one of their pack.

**223. Sewell, Anna. Black Beauty / retold by L.L. Owens / illustrated by Jennifer Tanner.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21348-5  
SCIS No: 1475374

The story of *Black Beauty* tells of the fortunes and misfortunes of the jobs and care a horse experienced in his life. The recount sheds light on how horses were used and treated in 19th century Britain and comments on human positive and negative qualities.

**224. Stevenson, R. L. Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island / retold by Wim Coleman and Pat Perrin / illustrated by Greg Rebis.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21352-2  
SCIS No: 1475382

Young Jim Hawkins comes into possession of a treasure map and becomes embroiled in the dangerous quest to outsmart pirates in the search for this treasure.

**225. Wells, H.G. The war of the worlds / retold by Davis Worth Miller and Katherine McLean Brevard / illustrated by Jose Alfonso Ocampo Ruiz / colour by Jorge Gonzalez.**

ISBN 978-1-406-21360-7  
SCIS No: 1450398

Grotesque Martians and their frightening weapons invade England. Also included is an account of the hysteria surrounding an American radio station's reading of the play based on Well's novel in 1938.

**226. Green, Paula. Aunt Concertina & her niece Evalina / illustrated by Michael Hight.**

Auckland : Random House New Zealand, 2009.  
[32] p.

ISBN 978-1-86979-011-0 hbk \$39.95  
SCIS No: 1435096

Picture Book. Aunt Concertina is an avid shopper who takes her reluctant niece Evalina, along with her on her excursions. One day Evalina finds a magic kite which transports them to different countries in the world from Tibet, Greenland, Egypt to the Amazon and then finally back home. The glorious and detailed illustrations on double-page spreads will attract children and the extensive and complex text, written in prose has rich, appealing language that lends itself to being read aloud.

**Useful for:** rhyme, onomatopoeia, repetition, travelling, countries

**A 227. Greenwood, Mark. Ned Kelly and the green sash / illustrations by Frane Lessac.**

Newtown, N.S.W : Walker, 2010. [40] p.  
ISBN 978-1-921150-87-6 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1461794

Picture Book. Based on historical evidence, this tells the story of the green hero's sash which was awarded to Ned as an eleven-year-old, which he wore all his life and which disappeared only to be returned to Australia in the late twentieth century. Events are told from Kelly's point of view and Greenwood uses some of Ned Kelly's own words to create a lyrical text that contrasts with the harsh descriptions of the gang and their activities in the newspaper reports of the time. Several pages are devoted to facsimile newspaper pages with images that are sepia-toned drawings in the same style as the colourful main illustrations. Frané Lessac's naïve paintings support the text with considerable charm. Factual details are supplied at the end of the book along with details of the policemen killed by the Kelly Gang at Glenrowan.

**Useful for:** Australian history, bushrangers, keepsakes, memorabilia

**A 228. Gwynne, Phillip. Escape from Kids' Club.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 130 p. (Pocket money Puffins)  
ISBN 978-0-14-330562-0 pbk \$7.95  
SCIS No: 1481254

Novel. *Escape from kids' club* is an exciting tale set at an international island resort. Bored with seemingly never-ending video re-runs, several of the children decide to escape and find fun outside the resort boundary. Instead of board games and videos, the escapees spend a thrilling few days until one of them is injured and they have to be rescued.

**Useful for:** adventure, holidays

**229. Harvey, Gill. The death stalker.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 160 p. (Egyptian chronicles ; [4])  
ISBN 978-0-7475-9566-3 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1460145

Novel. Following an unprovoked, one-sided battle, the Egyptian army captures and detains a group of Libyans entering Egypt in search of a new life. When Hopi and Isis discover the inhumane way the commander intends to punish the prisoners they resolve to do all they can to put a stop to it. Although this story can be read as a stand-alone it is the fourth in the *Egyptian Chronicles* series. Set in ancient Egypt circa 1150 BC these intriguing

stories feature young brother and sister orphans Hopi (an apprentice priest) and Isis (a member of a dancing troupe), and incorporate themes of courage, loyalty and justice. Each book in the series contains a glossary and 'Fascinating Facts' about ancient Egypt that relate to the story.

**Useful for:** ancient Egypt, adventure, mystery, prisoners of war, scorpions

**A 230. Harvey, Jacqueline. Alice-Miranda at school.**

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010.

281 p.

ISBN 978-1-7416-6451-5 pbk \$15.95

SCIS No: 1444918

Novel. Independent, kind-hearted and wise beyond her years, seven-and-a-quarter-year-old Alice-Miranda has decided she is ready to attend boarding school. On her arrival at Winchesterfield-Downsfordvale Academy for Proper Young Ladies she instantly captures the hearts of everyone except Miss Grimm - the bitter headmistress who has limited contact with students following a tragedy ten years previously. She sets a series of near-impossible tasks for Alice-Miranda to complete if she is to stay at the school. Alice-Miranda is almost too good to be true and reminds us of an earlier young heroine in Pollyanna, but she is resourceful and charming and young readers will enjoy following her adventures as she optimistically overcomes all obstacles, improves the lives of those around her and challenges the stereotype of the spoilt rich girl.

**Useful for:** school stories, girls, empathy, stereotypes

**231. I fooled you : ten stories of tricks, jokes, and switcheroos / collected and edited by Johanna Hurwitz.**

Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2010. 174 p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-4877-0 pbk \$15.95

SCIS No: 1460921

Short Stories. Johanna Hurwitz invited authors to write stories which included the sentence, 'I fooled you.' These vastly different ten stories are the result. They include stories about a teasing big sister getting her comeuppance; identical twin mayhem; a 'faulty' alarm clock; a student who finds it's not always wise to be remiss about doing one's work; getting back at a classmate for wearing one's second-hand clothing; chimpanzees outwitting humans; the mystery behind an annoying parrot and its owners; an arrogant prince being taught a lesson; and a grandfather playing a trick to teach his grandson that causing other people to laugh is a rare gift. Presented in large font, this is a book that reluctant readers may dip into and enjoy.

**Useful for:** short stories, reluctant readers, writing ideas, families, relationships, bullying, humour, values

**232. Javaherbin, Mina. Goal! / illustrated by A.G. Ford.**

Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2010. [30] p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-4571-7 hbk \$29.95

SCIS No: 1454752

Picture Book. Ajani has won a football (soccer) for being the best reader in his class. Before collecting water from the well he uses the two buckets as goal posts in a game of football with his friends.

However, the setting is an impoverished South African township and the streets are not safe. Their system of keeping watch fails when Badu gets so engrossed in monitoring the game that he forgets to watch for bullies. Quick action and quick thinking save the day. Large illustrations with tactile tones, beautiful colours, expressive faces and body poses, football action and realistic dialogue combine to make this a celebration of the unifying force of hope and joy that is football.

**Useful for:** World Cup, football (soccer), South Africa, children, friendship, bullying

**233. Jeffers, Oliver. The heart and the bottle.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2010. [28] p.

ISBN 978-0-00-718230-5 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1450729

Picture Book. A small girl 'whose head was filled with all the curiosities of the world' has an attentive father/grandfather figure to share this with. After losing him through death or absence she puts her heart in a safe place, a bottle that she hangs around her neck. Many years later, she meets a little girl who is still curious and filled with wonder about the world and she realises she needs to reclaim her heart. Deceptively simple text and quirky collage illustrations in this 'achingly beautiful book' explain that sorrow can be worked through and overcome. The detailed art work on the hidden cover under the dust jacket and the line drawings on the end pages are worth inspecting.

**Useful for:** allegory, loss, relationships, overcoming grief

**234. Jordan, Sherryl. Finnigan & the pirates.**

Auckland : Scholastic, 2010. 76 p.

ISBN 978-1-86943-927-9 pbk \$15.99

SCIS No: 1453364

Early chapter book. A delightfully humorous story about a fearsome pirate, Wildeblood the Wicked and her nephew Finnigan who has lived on her pirate ship since he was orphaned. She wants him

to follow in her footsteps to be a pirate but that is the last thing Finnigan wants to do. He loves to dance and tries numerous plans to end the pirating forever. His final plan looks as if it has ended in disaster when the ship is wrecked and the crew captured by cannibals. Is all lost or can Finnigan save the day? Action packed and littered with quirky illustrations, the story should appeal to a range of readers.

**Useful for:** pirates, humour

**A 235. Kane, Kim. The vegetable ark : a tale of two brothers / illustrated by Sue deGennaro.**

Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen & Unwin, 2010. [29] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7417-5996-9 hbk \$29.99  
SCIS No: 1458492

Picture Book. An ingenious, humorous take on the Biblical story of Noah's ark this tells the story of Noah and his younger brother Neil. As different as chalk and cheese, Noah, with his entrepreneurial ways, always comes out on top - until it rains for 40 days and 40 nights. Whimsical mixed media illustrations aptly complement the text and the title gives the clue to the denouement.

**Useful for:** traditional stories, sustainable living, brothers, character descriptions, plants, improvisation of text

**236. Kemp, Gene. No way out.**

London : Faber, 2010. 108 p.  
ISBN 978-0-571-24455-3 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1458593

Novel. Twelve-year-old Adam and Alex are 'chalk and cheese' twins who can communicate and squabble telepathically with one another. En route to a family holiday at the farm of relatives, they, with their parents and eight-year-old disabled sister, breakdown in a thick, eerie fog. Walking to the nearest village they enter into a nightmarish medieval situation, where the people want their sister and there seems to be no way out. Typical boy repartee features in this story which verges on light horror and will have young readers anxiously turning pages to the very end.

**Useful for:** horror, mystery, family, boy reads, disabilities, medieval history

**237. Kennen, Ally. Sparks.**

London : Marion Lloyd, 2010. 227 p.  
ISBN 978-1-407-11108-7 pbk \$15.99  
SCIS No: 1464141

Novel. Reminiscent of plots of the *Famous Five* and *Secret Seven* series of books in which children solve adult problems, this is the crazy, frenetic story

of Carla and her determined efforts to give her beloved Grandpa the Viking funeral he always wanted - sending his coffin out to sea in a burning boat. Guided by her Grandpa's voice she enlists the help of her brother, sister and friends and step-by-step, insurmountable obstacles are overcome. Dark humour threads through the real emotions of grief and loss as Carla faces the moral dilemmas of lying, avoiding authority, and body snatching, bringing all to a celebratory conclusion in the end.

**Useful for:** families, grandparents, friends, honesty, death, grief, values, sailing, sea tides

**238. King-Smith, Dick. The invisible dog / illustrated by Ann Kronheimer.**

London : Puffin, 2010. 82, [18] p.  
ISBN 978-0-14-133237-6 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1477604

Early chapter book. This is another endearing animal story from Dick King-Smith, the author of *The sheep pig* (filmed as *Babe*) and many other popular books for children. Any young reader who has wanted a dog will be drawn into Janie's quest to have a dog of her own. Rupert, the family's Great Dane, had died when Janie was a baby and the family didn't replace him. When Janie discovers his old lead and collar she fantasises that she does have a dog, an invisible dog, which she takes everywhere on the lead. Does Janie finally get her own real dog? That is the twist in the tale.

**Useful for:** dogs, names, pets

**239. Landman, Tanya. Mary's penny / illustrated by Richard Holland.**

London : Walker, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-31950-7 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1460871

Picture Book. Set 'long, long ago' when 'everyone thought that girls couldn't run farms', a farmer has two sons and a daughter. To determine who should inherit the farm on his death, he gives each of his sons a penny and tells them to use it to fill the house with something. When both sons fail, Mary asks to be given the opportunity and cleverly fills the house with light and music, knowledge and joy. With charming mixed media collages which reflect Amish settings and characters, this is an adaptation of an old fable and deals with the issues of stereotypes, sexual equality, rights of inheritance, and brain vs. brawn. The juxtaposition of good management of a penny with that of a potential inheritance should not be overlooked.

**Useful for:** families, farms, money, problem solving, male/female roles, vocabulary (similes), values

**A 240. Lawrinson, Julia. Chess nuts.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 196 p.  
ISBN 978-0-14-330470-8 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1447414

Novel. Jackson is the popular winner of the Outstanding Athlete of the Year award for the past two years and a secret chess player. Anna is a determined, independent 'chess geek' who has her heart set on leading Phoenix School's A-grade chess team to victory in the School Chess Championships. Josh, a special education student, and Masha, an immigrant who doesn't speak, also have a talent for chess. When Jackson plucks up the courage to reveal his skill as a chess player he joins Anna, Josh and Masha as the fourth man in this diverse team. An entertaining read, the novel plays out within the context of the Outstanding Athlete of the Year and the School Chess Championships, with the back stories and themes of family, bullying, choice, respect for the individual, friendship and transformation of character weaving seamlessly through. Featured in the book are motivating sayings of famous Chess Grandmasters and diagrams and details of key moves made in crucial games played by the team; these throw light on why chess is such an absorbing sport and could stimulate active interest in the game.

**Useful for:** sport, school, families, disabilities, immigration, friendship

**A 241. Luff, Nathan. Chicken Stu.**

Lindfield, N.S.W. : Scholastic Australia, 2010. 185 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9556-4 pbk \$15.99  
SCIS No: 1454565

Novel. Eleven-year-old Stu on the surface is a bookish, snobby nerd who suffers fear-induced asthma and is heavily reliant on his puffer. He is appalled when his mother sends him to stay with relatives on their farm while she is in Italy for six weeks. He finds himself in an alien world where his cousins are everything he is not and his aunt is determined to toughen him up and to separate him from his books. His tear-away, unthinking cousins trick him into becoming the victim of some hair-brained and downright cruel and life-threatening adventures, but Stu uses his humour, intelligence and obstinacy to outwit them and eventually get the upper hand. In the process, the reader learns the cause of Stu's panic asthma attacks - his father's death - at the same time as Stu comes to terms with it. This engrossing page-turner ends with reconciliation and greater understanding for all concerned. Comic one-liners and resilience lighten this clever exploration of death, bullying and difference.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, families, farms, boys, bullying, death, grief, asthma, fear, values

**242. Mahy, Margaret. The dark blue 100-ride bus ticket.**

Auckland : HarperCollins, 2009. 159 p.  
ISBN 978-1-86950-816-6 pbk \$19.99  
SCIS No: 1424895

Novel. Carlo is recovering from illness and living with his mother in drab circumstances when a strange woman gives them a ticket for a 100 rides on the Number 13 bus. And so begins the magical adventure of bus rides to a supermarket filled with enchanting products and services, and staffed by amazing people with mythical features; a life-changing friendship with Pearlie and her Dad; and scary battles with the evil Dowlers who want to destroy the supermarket. A junior, less ominous reminder of the 'Harry Potter' fantasy, this story, with its understated humour, is skilfully written and well paced.

**Useful for:** fantasy, mythical creatures, friendship, families

**A 243. Marchetta, Melina. The Gorgon in the gully.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin, 2010. 118 p.  
ISBN 978-0-14-330561-3 pbk \$7.95  
SCIS No: 1475917

Early novel. Fourth-grader Danny fails to stop a football going off the school grounds into a deep gully where, school folklore has it, a mythical Gorgon lives. Fear of embarrassment takes priority over his fear of the Gorgon; Danny - after some timely wisdom from his mother - determines to enlist his friends and family to help him come up with a strategy to retrieve the ball. This is a very satisfying, optimistic read with a simple plot but rich in its multi-layered development through a chain of events and in the fleshing out of its very real characters. It shows that respecting others, engaging them in win-win dialogue and being open to their help can have amazing knock-on effects. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, relationships, family, role models, school, friends, bullies, teachers, problem solving, fear, courage, values

**A 244. Marshall, Felicity. The star.**

Ormond, Vic. : Ford St, 2010. [29] p.  
ISBN 978-1-87646-292-5 hbk \$26.95  
SCIS No: 1447023

Picture Book. Marion, the singing and dancing doll, not satisfied just being with her friends Harley and

Polka, hungers for stardom. Her world changes when a little bird entices her to visit the Man, who convinces her to change herself completely: face, hair, clothes and attitude. She is bewitched by the attention, forgets her friends and lives in her own luxurious world. Eventually Marion is worn out, her looks fade and a makeover is no longer enough. The Man stops pulling her strings and replaces her with someone fresh and exciting because there is always someone eager to shine. Marion has to search for her friends. At first she can't find them but Harley and Polka remain loyal and stand by her regardless of her past attitude to them.

Complementing the text, the illustrations are bright and colourful for Marion's world and dark and monochrome for Harley's and Polka's. But is the glitter all that it seems? This story contrasts the empty world of the celebrity cult and that of genuine friendship. A good classroom discussion starter, this could be used with younger children, though older readers will be more able to interpret the nuances. A 45 second YouTube clip supports the book.

**Useful for:** body image, self esteem, friendship, art interpretation

**A 245. Masson, Sophie. The Phar Lap mystery.**

Gosford, N.S.W. : Scholastic, 2010. 236 p.

(My Australian story)

ISBN 978-1-7416-9727-8 pbk \$16.99

SCIS No: 1482434

Novel. Sally's Dad gives her a diary for her 11th birthday on 3 April 1931 and it is her regular entries over the following year that provide the format of this novel. Through Sally's eyes we read about her life with her Dad within the broader context of the Phar Lap story. Her Dad is out of work until a mystery person hires him to investigate the attempted shooting of Phar Lap in 1930. This takes the two of them from Sydney to Melbourne and back, then onto the USA via Wellington, New Zealand. This is an engrossing page-turner with a mix of intrigue, dread, danger, the warmth of friendship and family, the mental tussle of detecting who is putting Phar Lap at risk before it is too late, and romance and marriage. Includes a 12-page Historical Note at the end of the book.

**Useful for:** mystery, detective stories, families, fathers, Phar Lap, horse racing, Melbourne Cup, travel

**A McFarlane, Susannah. EJ12 girl hero (series)**

Elwood, Vic. : LemonFizz Media, 2010.

pbk \$12.99 each

Early Novel. Emma Jacks is a regular school girl who loves music, plays in a band and enjoys sleepovers with her friends but she is also a secret agent for SHINE. As Special Agent EJ12 she cracks codes and fights evil using fascinating technological gadgets such as her spypod, skeleton keys, and special charms to defeat the SHADOW agency. The creative and humorous storylines will engage readers; the easy-to-read language has lots of descriptive vocabulary and the use of modern technology will appeal to middle primary readers especially girls. The main character of EJ also deals with everyday issues such as bullies, family and friendships which young readers can identify with. Suitable to read as a whole class novel and as a model for developing students' own writing in adventure stories.

**Useful for:** good and evil, friendship, school, imaginative writing, adventure, hobbies, vocabulary extension, spies, codes

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 246. Hot & cold.** 126 p. Book 1.

ISBN 978-1-921684-00-5

SCIS No: 1446159

Someone is trying to melt the polar ice cap and Special Agent EJ12 needs to decode the secret code to stop the evil Dr Caterina Hill.

**A 247. Jump start.** 123 p. Book 2.

ISBN 978-1-921684-01-2

SCIS No: 1446153

The agency SHADOW is planning to set up a new communication device in the middle of the rainforest and Special Agent EJ12 needs to crack SHADOW's codes and stop them from going ahead with Project Green Eye.

**A 248. On the ball.** 121 p. Book 6.

ISBN 978-1-921684-04-3

SCIS No: 1467457

Special Agent EJ12 has to find a spy at SHINE's training camp as well as try out for the school's soccer team.

**A 249. McKinlay, Meg. Duck for a day / illustrated by Leila Rudge.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 96 p.

ISBN 978-1-921529-28-3 pbk \$12.95

SCIS No: 1456218

Early Illustrated Novel. When new teacher, Mrs Melvino, introduces an unorthodox class pet to her young students, only-child Abby is determined to overcome fastidious parental objections and to meet the criteria that will enable her to be first to take the duck (Max) home for a day. Just as determined is one-of-a-large-family Noah who lives next door to her. Competition becomes collaboration and friendship when Max escapes.

Rudge's charming grey-scale illustrations capture the action and essence of each character perfectly. Though simple in its plot and writing style, this book is rich in the issues that skilfully make up its tapestry. Ideal as a class read-aloud. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** friendship, pets, teachers, school, families, values, perseverance, collaboration, sharing, tolerance,

**A 250. Millard, Glenda. Plum puddings and paper moons / illustrated by Stephen Michael King.**

Sydney : ABC Books, 2010. 122 p.  
(Kingdom of Silk series ; 5.)  
ISBN 978-0-7333-2866-4 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1485411

Illustrated Novel. Christmas in the 'Kingdom of Silk' is as unique as this beautiful family. Griffin and Layla make 'red kite' and 'deep and silent' wishes; everyone chips in to make plum puddings and Christmas decorations; Ben makes a giant table; and 15-year-old Scarlet, in her proactive determination to change the world, organises a Christmas Eve Declare peace on Cameron's Creek' demonstration. Infused with a wash of grandmother Nell's gentle wisdom and magic, the town's folks' open-hearted embrace of Scarlet's idea, and the background story of newcomer refugees, Anik and his family, this truly is a story of 'Peace on earth'. Once again Millard, supported by King's humorously delicate illustrations, has created a novel that is as deceptively simple as it is deep in the issues it covers.

**Useful for:** Christmas, families, grandmothers, refugees, war, growing up, demonstrations

**A 251. Moloney, James. The mobile phone detective.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 84 p.  
(Aussie chomps)  
ISBN 978-0-14-330483-8 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1452069

Early Novel. While holidaying in France, Renton takes a photograph of his father that inadvertently includes three men they see at a secluded beach. In the next town, Renton discovers the men watching their car and his father missing. An exciting chain of events ensues as Renton looks for his father and cleverly uses his mobile phone to record clues and send messages. Students will enjoy this fast-paced story and the smart young hero who saves the day using the modern devices of a mobile phone. This title is part of the *Aussie chomps* series, which has stories that are more substantial in content and sophistication than the

*Aussie nibbles* and *Aussie bites*. Written by respected Australian authors, many titles are suitable as high-interest reading for older, less able or reluctant readers.

**Useful for:** fathers, holidays, detectives, mobile phones, technology, problem-solving, reluctant readers

**252. Morpurgo, Michael. Kaspar : prince of cats / illustrated by Michael Foreman.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2010. 206 p.  
ISBN 978-0-00-726700-2 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1455269

Novel. Johnny, a bell-boy at the Savoy Hotel meets Kaspar the cat when he and his owner, the Countess of Kandinsky come to stay. When tragedy befalls the Countess, Johnny adopts Kaspar and with Lizziebeth, the daughter of a wealthy American family - they embark on a voyage on the ill-fated Titanic to New York. This is a well-written, easy to read story that is full of drama and effectively combines history and fiction in a way that young readers will find engrossing. Society at the time is well portrayed with the differences between the guests at the Savoy and the staff clearly evident. The characters are believable and there is enough depth to engage teenage readers. The story is enhanced by Michael Foreman's charming, detailed black and white illustrations which bring the characters to life. Highly recommended

**Useful for:** cats, historical fiction, voyages, Titanic

**253. Morpurgo, Michael. An elephant in the garden / illustrated by Michael Foreman.**

London : HarperCollins Children's Books, 2010. 232 p.  
ISBN 978-0-00-733956-3 pbk \$19.99  
SCIS No: 1463720

Novel. Young Karl and his mother listen to 82-year-old Lizzie's story of her wartime escape from Dresden after its bombing. Lizzie, sixteen at the time, brother Karli, her mother who is an elephant keeper and Marlene the young elephant she has saved, trek west through perilous country to escape the advancing Russian army. Along the way they are joined by a young RAF bomber pilot found hiding in a barn. Morpurgo's characters are resilient and hopeful and he tells the story with crafted simplicity. Ink and wash illustrations punctuate the text.

**Useful for:** World War II, survival, courage, family, animal heroes, moral dilemmas

**254. Morpurgo, Michael. Shadow / illustrated by Christian Birmingham.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2010. 287 p.  
ISBN 978-0-00-733960-0 pbk \$19.99  
SCIS No: 1481037

Novel. This tells the story of a young Afghan, Aman, who flees with his mother from the terrors of their troubled homeland to the supposedly safe shores of a foreign land where they claim refugee status. Throughout their journey, they are protected by Shadow, an amazing dog, until 'when she saves the lives of Aman, his mother and some patrolling soldiers' it is revealed she is actually a trained bomb detection dog. Shadow then remains with the soldiers and Aman and his mother continue their perilous journey without her. Six years later, mother and son have integrated into their new society, but without warning, their hopes for citizenship are dashed when they are taken to an 'immigration removal centre'. An incredible turn of events sees the story conclude happily. Told through the eyes of Aman, his best friend, Matt, and Matt's Grandpa, this highly engaging, topical story follows the roller-coaster ride that is the story behind most refugees and asylum seekers. It will give readers an insight into the very real hardships endured by such people living in war-torn countries like Afghanistan and into the anxiety suffered as they await decisions on their applications for asylum.

**Useful for:** friendship, war and conflict, dogs, loyalty, refugees, asylum seekers

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**255. Morris, Jackie. The ice bear.**

London : Frances Lincoln Children's, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-1-8450-7968-0 hbk \$27.95  
SCIS No: 1478824

Picture Book. A polar bear gives birth to two cubs. One is taken by a raven and magically becomes a boy baby who is found, adopted and loved dearly by childless human parents. The day comes when raven again enters the story. He leads the boy to discover his bear mother and to making a choice that impacts on man and beast and restores the harmony and balance of Nature. Stunning illustrations in this fantasy evoke the chill, isolation and harshness of the Arctic landscape but are enchantingly 'gentled' by the warmth of the protective love and tenderness displayed by the she-bear for her cubs and the Inuit parents for their young son.

**Useful for:** fantasy, Arctic environment, animals, polar bears, families, Inuit People, magic, care for the natural world

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**A 256. Murphy, Sally. Toppling / illustrations by Rhian Nest James.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 127 p.

ISBN 978-1-921529-42-9 pbk \$15.95  
SCIS No: 1447507

Illustrated Verse Novel. This touching free verse novel, told with humour and sensitivity, is narrated by John, whose unusual hobby is setting up complicated domino patterns and toppling them. His best mate is Dominic. When John and their school friends, Joseph, Christian and Tran, discover Dom has cancer, they are 'toppled'. Visits to Dom are awkward at first, but gradually they learn to help each other and deal with what is happening, helped by the supportive class teacher. Dom's illness is also the catalyst for a transformation in Ky, the class bully. Soft black and white illustrations interspersed throughout the text and lots of white space make the book non-confronting for reluctant readers. The domino symbol as a feature of the book lends itself to discussion.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, discussion of serious illnesses and their impact, symbols, friendship, teachers, school, games, hobbies

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**A 257. Musgrove, Marianne. Lucy the lie detector / illustrated by Cheryl Orsini.**

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010. 168 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-6455-3 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1464735

Illustrated Novel. The sequel to *Lucy the Good*, this tells the continuing story of good-hearted, impulsive Lucy and her struggle to be good. This time she faces confronting dilemmas that all children face at some point: to be honest or to lie in order to get out of trouble. Lucy discovers that, in addition to feelings of guilt, lying has all sorts of unexpected consequences. Luckily, she has parents who, while not letting her escape discipline, patiently explain to her the finer points of honesty and tact, and reassure her of their love as she grows in self-understanding and awareness of how her choices and actions impinge on others. This is a good book to read aloud and discuss with junior primary children, who are sure to feel with the loveable, imperfect Lucy. It also includes a section on caring for guinea pigs.

**Useful for:** self-esteem, values, honesty, family, relationships, culture, Dutch customs, animals

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**A 258. Nannestad, Katrina. Red dirt diary.**

Pymble, N.S.W. : HarperCollins, 2010. 175 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7333-2805-3 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1459584

Early Novel - Diary. Trudy, aka 'Blue' Weston, lives on a drought ravaged property in outback Australia.

In her diary, she relates the everyday happenings of her life on the farm including the harsh realities that come with a severe drought. Her father has to shoot their sheep and may be forced to look for work in the city to help the family survive. 'Blue' tells her story with pathos and humour entertaining the reader with many absurdly outrageous episodes including pig chariot races, a bagpipe loving pig, emailing a sultan and being kidnapped by escaped criminals. Author Katrina Nannestad has captured the true nature of the Australian outback in this appealing tale. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** Australian identity, drought, seasons, diary writing

**259. Newbery, Linda. Lob / illustrated by Pam Smy.**

Oxford : David Fickling Books, 2010. 218 p.  
ISBN 978-0-385-61081-0 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1448607

Illustrated Novel. Lucy loves spending time with Grandpa Will in his magical garden and sharing the secret of the presence of Lob - a green man who chooses a special person to stay with and help with their gardening chores. But Grandpa dies and his home is sold leaving Lucy heartbroken. Months and seasons follow, alternatively tracing Lucy's life as she comes to terms with her grandfather's death and the changes in her family, and Lob's perilous quest for a new person and garden home.

Beautifully and gently written and interwoven with rich poetry and black and white illustrations, this poignant tale deals with grief and the loss of a grandparent with sensitivity and hope.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, gardening, death, grief, family, grandparents, friends, nature, city life and country life, seasons, imaginary friends

**260. Newman, John. Mimi.**

London : Walker, 2010. 191 p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32237-8 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1482893

Novel. It is six months since young Mimi's mother was killed in an accident and still the family, which consists of her Dad and older sister and brother as well as herself, is not coping with ordinary daily life. Mimi is fortunate in her teachers and close friend, Orla, but is falling behind in school and having trouble with class peers. Despite the extended family doing all they can to support the grieving family, their health and hygiene is impacted until outside help intervenes and Dad is forced to come out of his grief. Set in Ireland and told through the eyes of Mimi, who we discover is adopted, this poignant story examines the impact of the grief process through the eyes of a child.

**Useful for:** grief, death, family, friends, teachers, bullying, weddings

**261. Palmer, Tom. Captain fantastic / illustrated by Brian Williamson.**

London : Puffin, 2010. 132 p. (Football academy)  
ISBN 978-0-14-132472-2 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1446665

Illustrated Novel. Ryan, as Captain of the team, takes an interest in each player. When it is revealed why Craig is playing and acting out of character - with negative impact on the team's fortunes, Ryan comes up with a win-win solution. The series, *Football Academy* follows the games and off-field lives of the members of United's under-twelves football (soccer) team. Written in short sentences and simple, everyday vernacular it is an ideal story for serious footy fans especially those who are challenged or reluctant readers. Each book can be read as a stand-alone.

**Useful for:** football (soccer), conflict, relationships, team-building, families, prisons, problem solving

**A 262. Parker, John. Sucked out.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 94 p.  
(Lightning strikes)  
ISBN 978-1-921529-68-9 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1460653

Novel. Dan recounts the events that ensue when his friend, Zainey, buys a creepy, live eyeball and brings it to school. No one is safe as the thing tries to take over a living, warm, blood-and-veins host. Dan and Caro join forces with Zainey to find and deal with the menace. The short, fast-moving plot driven stories of the *Lightning strike* series aimed at 9-14 year olds are designed as stepping-stones into more complex fiction. Short chapters, clear font, plenty of white space, contemporary themes and eye-catching covers make the books attractive to older reluctant readers as well as to younger readers of various abilities, though some titles are more appropriate for secondary school libraries. Different text types such as invitations, notes, text messages and instructions are incorporated into many of the narratives. The books are written by well-known Australian and New Zealand authors and cover a range of genres.

**Useful for:** horror, friendship, boys' read, self-acceptance, issues of personal height

**263. Pennypacker, Sara. Clementine, friend of the week / illustrations by Marla Frazee.**

London : Hodder Children's, 2010. 161 p.  
ISBN 978-1-444-90086-6 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1483209

Illustrated Early Novel. The week for third-grader Clementine starts out on a high when, at school, she is picked for 'Friend of the Week'; but then she is bewildered when her friend Margaret acts angry towards her and devastated when her beloved pet cat disappears. Set within the contexts of positive home and school environments, Pennypacker's writing demonstrates a respect for children's often underestimated intelligence and has created in Clementine, a delightfully engaging character whose charm, honesty, thoughtfulness and unpretentious, natural self-ease are so refreshing. Laugh-out loud humour, supported by Frazee's delightful black and white illustrations, and provided through witty dialogue, play-on-words and Clementine's naivete, peppers the book. Three other 'Clementine' books are available and all can be read as stand-alone titles. Highly recommended.  
**Useful for:** friends, talents, families, school, pets, values, humour, shared read-aloud

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**A 264. Pershall, Mary. A ghost at school.**  
 Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 183 p. (Ruby Clair)  
 ISBN 978-0-14-330430-2 pbk \$14.95  
 SCIS No: 1472218

Novel. **A ghost at school** is the third book in the *Ruby Clair* series. When her supernatural 'gift' allows Ruby to hear voices at school she realises another ghost is trying to attract her attention. When the voice declares that Ruby's grandmother killed her, Ruby must investigate what has happened and in doing so discovers a mysterious and tragic event in her family history. This book has many heart-rending twists and is an emotional story about family and friendships told in the first person from a young girl's viewpoint. Suitable for Year 5+.  
**Useful for:** family, school stories, friendship, ghosts, supernatural

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**A 265. Phommavanh, Oliver. Thai-riffic!**  
 Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 190 p.  
 ISBN 978-0-14-330485-2 pbk \$16.95  
 SCIS No: 1460669

Novel. After enduring the nickname Bow-Thai throughout his primary school years, Thai-Australian Albert Lengviriyakul begins high school with hopes of blending in and becoming 'more Aussie'. The only problem is his parents own a restaurant called Thai-Riffic!, and when his teachers and peers develop a new-found taste for Thai cuisine Lengy realises that escaping his heritage may be more difficult than he'd first thought. Phommavanh has produced an engaging and insightful story, skilfully weaving aspects of Thai culture into Lengy's humorous narrative. The episodic-style adventures with funny cartoon

illustrations interspersed throughout will appeal to a wide range of readers, and the underlying issues of identity and cultural heritage make **Thai-Riffic!** suitable for use as an upper-primary class novel. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** identity, belonging, friendship, restaurants, family, culture

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**266. Pigott-Smith, Tim. The shadow of evil / illustrated by Chris Mould.**

London : Hodder Children's, 2009. 341 p.  
 (The Baker Street mysteries)  
 ISBN 978-0-340-96006-6 pbk \$16.99  
 SCIS No: 1449748

Novel. When it appears Sherlock Holmes is dead, the five Irregulars take it upon themselves to find the kidnapped Princess Alice and to foil the evil Professor Moriarty's assassination attempt on Queen Victoria and the royal families of Europe. Sherlock Holmes' street urchin 'Irregulars' first appeared in the original Sherlock Holmes story **A Study in Scarlet**, in which they assisted the great detective by being his eyes and ears on the streets of London. In this gripping series, *The Baker Street Mysteries*, their role is extended to that of being the mystery solvers, as well as lending Holmes a hand in his never-ending fight against his nemesis, Professor Moriarty. These thrilling crime adventure stories are simply written and will give confident young readers a taste of success, as they attempt to spot the clues to solve each mystery. The characters are ingenuous and audacious in tight situations and extremely loyal and caring to one another.

**Useful for:** mystery, suspense, missing persons, crime adventure, problem solving, historical fiction, Queen Victoria

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**A 267. Prior, Natalie Jane. Minivers and the most secret room.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 200 p.  
 (The Minivers ; no. 3.)  
 ISBN 978-0-14-330368-8 pbk \$14.95  
 SCIS No: 1468464

Novel. The action continues in this third instalment of *The Minivers* series as Rosamund and Emily head to the City Archives to begin their search for the Most Secret Room, hoping to uncover Papa King's will naming the heir to his throne. As always, the Minivers' enemies are in close pursuit; Titus and Madame, both with their own sinister agendas, will stop at nothing to be the first to unlock the secrets and incriminating evidence contained within the hidden room. Readers of this fast-paced series will follow the adventures and trials of the main characters with continued interest and will be left eager to read the fourth (and final) book.

Rosamund and Emily Miniver are only two feet tall and thus 'Miniature Versions' of humans, which is how their Miniver surname is derived. Readers of the Lily Quench books should particularly enjoy this engaging series.

**Useful for:** fantasy, adventure, miniature people, jealousy, celebrities, secrets

**A 268. Pryor, Boori & Ormerod, Jan. Shake a leg.**

Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen & Unwin, 2010. [29] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7417-5890-0 hbk \$24.99  
SCIS No: 1470751

Picture Book. Three young boys follow the aroma of pizza to its source and discover 'Bertie's Pizzaria' and an Aboriginal, Italian-speaking pizza maker. While the boys eat and drink, Bertie shares Aboriginal cautionary tales which are brought to life by Ormerod's illustrations of their associated cultural dances. Bertie and his family then welcome the boys to their traditional 'bora' ground by teaching them to 'shake a leg' (dance). Dynamic, swirling illustrations ranging from framed cartoon-type to full double-page pictures capture the energy, excitement and cultural reaching-out of the text in this book. A rich, ground-breaking narrative that will knock stereotypes on their heads, this truly is 'a joyous celebration of food, dance and cultural understanding'. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** cultural understanding, Australian Aborigines, traditional tales, food, dance, relationships, values

**Racing reads (series)**

London : Walker, 2010.

The *Racing Reads* series are fast paced, generously illustrated books for newly independent readers.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**269. Atinuke. The No 1 car spotter / illustrated by Warwick Johnson Cadwell.** 110 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-32077-0 pbk \$9.95  
SCIS No: 1487004

Illustrated Short Stories. Oluwalase Babatunde Benson, known as 'No. 1' for his expertise at car spotting (identifying makes of cars as they drive past), lives in an African village which consists mainly of old men, women and children because the men are working in the city. Ingenuous, cheery, resourceful and quick thinking, he devises a way to transform an abandoned Corolla into a cow-drawn cart to carry crucial goods to market and races around each day helping the villagers wherever help is needed - not always altruistically! Filled with humour, delightful dialogue and a real feel for African community and place, chapters can be read

as self-contained stories or as part of a whole.

**Useful for:** Africa, village life, family, humour, ingenuity

**A 270. Graham, Bob. Miracle on Separation Street.** 89 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-32461-7 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1468632

Illustrated Early Novel. Jack writes an account for a time capsule about the family car: how his Mum worked to raise the money to buy it, of its promise of family outings, and of the miracle surrounding it. The warmth of family life depicted and the numerous off-the-track anecdotes and wry comments about daily life, family members and local personalities combine with Graham's characteristic comic drawings to make this a truly enjoyable read.

**Useful for:** family, humour, stereotypes, cars, saving money

**271. Purkiss, Sue. Emily's surprising voyage / illustrated by James de la Rue.** 89 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-32182-1 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1481517

Early Illustrated Novel. Perky, inquisitive Emily and her parents are travelling first class to Australia on the "SS Great Britain" in 1843. She secretly befriends Tom who is travelling steerage class with his parents and assists him in looking after his pet rat. Dialogue between the two children and interactions with the ship's captain and Emily's father shed light on the British social norms of the time: class distinction, child labour, poor working conditions and social injustice. A light, optimistic introduction to real social issues and to historical fiction, this is an entertaining text supported by cheery black and white illustrations.

**Useful for:** history, family, journeys, ships, social justice, children's rights, 19th century England, Australian history, factories

**272. Soundar, Chitra. A dollop of ghee and a pot of wisdom : stories from India / illustrated by Uma Krishnaswamy.** 88 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-31702-2 pbk \$12.95  
SCIS No: 1460883

Short Stories. Prince Veera and his friend Suku, a farmer's son, like to secretly observe Prince Veera's father holding court. Each day the people come to the court to seek a solution for their problems. When the Prince's father falls ill they are given permission to listen to some of the simpler cases in the courtyard and decide on a fair course of action. The four cases that Prince Veera and Suku are asked to determine make up the four chapters of the book. These are wonderful stories that provide an insight into Indian life. The authentic language, likeable characters, black and white illustrations which are reminiscent of Indian scenes add to the appeal of the stories. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** India, princes and princesses

**273. Renner, Ellen. Castle of shadows.**

London : Orchard, 2010. 327 p.  
ISBN 978-1-408-30445-7 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1451808

Novel. Since her mother vanished five years previously, Princess Charlotte (Charlie), aged eleven, has been neglected and mistreated by the evil, scheming house-keeper, but when Charlie discovers a clue, the feisty princess sets out on a dangerous mission to find out what happened to her mother. Children will keep turning the pages of this absorbing story, eager to reach its exciting conclusion and impatient to read the sequel, **City of Thieves**. The setting in a Victorian-like kingdom, where political intrigue is rife since the mysterious disappearance of the queen and the consequent mental break-down of the king, is vividly drawn. Likewise, the characters are well-realised and interesting and readers will relate to Charlie and her predicament. The author's use of rich language respects young readers and will expand students learning experiences. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** adventure, mystery, fairytales, courage, read aloud, descriptive language

**274. Renner, Ellen. City of thieves.**

London : Orchard, 2010. 329 p.  
ISBN 978-1-408-30446-4 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1478452

Novel. In this sequel to **Castle of Shadows**, Charlie has found her long-lost mother, and is about to be crowned Queen Charlotte of Quale. Her friend, Tobias is running away from his father, a traitor who plotted to betray their country. But when his uncle Zebediah forcibly recruits him into his gang of thieves, Tobias finds he has to learn the trade of thieving in order to stay alive. Readers will be enthralled by this exciting sequel although they do not have to read the previous book to enjoy this one. The cliff-hanger ending will leave readers eagerly anticipating the next book to find out what will happen to Charlie and Tobias.

**Useful for:** adventure, mystery, fairytales, courage, read aloud, descriptive language

**275. Riordan, Rick. The red pyramid.**

London : Puffin, 2010. 515 p. (The Kane chronicles series)  
ISBN 978-0-14-138495-5 pbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1464138

Novel. Siblings, Carter and Sadie Kane have lived separate lives since their mother's death six years ago. Fourteen-year-old Carter lives with his father, a famous Egyptologist, while Sadie lives with their maternal grandparents. During one of their infrequent familial visits Dr Kane takes both

children to the British Museum where a series of suspicious events leads to the destruction of the Rosetta Stone, the disappearance of Dr Kane and the release of five gods including Set, the god of chaos. Told as a transcript of a digital recording, alternating between Carter and Sadie as the narrator, **The Red Pyramid** will appeal to capable older readers with an interest in ancient worlds and a liking for adventure stories. Highly recommended for those students who have enjoyed the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series.

**Useful for:** family relationships, Egyptian mythology, hieroglyphs, fantasy, adventure

**A 276. Roy, James. Rescue mission.**

St Lucia, Qld. : University of Queensland Press, 2010. 222 p. (Edsel Grizzler ; bk. 2.)  
ISBN 978-0-7022-3844-4 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1469717

Novel. **Rescue Mission** is the second of the *Edsel Grizzler* trilogy. In this second book Edsel has discovered why his parents are so protective of him and that he is adopted. Returning to Verdada in order to save Jacq, who back on earth is in a coma following her skateboarding accident, Edsel discovers that it is not the place it was when he left. His friend Ben has become something of an evil leader and keeps food from the other children. Edsel must find out what is going on and on a very strange train ride he does find the parallel Jacq and they work together to try and outwit The Ben. Edsel also discovers that his teacher, Miss Finn and the junk shop man Pete know about Verdada and have been there. Will Verdada be returned to its former peacefulness and the children find happiness? This will be revealed in the final book. Teachers' notes for the series are available on the UQP website.

**Useful for:** families, time warp, boys' reads, fantasy adventure

**277. Russell, Christine & Christopher. The quest of the warrior sheep.**

London : Egmont, 2010. 214 p.  
ISBN 978-1-405-24376-6 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1456036

Novel. Five earnest and lovable warrior sheep find a mobile phone that falls in their field of Eppingham Farm and together they set out on a mission to return the object and save the great Sheep God, Aries. The sheep's owners, Tod and his grandmother Ida, follow their animals trying to bring them home. Also chasing the sheep are two shady characters - Luke and Neil - who will stop at nothing to recover the phone the sheep have unwittingly stolen from them. This madcap story with comical

characters, both human and animal, will keep readers entertained to the end.

**Useful for:** humour, sheep, grandmothers, farms, mystery

**278. Sachar, Louis. *Is he a girl?* / illustrated by Sue Hellard.**

London : Bloomsbury Children's, 2010. 124 p. (Marvin Redpost ; 3.)  
ISBN 978-1-408-80167-3 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1460981

Illustrated Early Novel. Casey tells Marvin that if a boy kisses the outside of his elbow, he will become a girl. When he accidentally does kiss his elbow, he seems to be becoming a girl in his thoughts, attitude and actions - or is he? The *Marvin Redpost* series centres on a nine-year-old boy, Marvin Redpost, who encounters all sorts of problems with school, family, and friends. Told with humour, the stories will touch a chord with readers as will the characters. Louis Sachar is a skilled storyteller and these books will be well received by young readers.

**Useful for:** humour, bullying, school, family, friends, values

**279. Saunders, Kate. *Beswitched*.**

London : Marion Lloyd Books, 2010. 276 p.  
ISBN 978-1-407-10897-1 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1447740

Novel. The camaraderie of the boarding school stories of the 1950s and 1960s is revisited with a modern twist in this book. An indulged, bossy only child, Flora's life is turned upside down when on her way to a progressive, luxury boarding school, where her parents are sending her while they sort out her grandmother's affairs, she finds herself transported back to a 1935 girls' boarding school. She shares a room with Pete, Dulcie and Pogo who have worked the summoning spell causing her to switch places with the 1935 Flora. Living in hope that she will get back to modern times, Flora engages in school life and discovers that while there are real negatives about life in 1935, there are real positives too and not much has changed in the dynamics of friendship. Discoveries are made about the future identity of Pete and characters are transformed before a much nicer Flora makes it back to her family in the 21st century. This is a satisfying, warm, entertaining and well-written book for girls.

**Useful for:** history, schools, friendship, families, bullying, grandmothers, teachers, magic

**280. Schlitz, Laura Amy. *The night fairy* / illustrated by Angela Barrett.**

Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2010. 117 p.

ISBN 978-0-7636-3674-6 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1454718

Illustrated Novel. When a bat accidentally mistakes Flory the fairy for an insect and crushes her wings, she is forced to seek shelter in the garden of a 'giantess' - an elderly human woman. All alone and faced with the prospect that she will never fly again, Flory must learn to fend for herself while staying safe from the predators who also call the garden their home. Flory is a brave and resourceful character, and although a little ungracious at times she gradually comes to discover the value of friendship and the joy of helping others. This enchanting story is rich with imagery and would make a lovely read-aloud. Young girls will love the soft, full-colour illustrations, lyrical prose and glittery midnight-blue end papers that give this story a touch of magic.

**Useful for:** fairies, helping others, bravery, fear, read-aloud, descriptive language

**Sedgwick, Marcus. *The raven mysteries* (series) / illustrated by Pete Williamson.**

London : Orion Children's Books, 2009.  
hbk \$24.99 each

Novel. *The Raven Mysteries* series is told from the perspective of Edgar the raven. The books are peppered with amusing black-and-white illustrations. Children who enjoy Lemony Snicket stories should find the strange family and events of this series an engaging read. Although numbered, books in the series can be read and enjoyed as stand-alones.

**Useful for:** mystery, humour, supernatural, ghosts

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**281. *Ghosts and gadgets*.** 248 p. Book 2.

ISBN 978-1-8425-5694-8

SCIS No: 1449753

Sightings of ghosts around Castle Otherhand are causing servants to drop like flies, but with Lord Otherhand preoccupied with his zany inventions and Lady Otherhand sewing madly in a desperate attempt to save the dwindling family fortune, it is up to Edgar and the children, Solstice and Cudweed, to solve the mysterious problem.

**282. *Lunatics and luck*.** 243 p. Book 3.

ISBN 978-1-8425-5695-5

SCIS No: 1458186

Strange things are happening at Castle Otherhand - stranger than usual that is. An earthquake triggers a string of inexplicable events, with servants meeting untimely deaths, absurd behaviour from the family's pet monkey, the suspicious arrival of a new tutor, and - perhaps most inconceivably - the fact that one of Lord Otherhand's zany inventions actually appears to be working.

**283. Selfors, Suzanne. Smells like dog / illustrated by Catia Chien.**

New York : Little, Brown, 2010. 360 p.  
ISBN 978-0-316-04398-4 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1469692

Novel. When farm boy Homer Pudding's explorer-uncle dies and leaves him a droopy dog with a mysterious coin hidden on its collar, it leads him to The City, where they meet Madame La Directeur, the conniving head of the Natural History Museum, who is trying to steal the coin and take Homer's place in a secret society of adventurers. The fun, twisted plot involves the dog, who has a strange sense of smell; the law firm Snooty and Snooty with its secretary, Twaddle; Madame la Directeur, Ajitabh, a wacky inventor; a giant named Zelda; and Lorelei, a street urchin. Homer's adventures will have students captivated as they follow his journey to complete his quest to find out more about Uncle Drake's death. He meets people along his journey who help him discover who he is and to be proud of that.

**Useful for:** adventure, friendship, treasure hunting

**284. Smiley, Jane. Nobody's horse.**

London : Faber and Faber, 2010. 266 p.  
ISBN 978-0-571-25354-8 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1468930

Novel. Abby lives on a farm in California and her family makes their living by buying and selling horses and ponies. Abby's father is determined that she not get attached to any of the horses, because they eventually have to be sold, but she grows fond of two of them. Abby seeks refuge with the horses as she experiences difficulties with her school friends and her strict, religious parents. Her father's strained relationship with her brother also adds to her woes. Although the story is set in the 1960s, middle to upper primary readers who love horses will enjoy reading this book because of the wealth of details about how to understand and train horses.

**Useful for:** horses, family relationships

**285. Smith, Roland. Jungle hunters.**

London : Scholastic, 2010. 348 p.  
ISBN 978-1-407-11724-9 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1472278

Novel. First published in 2006 in the United States as *Cryptid hunters*, this edition released in Australia in 2010. When the parents of 13 year old twins, Marty and Grace, go missing they are taken in by their mysterious uncle, Travis Wolfe, who lives on an island and searches the world for supposedly mythical creatures. He takes the twins on his next expedition to the African Congo to look for a

dinosaur egg and a long-lost dinosaur. After an accidental parachute fall from an airplane, the twins find themselves in the middle of the jungle with the henchmen of the evil Noah Blackwood, another cryptid hunter pursuing them. Although the plot is unlikely and characters are not very complex, *Jungle hunters* is an enjoyable, fun read. Fast-paced and exciting, it will appeal to adventure fans and reluctant readers. A rather abrupt ending leaving some questions unanswered suggest a sequel to come.

**Useful for:** dinosaurs, mythical creatures, adventure, family

**286. Sparkes, Ali. Wishful thinking.**

Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2010. 323 p.  
ISBN 978-0-19-275611-4 pbk \$11.95  
SCIS No: 1482032

Novel. While on a day trip with his grandmother, Kevin encounters Abandinus a Celtic river god who, in exchange for Kevin's worship, a shrine, a hymn and the promise of more worshippers, appears to grant Kevin's wishes. When Kevin and his friends, Tim and Gracie, try to use the internet to increase Abandinus's followers things begin to go wrong. The arrival of other gods and goddesses, including Arimanus from the Underworld, increases the pace of the action which hurtles to a satisfying action-packed conclusion. Upper primary students will enjoy the witty dialogue, short chapters and undemanding vocabulary.

**Useful for:** gods and goddesses, humour, adventure

**A 287. Spratt, R.A. Nanny Piggins and the runaway lion.**

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010.  
271 p. (Nanny Piggins ; 3.)  
ISBN 978-1-86471-971-0 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1447022

Novel. The third Nanny Piggins book comprises eleven more outrageous adventures as impulsive Nanny Piggins joins Neighbourhood Watch, runs Mr Green's home as a B&B, rewrites Shakespeare's 'Hamlet', turns ski jumping on its head, conciliates a compromise between a runaway lion and her trainer, outwits Mr Green by rescuing the children from an inhumane Boarding School and solves many a problem with chocolate. The *Nanny Piggins* series features Sarah Piggins - a runaway circus pig - who is employed as a nanny to three motherless children whose father hasn't the slightest interest in them. The subversiveness of Nanny's adventures with the children and her sarcasm and disrespect for accepted social and moral conventions will both shock and delight young readers. Her audacious self-assurance and

child-like enthusiasm for food, fun, pleasure and play fill the chapters (which can be read as separate adventures) with action, laughter and the joy of life.

**Useful for:** tall stories, family, circus, fathers, relationships, animals, childcare, babysitters, food, education, schools, values, behaviour, adventure

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**288. St. John, Lauren. The elephant's tale / illustrated by David Dean.**

London : Orion Children's Books, 2010. 235 p.  
ISBN 978-1-8425-5785-3 pbk \$17.99  
SCIS No: 1477402

Novel. While eleven-year-old Martine's grandmother goes to England to try and save their home, Sawubona Game Reserve, Martine and Ben stow away on a plane to Namibia to carry out their daring investigation. With the help of Gift, a young San Bushman, they uncover a sinister plot that involves a missing elephant whisperer, cruel research on elephants and the take-over of Sawubona. Well written and imbued with the sights, sounds and smells of Africa, this fourth book about Martine and her adventures protecting wildlife in Africa, can be read as a stand-alone.

**Useful for:** adventures, Africa, San Bushmen, elephants, friendship

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**289. Steinhofel, Andreas. The pasta detectives / translated from the German by Chantal Wright / illustrated by Steve Wells.**

Somerset : Chicken House, 2010. 207 p.  
ISBN 978-1-906427-27-6 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1459477

Novel. Translated from German, this book is the first of three mystery adventures featuring the unlikely friendship between two boys, Rico and Oscar. Rico is likeable, imaginative and self-sufficient but with limitations; he defines himself as 'a child proddity' with a 'topsy-turvy' head that needs 'a lot of time to figure things out'. Living in an apartment block with his single mother who works nights, he spends much of his free time with adult neighbours. Oscar is a gifted but anxiety-ridden child. Things often trigger Rico's detective bent and so when Oscar is kidnapped, Rico brings all his skills to bear to find him. Written in the first person as a journal that Rico's teacher has encouraged him to keep, the text includes occasional, small black and white illustrations and is pervaded by light black humour.

**Useful for:** friendship, personal differences, individuality, diary stories, adventure stories, crime stories

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**290. Stevens, Eric. Team spirit / illustrated by Tuesday Mourning.**

London: Raintree, 2010. 72 p. (Sport stories.)  
ISBN 978-1-406-21403-1 pbk \$10.95  
SCIS No: 1464806

Early Chapter Book. Due to cut funding the Gladstone girl's soccer team has no option but to join their rival team at East Moor. Their new teammates aren't very friendly, but the Gladstone girls soon prove that they deserve to be there. This high-interest series features both male and female characters faced with contemporary dilemmas centred around sport. With simple vocabulary, uncomplicated plots and illustrations every few pages these titles will hold great appeal for young sport-lovers, and the 'tween' ages of the main characters also make them accessible for slightly older, less able readers. Each book includes a glossary, discussion questions and writing prompts making them a useful classroom resource.

**Useful for:** peer relationships, conflict resolution, sportsmanship, soccer

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**A 291. Stewart, Briony. Kumiko and the dragon's secret.**

St Lucia, Qld. : University of Queensland Press, 2010. 81 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7022-3780-5 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1467574

Illustrated Novel. As descendants of the dragon prince, Kumiko and her little sister Arisu carry the royal bloodline of dragons. When Arisu is kidnapped by the Shadow Catchers - a group of cruel sorcerers who desperately want to find the hidden kingdom of the dragons - Kumiko is the only one who can save her. Black-and-white illustrations with a Japanese-print feel complement this charming story about a young girl who learns the power of believing in herself and discovers that courage comes in different forms. Although this story follows on from Stewart's first book, **Kumiko and the dragon**, it can be read and enjoyed as a stand-alone.

**Useful for:** courage, Japan, dragons, fantasy, folklore

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**A 292. Thompson, Colin. Excalibur.**

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010. 244 p. (The dragons ; 2.)  
ISBN 978-1-7416-6382-2 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1482208

Illustrated Novel. This second title in the *Dragons* series carries on from the events of the first, in which young kitchen hand Romeo Crick was revealed as the true King Arthur of Camelot. In this

instalment the old King Arthur (renamed Brat) is determined to restore his position on the throne, and with the help of a runaway princess, a rebel dragon and the castle idiot, forms a plan to find the legendary sword-in-the-stone. The books in Thompson's *Dragons* series are highly original and utterly fanciful, and while there are occasional allusions to the well-known legend of King Arthur they are largely inconsequential. A winning combination of outlandish characters, absurd events and Thompson's unique style of narration ensure that these humorous books will be a hit with many readers, especially boys.

**Useful for:** humour, legends

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**A 293. Thompson, Colin. The paradise garden.**

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010. [30] p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-6419-5 pbk \$17.95  
SCIS No: 1460666

Picture Book. Peter runs away and hides in a walled garden at the edge of the city. In this sanctuary, he is able to be himself and get to know the plants and animals. When Peter goes home, he is more able to cope with his problems.

Thompson's artistry makes Peter's sadness almost tangible. His illustrations will delight readers with their imaginative detail and visual jokes. First published in 1998.

**Useful for:** family relationships, sadness, divorce, coping, imagination, environment

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**A 294. Thompson, Colin. Wild stories.**

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010. 319 p.  
ISBN 978-1-86471-826-3 pbk \$16.95  
SCIS No: 1471185

Short Stories. Told mostly from the quirky and unique perspective of the animal inhabitants of the garden at house number 14, *Wild Stories* is a collection of Thompson's stories previously published in now out-of-print books. Featuring witty dialogue and whimsical humour, which sometimes belie the more serious undercurrents and keen observations of life, these tales will make readers both laugh and think. This anthology would be ideally suited to informal read-aloud opportunities.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, anthropomorphic fiction, humour

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**A 295. Torres, Michael. Dead man's gold / illustrated by Sharyn Egan.**

Broome, W.A. : Magabala, 2010. 53 p.

ISBN 978-1-921248-19-1 pbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1465987

Early Novel. *Dead man's gold* tells the story of young station hand Billy Stone's adventure in which he solves a long-time mystery of an old Kimberley prospector's golden treasure. Billy has to overcome several obstacles, including having to put down his trusty horse and break in a donkey as a new mount, to complete his quest. The story is enhanced by the illustrations which faithfully depict the rugged Kimberley setting.

**Useful for:** outback, Aboriginal stories, gold, Kimberley, boys' reads

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**A 296. Twain, Mark. The adventures of Tom Sawyer / illustrated by Robert Ingpen.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 240 p.  
ISBN 978-1-921529-57-3 hbk \$39.95  
SCIS No: 1455645

Illustrated Story. American Classic. First published in 1876. This attractively presented unabridged edition of Twain's classic has accomplished drawings by Robert Ingpen which enhance the text. An old world charm seeps through the sepia-toned illustrations and pages. Set around the Mississippi River in the mid 1800s, the story provides insight into small town life, beliefs and attitudes. Tom's interesting, often humorous and sometimes frightening exploits will continue to engage students. Perfect for class serialisation and extending competent, avid readers.

**Useful for:** classics, adventure, values, historical fiction, American south

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**297. Umansky, Kaye. Clover Twig and the perilous path / illustrated by Nick Price.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 230 p.  
ISBN 978-1-408-80187-1 pbk \$15.99  
SCIS No: 1456436

Novel. Sequel to *Clover Twig and the Incredible Flying Cottage*. Clover Twig is still working as a housekeeper for Mrs Eckles, a cantankerous witch. One day, another witch warns the latter of the Perilous Path that has been spotted in the forest which has a habit of sneaking up on a person. Then Clover's baby brother, little Herby, goes missing after wandering away from home. This book can be read as a stand alone story as all the characters are generally well described and readers are adequately informed of story plots in the previous book. This fun and lively sequel is written in easy-to-read language and has great characters with quirky characteristics which will appeal to readers in middle primary.

**Useful for:** witches, magic, adventure

**298. Under the weather : stories about climate change.**

Edited by Tony Bradman. London : Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009. 215 p.  
ISBN 978-1-8450-7930-7 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1447896

Short Stories. In this collection, readers are confronted by tales which revolve around probably the most important issue of our time - Climate Change. The stories can be read as single titles and would be excellent as classroom read-aloud pieces and discussion starters on the topic. Each story is preceded by an introduction written by the author.

**Useful for:** read-aloud, environmental responsibility, sustainability, climate change

**299. Ungerer, Tomi. Otto : the autobiography of a teddy bear.**

London : Phaidon, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-7148-5766-4 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1482948

Picture Book. A moving story told by Otto, a much-loved teddy bear belonging to a Jewish boy in 1930s Germany. Otto is given to David's best friend Oskar when David and his family are arrested by the Nazis. The bear has some harrowing wartime adventures before being found and taken back home with an American soldier. Amazing circumstances some 50 years later reunite Otto with David and Oskar who now live in America. Ungerer's watercolour and pencil drawings show wartime destruction with wounded and dead people but not concentration camps. Useful for teacher-guided discussion on the Holocaust and World War II.

**Useful for:** history, war, injustice, survival, friendship, hope

**300. Updale, Eleanor. Johnny Swanson.**

Oxford : David Fickling Books, 2010. 383 p.  
ISBN 978-0-385-61642-3 hbk \$29.95  
SCIS No: 1473402

Novel. A victim of bullying at school, Johnny, whose father who was killed in WWI is the only child of his widowed mother. They are so poor that when Johnny is stung by a scam he is inspired to use the same means to raise money. At the same time, a tuberculosis epidemic is raging. When Dr Langford, a retired local doctor, is murdered and Johnny's mother is arrested for it, Johnny needs to use all his pluck, guile and detective skills to prove her innocence. This is a highly entertaining detective yarn complete with cold-blooded villains, biased policemen, friendship and humour. It provides insight into life between the wars in Britain

and touches on quackery scams, gullibility, bullying, prejudice, mob violence and sensationalism in journalism. Highly recommended.

**Useful for:** detective stories, history, police investigations, friendship, families, bullying

**301. Valentine, Jenny. Iggy & me and the happy birthday / illustrated by Joe Berger.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2010. 158 p.  
ISBN 978-0-00-728363-7 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1448565

Early Novel. In this book, Iggy prepares for her birthday, looks after the school pet, helps with the cooking and takes swimming lessons. Convincing and amusing, warm hearted and with a happy view of family life, each chapter is a complete and satisfying story told within an overall narrative framework. This makes the book suitable for reading in short chunks either by a newly independent reader or as a read-aloud to a group of children. Charming black and white line drawings break up the text and makes the story ideal for reluctant readers. This is the second book in the *Iggy and Me* series which follow the adventures of Iggy and her big sister Flo.

**Useful for:** family relationships, family activities, pets

**302. Van Loon, Paul. Birthday surprise / translated by Paul Colmer / illustrated by Hugo van Look.**

London : Hodder Children's, 2010. 164 p.  
(Alfie the werewolf)  
ISBN 978-0-340-98978-4 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1468304

Early Chapter Book. Alfie is so excited about his approaching seventh birthday but when it finally arrives, something very strange happens to him. By the light of a full moon Alfie slowly turns into a werewolf - not the ideal birthday present he was hoping for. However this is quite a different werewolf - he is a white one with glasses. How Alfie and his best friend Tim deal with the situation makes for a humorous story, especially when Alfie's werewolf grandfather comes to rescue him from Mrs Chalker, the suspicious interfering neighbour. This is the first book of a new series.

**Useful for:** fantasy, friendship, humour

**303. Walliams, David. Mr Stink / illustrated by Quentin Blake.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2009. 267 p.  
ISBN 978-0-00-733923-5 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1480485

Illustrated Novel. Twelve-year-old Chloe Crumb is intrigued by the local tramp known as Mr Stink, and after gathering the courage to talk to him an unlikely friendship develops between the two. Chloe soon learns that there is much more to Mr Stink than meets the eye, and the same can be said of this second children's novel from author and comedian David Walliams. Beneath the off-beat, humorous situations and excessive characters lies a touching and thought-provoking tale about being yourself, standing up for what you believe in and the importance of family. Blake's distinctive illustrations add to the charm of this fun story.  
**Useful for:** humour, family, tolerance, kindness

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**A 304. Watts, Frances. The song of the Winns / with illustrations by David Francis.**  
 Pymble, N.S.W. : ABC Books, 2010. 289 p.  
 (The Gerander trilogy ; bk. 1.)  
 ISBN 978-0-7333-2786-5 pbk \$14.99  
 SCIS No: 1476104

Illustrated Novel. In Book One of this trilogy fable triplet mice Alex, Alice and Alistair, are living happily with their aunt and uncle. When Alistair suddenly disappears, Alex and Alice set out on a frantic search for their brother, all the while pursued by enemy agents. At the same time, Alistair, who mysteriously finds himself in another country, is joined by Tibby Rose in a struggle to stay alive while journeying home. Both journeys, which are followed in alternating chapters, demand resourcefulness and courage. The triplet mice and friend, Tibby Rose, are intimately involved in the nation of Gerander's just struggle for freedom. Beautifully crafted, this story can be read as simply a compelling page-turner adventure or as an allegory for a powerful nation's unjust betrayal, aggression and oppression of a vulnerable nation. It has all the ingredients that the struggle of might versus right provokes: espionage, propaganda, resistance movements, fear-mongering and extreme prejudice, along with the best of virtue that such circumstances inspire. Charming little black and white illustrations introduce each chapter.  
**Useful for:** fables, adventure, journeys, mice, books, war, families, pirates

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**305. Werry, Philippa. A girl called Harry.**  
 Auckland : Scholastic, 2010. 303 p.  
 ISBN 978-1-86943-970-5 pbk \$14.99  
 SCIS No: 1453359

Novel. Harriet (AKA Harry) seems to be having a really great year at school, that is until the new girl, Mallory arrives at school and life begins to get complicated. Harry's best friend is drawn to the new arrival and alienates herself from Harry, her favourite uncle goes overseas and leaves his seven

cats for her to look after, her mother gets a new job, which happens to be with Mallory's father's law firm and then new neighbours arrive. On top of all that, she has to put up with the very annoying Karl Ballentyne. Harry's wild imagination invents some intriguing scenarios which could have disastrous effects if they come to fruition. But all is not what it seems on the surface and Harry discovers that trust and friendship are important life values.  
**Useful for:** school stories, friendship,

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**A 306. Wild, Margaret and Brooks, Ron. Fox.**  
 Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen & Unwin, 2010. [32] p.  
 ISBN 978-1-7423-7319-5 hbk \$27.99  
 SCIS No: 1471011

Picture Book. Dog, blind in one eye and Magpie with a burnt wing, are friends but Fox comes in to their lives and attempts to spoil the friendship. Beautifully written, the poetry and intensity of the scratched, hand-lettered text is extended by powerful earth-toned illustrations which are elemental and captivating in their use of form, colour and texture. Considered by many to be a masterpiece, this memorable fable appeals to a wide readership. This tenth anniversary edition is saddle stitched and cloth bound.  
**Useful for:** physical disability, friendship, cooperation, loyalty, jealousy, Australian outback

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**A Williams, Sean. The Fixers (series) / illustrated by Nial O'Connor.**  
 Malvern, Sth. Aust. : Omnibus, 2010.  
 pbk \$12.99 each

Illustrated Chapter Book. Best read in number order, the books in *The Fixers* series centre around Ollie's adventures as he travels through alternate worlds searching for a portal that will transport him back home. With short chapters and plenty of action, these entertaining quick-reads will appeal to middle primary students, especially boys.  
**Useful for:** alternate worlds, adventure, castles

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**A 307. Castle of the zombies.** 88 p. Book 1.  
 ISBN 978-1-86291-854-2  
 SCIS No: 1485413

Ollie gets the feeling there is something odd about the neighbourhood his family has just moved to, and when he wakes in the middle of the night to find the street crawling with men in strange silver suits his suspicions are confirmed. Venturing outside for a closer inspection, Ollie is suddenly transported to a castle in another world where he is soon captured and taken to the dungeons as an

intruder. There, Ollie comes to a disturbing realisation - the castle is alive and growing by the minute! With the help of fellow inmate Niff, Ollie figures out a way to destroy the sinister castle and free the enslaved villagers within.

**A 308. Planet of the cyborgs.** 88 p. Book 2.

ISBN 978-1-86291-855-9

SCIS No: 1485537

Discovering he has returned to the wrong world after his last adventure, Ollie tries a different portal in an attempt to get back home and instead finds himself on a spaceship in the company of a human-sized talking cat called Pixel. Upon learning that a group of the ship's inhabitants have been kidnapped by cyborg pirates, Ollie joins Pixel on a rescue mission before discovering a doorway that may lead him back to his world.

**309. Wilson, Jacqueline. Little darlings : two very different girls - one extraordinary friendship! / illustrated by Nick Sharratt.**

London : Doubleday, 2010. 377 p.

ISBN 978-0-385-61443-6 hbk \$32.95

SCIS No: 1456598

Novel. Destiny and Sunset live worlds apart, but have one thing in common: their father is ageing rock star Danny Kilman. Eleven-year-old Destiny, the product of a short love-affair in the rocker's heyday, has never met Danny and lives in a rundown council estate with her single mother who is struggling to make ends meet. Ten-year-old Sunset, on the other hand, lives the celebrity lifestyle in a mansion with her self-absorbed father, glamorous mother and spoilt younger siblings. Despite living in the lap of luxury, lonely Sunset feels very out of place in a family that prizes looks, possessions and media attention over quality relationships. The narrative is told using alternate chapters written from the point of view of the two main characters, giving the reader insight into the girls' lives as they struggle with a range of contemporary issues and gradually form a friendship through the medium of letter-writing. In her easy-to-read, direct writing style Jacqueline Wilson explores some stark realities of family life and encourages readers to consider the true price of fame and fortune.

**Useful for:** fame, celebrities, family relationships, love, friendship

**310. Wilson, Jacqueline. The longest whale song / illustrated by Nick Sharratt.**

London : Doubleday, 2010. 313 p.

ISBN 978-0-385-61815-1 hbk \$32.95

SCIS No: 1484340

Novel. Ella's mother lapses into a coma following the birth of a new baby, leaving Ella to cope with

her not-very-well organised stepfather, Jack, and problems at school. Bringing the new baby home adds to the chaos of the house but Ella finds solace in a project about whales and gathers some interesting facts including the wonders of whale-song. At school, she finds a new friend in Joseph who shares her interest and helps her through the tough situation. Ella decides to use a whale song recording to see if it will help her mother's recovery. Readers will identify with Ella as she works through the problems and gradually improves her relationship with her stepfather. This poignant story will prove quite popular with fans of the author.

**Useful for:** family, school, whales, growing up

**A 311. Wilson, Mark. Angel of Kokoda.**

Sydney : Hachette, 2010. [34] p.

ISBN 978-0-7344-1128-0 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1450412

Picture Book. Told through the eyes of Kari, a young Papuan New Guinea boy, this poignant book paints a vivid picture of the devastation of war on people and the landscape. In 1942, while escaping his bombed out mission school, Kari finds a wounded Australian soldier lying in a ditch.

Together they begin a perilous journey to safety along the Kokoda Track, battling against the rain, the jungle and the enemy closing in on them. This beautiful book effectively portrays the life of Kari torn apart by the effects of war, the devastation of the jungle environment and the poignant rescue of the wounded soldier. A striking collage of oil paintings, pencil sketches and clippings create a stunning picture of both the beauty and the dangers in the exotic jungle. An excellent resource to introduce students to this important historical event and the profound affects of war.

**Useful for:** Kokoda Track, World War Two, Papua New Guinea, missions and missionaries, conflict, environmental devastation, helping others

**312. Wood, Maryrose. The mysterious howling.**

New York : Balzer + Bray, 2010. 267 p.

ISBN 978-0-06-179105-5 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1453363

Illustrated Novel. Fifteen-year-old Penelope Lumley, a graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is employed by Lord Fredrick as a governess to three orphans who he found in a wild state in the woods. Penelope's affinity for animals stands her in good stead as she gently sets out to civilise and teach her charges: two boys of approximately 10 and 7 years and one girl of about 4 or 5. Recently married to Lord Fredrick, 19-year-old Lady Constance is none too happy with having the children in Ashton Place. All goes fairly smoothly until a squirrel is let loose in the ballroom

during the highly anticipated Ashton Christmas Night Party. This sets in train a cliff-hanger ending creating yet more mysteries to be solved in future books in the series. In this first book, Penelope is established as a convincing character who grows in insight, courage and stature. Humour, explanations of writing conceits such as irony and hyperbole, satirical commentary on social conventions of the time and comparisons with current day practices weave entertainingly through the story. Full-page greyscale illustrations visually represent the era and add interest.

**Useful for:** mystery, orphans, social class, satire, irony, history, animals, values

## PART THREE : EARLY ADOLESCENCE

The Curriculum Framework describes the phases of development in the following way:

Early Childhood - typically Kindergarten to Year 3

Middle Childhood - typically Years 3 to 7

Early Adolescence - typically Years 7 to 10

The books listed in this section are more challenging reads or contain concepts and themes suited to mature readers in Years 6 and 7. Schools looking for titles to expand the senior readers' section of their library collection and district high schools will find them especially appropriate.

### A 313. Allars, Martine. *The littlest witch.*

Sydney : Pan Macmillan, 2010. 310 p.

ISBN 978-0-330-42357-1 pbk \$14.99

SCIS No: 1458222

Novel. It's not everyday you discover you have magical powers but this is just what happens to the Henderson triplets on their thirteenth birthday. Their single parent dad, Harold, has to explain to the girls that their mother was lost to malevolent forces as she gave her life to ensure they would survive in a new world in order to save their real home - the world of Ethra from the evil Driath. He also tells them of the prophecy which tells them their destiny is to save Ethra through their newly gained magical powers. *The Littlest Witch* is Gwen's story and the first book in a trilogy of their quest to combat the evil.

**Useful for:** families, magic, fantasy

### 314. Almond, David. *My name is Mina.*

London : Hodder Children's, 2010. 300 p.

ISBN 978-0-340-99725-3 pbk \$28.99

SCIS No: 1483643

Novel. *My Name is Mina* is the prequel to David Almond's *Skellig* and will suit avid female readers. Mina is a precocious home-schooled girl who spends much of her time in a tree. Mina loves words and is able to play with the rules of writing to form her own original patterns and innovations. She writes in the first person in her journal but shifts to the third person to tell her tale of the Underworld, which is peopled with characters from classic literature such as Persephone as well as with those in her own life. Different designs and fonts reflect her contrasting styles. When a family with a boy close to Mina's age moves into the street, Mina is ready to return from the Underworld. Unable to contemplate taking the initiative in this friendship, she empowers herself by writing down what action she will take to become friends. Mina's 'Extraordinary Activities' such as 'Take a line for a walk. Find out what you're drawing when you've drawn it. Take some words for a walk. Find out what you're writing when you've written it.' could become a catalyst for student exploration.

Teachers' Notes are available from David Almond's website

[www.davidalmond.com/pdf/mina\\_reading\\_notes\\_c.pdf](http://www.davidalmond.com/pdf/mina_reading_notes_c.pdf)

**Useful for:** creative writing, individuality

### 315. Baker-Smith, Grahame. *Farther.*

Dorking : Templar, 2010. [31] p.

ISBN 978-1-8487-7126-0 hbk \$29.95

SCIS No: 1465388

Picture Book. Photo-realist and fantastical elements combine in exquisite, evocative images that tell the story of a boy and his father. The father dreams of flight, a dream which often takes him from his son who would 'sit on his lap until he remembered me'. At other times the boy delights in learning from and playing with his father. The father is taken by war and his dream is unfulfilled until it touches his son who flies and again feels close to his father. Now he has his own son he wonders what his son will do if the father's dream should visit him. The images of exquisite flying machines could inspire students investigating the quest for human flight. The relationship between the father and son is delicately explored and linked to ideas of creativity, ambition, inspiration, inheritance and example. There are many layers to the text, images and the interplay between these elements that can be explored by thoughtful readers.

**Useful for:** inventions, fathers and sons, flight

### 316. Benz, Derek & Lewis, J.S. *The Brimstone Key.*

New York : Little Brown, 2010. 369 p. (Grey Griffins. The clockwork chronicles ; Bk 1.)

ISBN 978-0-316-04522-3 hbk \$28.99

SCIS No: 1478421

Novel. Max, Harley, Natalia and Ernie are the Grey Griffins. Over the past year they have changed from ordinary children to experienced monster hunters. Now they face a new challenge; changing schools. They have all been accepted into Iron Bridge Academy, a private military school run by the Knights Templar. The Knights work to protect

the world from many hidden, dark forces and monsters. Iron Bridge Academy trains suitable young people who will join the Knights Templar in their fight. The Grey Griffins arrive with something of a reputation after helping to defeat the Black Wolf Society. However, they all face challenges fitting in to a new school that is filled with extraordinary students, gadgets and subjects. Before leaving for their new school the Grey Griffins receive a mysterious clockwork beetle with a message, 'wind stem to find him'. Once wound the beetle leads them to a mysterious hideaway containing many robot parts, a portal and clues pointing to a Brimstone Key and the Clockwork King. The combination of magical, scientific and mechanical elements along with references to the long history of the Clockwork King all contribute to a swashbuckling adventure that is slightly reminiscent of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* and has a steampunk atmosphere. Each of the Grey Griffins has something unique to contribute to the success of the group and there is plenty of tension coupled with an overall confidence that good will ultimately triumph. The ending will leave readers breathless for the next instalment.

**Useful for:** magic, adventure

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**317. Buxton, J.P. *I am the blade.***

London : Hodder Children's, 2010. 346 p.  
ISBN 978-0-340-97005-8 pbk \$17.99  
SCIS No: 1474019

Novel. *I am the Blade* is set in Cornwall in the Dark Ages and it is not immediately obvious that it is an Arthurian tale. Tog has been cared for by an unlikely woodcutter who taught him Latin, how to write and how to protect himself. The woodcutter is killed, leaving Tog with a garbled message and enemies at every turn. His travelling companions are Jenna, a Pict who is the future Guinevere, and Melanius, a Jewish Merlin. His legendary sword is a short, dull blade. Tog, himself, is a fast-talking adolescent who is simply making his way as best he can. As Tog attempts to take the sword to the sacred Island his group is captured by slavers, tricked by circus performers and pursued by the stranger who killed the woodcutter. All the story elements come together on the Island where the High King is on his deathbed and Tog and his fellow travellers all reveal their roles in the drama. J. P. Buxton has written an action-packed, historical adventure with interesting, credible characters and a lot of humour.

**Useful for:** quests, adventure, legend

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**318. Carr, Garrett. *The badness of Ballydog.***

London : Simon & Schuster, 2010. 235 p.

ISBN 978-1-8473-8529-1 pbk \$17.99  
SCIS No: 1454986

Novel. Three very different adolescents living in a small, unpleasant country town find themselves working towards a solution that will save the town from disaster. *The Badness of Ballydog* begins when Ewan and his mother are dropped into the cesspit that is Ballydog as part of a witness protection programme. As the police officer drives them into the town he explains; "this town has a bad reputation, but nobody will find you here, that's for sure." Andrew is the ringleader of the local gang at the high school and May is just different: she communes with nature and drifts through school. The three teenagers, along with the rest of the townsfolk, begin to feel that something is amiss. Natural forces are bringing retribution to the town. The adolescent protagonists are very realistic, the township has echoes of small seaside towns everywhere and the environmental and moral issues that are the cause of near disaster are explored as central planks for the progression of the plot.

**Useful for:** myth, adventure, environment

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**A 319. Chandler, Ben. *Quillblade.***

North Sydney : Random House Australia, 2010.  
404 p. (Voyages of the flying dragon ; bk. 1.)  
ISBN 978-1-86471-978-9 pbk \$17.95  
SCIS No: 1473440

Novel. Lenis and Missy Clemens are twins with stronger than usual powers. As slaves they try to hide their abilities and focus on their work looking after Bestia, creatures that can manipulate air, water, darkness, fire, light or earth. When their assigned airship, the Hiryu or Flying Dragon, is stolen they soon reveal their powers. One of the crew recognises Missy's psychic abilities and gives her the quillblade, a seemingly innocent feather. Missy discovers that it is powerful weapon although she may not survive if she wields it. Lenis is haunted by a dream from the Blue Dragon of the East, Apsilla, whose daughter is in peril. The captain decides to find Apsilla's daughter.

*Quillblade* will extend readers without exposing them to adult concepts. Although their world is complex, the characters are likeable. The names of objects and characters reflect an Asian culture. Unfamiliar words are explained in the story. A pronunciation guide, timeline and glossary are also provided. A map and a list of the crew of the Hiryu will help those who become a little lost during the course of reading. Teacher's notes are available from [www.benchandler.com.au/Site/Home.html](http://www.benchandler.com.au/Site/Home.html)

**Useful for:** fantasy, adventure

**A 320. Christopher, Lucy. Flyaway.**

Frome, England : Chicken House, 2010. 314 p.  
ISBN 978-1-905294-76-3 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1446253

**Awards:** *Shortlisted for Costa Children's Book Award 2010*

Novel. Isla and her father are avid birdwatchers. One day when they are trying to trace the path of a flock of swans, her father has a heart attack and collapses. At the hospital, Isla meets Harry, a boy who has leukaemia, and together they watch a lone wild swan on the lake near the hospital. The swan seems almost magical and Isla is convinced that saving her will help her father and Harry get well. Told in the first person by Isla, the characters in **Flyaway** are so well portrayed that they feel like real people. Christopher has the knack of getting to the heart of family relations with her descriptions of sibling rivalry between Isla and Jack, the grumpy grandfather who couldn't get over the death of his wife, and the love between Isla and her father. Isla's growing interest in boys, her attraction to Crowley, her brother's friend, and the warmth between her and Harry are handled beautifully. Christopher's writing is superb, the chapters are short, and the prose is full of imagery and vivid descriptions.

**Useful for:** families, sickness, friendship

**A 321. Clark, Sherryl. Motormouth.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 67 p.  
ISBN 978-0-14-330443-2 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1446685

Verse Novel. **Motormouth** is a great read in one sitting. There are issues of friendship, grief and loss and father/son relationships. The free verse format is very effective with its short, sharp lines telling the story of Chris who loses his best mate, Dave, in a car accident. He meets up with Josh and a friendship begins. The story revolves around the topic of cars and sketches of cars and car paraphernalia are splashed across most of the pages. **Motormouth** is garish and loud in its presentation but the message is a powerful one as eleven-year-old Chris considers the loss of his friend, his new friendship with Josh and how family and friend relationships can change. Each page represents a different chapter and the stylised font of the headings is representative of a child's writing. The mood is reflective as Chris considers life and death, truth and falsehood, and father/son relationships. The pages are decorated with doodling and sketches and are suggestive of a typical pre-teen's journal entries. Clark has effectively entered into the mind of eleven-year-old Chris and even the most reluctant reader cannot fail to be drawn in.

**Useful for:** friendship, grief, family, reluctant readers, boys, poetry

**322. Corder, Zizou. Halo.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Puffin, 2010. 375 p.  
ISBN 978-0-14-133185-0 pbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1445336

Novel. A baby with a tattoo on her forehead and wearing an owl amulet is washed up on a sandy beach. Kyllarus, a centaur, takes her home to his family. They name her Halosydne, 'saved by the sea' and lovingly bring her up as a family member. One day, when she and her centaur brother, Arko, are swimming, fishermen capture her and she is sold into slavery. On escaping, Halo discovers that in the world of ancient Greece girls are not valued as they are in her centaur family and decides to cut her hair and pretend to be a boy. Captured by a group of Spartan boys, led by Leonidas, she becomes a punching bag for young children who are training to be warriors. Halo is determined to find out who her real parents are and, after a series of adventures, including going to see the Delphic Oracle, living in Athens in Pericles' house and training to be a doctor and warrior, she discovers the truth of her origins. **Halo** is a gripping historical adventure that also offers insights into the brutal training undertaken by young Spartan boys and Greek religious beliefs. Readers also discover that while Pericles preaches about the rights of man, slaves and women have no rights in Athenian society.

**Useful for:** Ancient Greece, adventure, girls

**A 323. Crew, Gary. The serpent's tale / illustrated by Matt Ottley.**

Sydney : Lothian Children's, 2010. [32] p.  
ISBN 978-0-7344-1028-3 hbk \$28.99  
SCIS No: 1457937

Picture Book. At a town market, a boy discovers an intriguing amulet shaped like a snake swallowing its own tail and begs his mother to buy it. His mother thinks it is ugly, but the boy thinks it is beautiful and believes it holds a story that he wants to write. The vendor will not accept payment for the amulet and seems happy to be rid of it. At home the boy holds the amulet but finds that he cannot write. Once he falls asleep, he has vivid dreams of fear, love, hate, invasion, heroism, wealth and loss. When he wakes, the boy realises that the story of his life will continue to unfold. Having lived one tale, he will now begin another. **The Serpent's Tale** has multiple meanings and deserves multiple readings. The snake amulet, which appears in one form or other in most of the illustrations, symbolises the cycle of human life. Themes unfolded in the dreams are echoed in the boy's life, signifying that life is

filled with contrasting elements; love and hate, wealth and poverty, cowardice and heroism. For the boy and for humanity, as one chapter ends another begins. The vibrant, dramatic illustrations are poignant, reflecting the conflict between good and evil. ***The Serpent's Tale*** is a powerful picture book suitable for older readers and is sure to generate passionate discussion about the triumphs and tribulations of humanity.

**Useful for:** conflict, symbolism

**324. Dakin, Glenn. *Candle Man*.**

London : Egmont, 2010. 368 p.

ISBN 978-1-405-24676-7 pbk \$16.95

SCIS No: 1453700

Novel. Theo lives a dull life at Empire Hall with his guardian Dr Saint, his butler Mr Nicely and a deaf maid named Clarice. Due to his unfortunate condition he must wear strong leather gloves, avoid all excitement (including contact with other people) and undergo painful daily treatment in the Mercy Tube. Theo's world changes dramatically when burglars attack Empire Hall. Theo escapes and finds himself immersed in a deeply complex world of conspiracy and counter conspiracy between two long-established organisations; the inappropriately named Society of Good Works and the Society of Unrelenting Vigilance. Theo encounters smoglodytes, the mutant Dodo and alarmingly discovers that he is the Candle Man. Ultimately good triumphs but the ending leaves the way clear for many more adventures. Theo is a likeable hero complemented by a diverse cast of characters. Some of the language will be unfamiliar to younger students but overall ***Candle Man*** is a fairly easy read with plenty of contextual support for unfamiliar terminology. ***Candle Man*** is an adventurous romp. Victorian overtones and devices such as the Mercy Tube give ***Candle Man*** a steampunk feel that will be popular with young readers.

**Useful for:** adventure, fantasy

**325. Desbordes, Astrid. *Reflections of a solitary hamster*** / illustrated by Pauline Martin.

Wellington : Gecko, 2009. 55 p.

ISBN 978-1-87746-745-5 pbk \$19.99

SCIS No: 1435628

Picture Book. This large-format picture book features Hamster, his musings and his relationships with his friends, among whom are Mole, Hedgehog, Snail and Rabbit. Hamster is a flawed hero overflowing with self-importance. Who else would insist that friendship is based on a gift of waffles? Who else would be convinced that the stars are staring down at him because he is so handsome?! The humour is quirky, gentle and subtle. Hamster's world is presented in brief episodes, like a

collection of comic strips. The reader views him and his friends in their ordinary, daily pursuits, matters which are often regarded philosophically, especially when life is difficult. The appealing illustrations are simple, colourful drawings.

**Useful for:** humour, graphic storytelling, self-awareness

**326. Diterlizzi, Tony. *The search for WondLa*.**

London : Simon and Schuster, 2010. 477 p.

ISBN 978-1-8473-8966-4 hbk \$24.99

SCIS No: 1483767

Illustrated Novel. Twelve-year-old Eva Nine has never left the Sanctuary where she lives with her Multi-Utility Task Help Robot (MUTHR). She has never seen another living creature except in holo-shows. She longs to be considered ready to go outside where she hopes to find other humans. Suddenly her quiet life with MUTHR is destroyed when her home is attacked by an unknown intruder. She is forced to leave MUTHR behind and escape to a surface world for which she is completely unprepared. Strange creatures roam an alien landscape and a ruthless hunter is after her. Eva faces terrible dangers and makes unexpected friends. Along the way she learns a great deal about friendship, courage and herself. A surprise ending also leaves room for a sequel. Interwoven in the story is a variety of technology consistent with a story set in the future. One important tool is the Omnipod and images of the Omnipod can be used in conjunction with a webcam, internet connection and computer to access augmented reality maps that supplement the story. This is an entertaining addition but in no way necessary for a full enjoyment of ***The Search for WondLa***.

**Useful for:** science fiction, adventure, friendship

**A 327. Edwards, Luke. *The staring owl*.**

Malvern, S. Aust. : Scholastic, 2010. [30] p.

ISBN 978-1-86291-911-2 hbk \$22.99

SCIS No: 1482078

Picture Book. The nature of owls is to stare. A baby owl looks for a job where his ability can be accepted and useful. He tries the local art gallery where he has seen people staring at pictures; he thinks about joining the air force but finds only officers are allowed to stare; he contemplates being a spy but is sure this would only end disastrously. At last he is noticed by an air traffic controller who is in need of someone with the ability to stare at a computer screen for hours on end, especially at night. He becomes the most famous air traffic controller in the world. ***The Staring Owl*** will appeal to older students who will appreciate the hard-edged, graffiti-style art work and the allegory of the owl for young people searching for a path in life that

suits their abilities. References to a 'fake Mona Lisa', 'Homo Sapiens' and the problems of an air traffic controller will be appreciated by some students.

**Useful for:** art, allegory, talents, humour

**A 328. French, Jackie. Oracle.**

Sydney : Angus&Robertson, 2010. 341 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7322-8840-2 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1466205

Novel. **Oracle** is set in Ancient Greece (1400-1200 BC) and woven together with myths and legends. The context is important to understanding the story. Historical notes at the end of the book will help readers separate factual and fictional elements. At an early age Nikko rescues his young sister, Thetis, when she is abandoned. This sets him apart from the rest of village. Thetis survives but is mute until the age of five and on regaining the power of speech can speak only the truth. When their acrobatic skills are noticed, Nikko and Thetis are taken from their village to the distant court. Here they experience the king's total control over his subjects and impress the king with their performance. The children befriend a slave, Euridice. Thetis's compelling need to tell the truth when she foretells the future to the king becomes their undoing. As they escape, Thetis, Nikko and Euridice find themselves on separate journeys. Euridice and Thetis have roles to play which they feel are their destinies. Nikko's path is not so clear. With great danger Thetis fulfills her destiny as the oracle at Delphi but not without difficulty. Euridice's future is more complex. Themes to explore include: truth, friendship, sacrifice, religion and rituals, power and government, societies and their beliefs. Harper Collins provide teacher notes at [www.harpercollins.com/harperimages/ommoveoverride/Oracle\\_TN\\_jackie\\_french.pdf](http://www.harpercollins.com/harperimages/ommoveoverride/Oracle_TN_jackie_french.pdf)

**Useful for:** Ancient Greece, history, religion, myths and legends, read aloud

**A 329. Fussell, Sandy. Jaguar warrior.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 212 p.  
ISBN 978-1-921529-29-0 pbk \$14.95  
SCIS No: 1447463

Novel. This gripping historical novel set in Aztec times is about Atl, a young slave who is imprisoned and then set free so he can deliver a message of help to the Purepechans. As he runs through the jungles of Mexica, he faces various dangers and gathers a band of loyal companions along the way. The narrative alternates between Atl in the first person, and his enemy, the Eagle Warrior Captain. Well researched details add authenticity to the story. The violent nature of the Aztec culture is not

ignored, with descriptions of human and animal sacrifices included.

**Useful for:** historical fiction, adventure, courage, friendship, trust, freedom, Aztecs

**A 330. Giles, Stephen M. The vulture of Sommerset.**

Sydney : Pan, 2010. 388 p. (W ; bk. 2.)  
ISBN 978-0-330-42564-3 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1447560

Novel. The adventures of orphan cousins Adele, Isabella and Milo continue in this sequel to **Silas and the Winterbottoms**. Uncle Silas is dead and the cousins are now outrageously wealthy and famous. They have inherited the gothic Sommerset House with its large estate and staff. Yet the past still haunts Milo who is troubled by increasingly real dreams of his wicked uncle. Milo isolates himself, Adele spends her time in the large library and Isabella attempts to make her way in society and spends time with her beloved pet crocodile, Thorn. A series of kidnappings sees the children pitted against the evil Dr Mangrove, who plans to use Milo to bring Uncle Silas back from the dead. The cousins must work together using their intelligence, insight and the treasures of the library, including the journals of the mysterious Captain Bloom, to foil their adversary. The events and characters are all larger than life, offering plenty of enjoyment for the reader willing to suspend disbelief. **The Vulture of Sommerset** combines a satirical tone with swashbuckling adventure to create a worthy second installment in a series that will be enjoyed by girls and boys alike.

**Useful for:** family, adventure, humour

**A 331. Gleitzman, Morris. Now.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Viking, 2010. 166 p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07437-2 pbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1458685

Novel. Fast forward 60 years to 'now', the current day, and Felix of **Once** and **Then** is a retired surgeon living in the Australian countryside. His ten-year-old grand-daughter, Zelda, (whom Felix prefers to call 'babushka') is staying with him while her doctor parents are working in Darfur. She is being bullied at her new school and takes the locket of the first Zelda (of **Then**) to wear as a talisman of courage. This is a hint of the emotional force the first six-year-old Zelda and related events of the past still hold for Felix and, through him, for his family. Present-day Zelda battles against her sense of inferiority to her namesake and her inability to 'fix' her grandfather's bouts of sadness and survivor guilt. A destructive, life-threatening bushfire is the crucible for change, growth and healing. While the

heavy, dark influences of the first two books thread through this first person narrative, it is nevertheless lightened by distance from the Nazi horror, by Felix's efforts to be happy in the now, and by the hope embodied in the living Zelda. A study of the tension between past and present, **Now** depicts how unresolved past events and circumstances can impact on present day lives and relationships. This is highlighted by the use of the word 'now' to begin each chapter.

**Useful for:** survival, bushfires, grandparents, family, friends, bullying, Holocaust, World War Two

**A 332. Golds, Cassandra. The three loves of Persimmon.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin, 2010. 211 p.  
ISBN 978-0-14-320501-2 pbk \$17.95  
SCIS No: 1477220

Novel. *The Three Loves of Persimmon*, a charming fantasy set in a large, bustling railway station in Edwardian London, is about two parallel quests for one's heart's desire. Epiphany, a courageous and inquisitive young mouse, who lives in the grit and grime of the lowest platform, is looking for The Place of Flowers. With courage and persistence she achieves her goal to find out what life is like away from her dark platform and makes many discoveries about herself, her family and her environment. Persimmon, a young florist, lives isolated from her family because she has chosen flowers over the family vegetable tradition. She is inspired by a letter from a psychic (but dead) aunt to seek her one true love, falling in love with an actor and an artist before finally succeeding in her quest. A talking cabbage called Rose is her companion and chaperone. Rose does not approve of Persimmon's quest as she fears abandonment but she becomes accepting when she runs to seed. The writing will suit readers with a wide vocabulary and an appreciation of subtlety of tone and atmosphere. The astringent humour offsets the overall sweetness of the setting and characters. The themes are familiar, universal and easily understood.

**Useful for:** romance, fantasy

**333. Grant, Michael. The call.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2011. 248 p.  
(The magnificent 12 ; Book 1.)  
ISBN 978-0-00-739599-6 pbk \$14.99  
SCIS No: 1481058

Novel. Mack is an unlikely hero, twelve years old with a 'serious case of mediumness' and a long list of phobias. A golem appears in his home claiming that he will take his place while he is elsewhere and a strange old man, Grimluk, appears and stops time. Grimluk tells Mack that he is one of the

Magnifica, the chosen twelve, who must save the world from the evil Pale Queen who is about to be released from three thousand years of imprisonment. Along with bully turned protector, Stefan, Mack and Grimluk must seek out the other Magnifica and fight the Pale Queen's daughter who is determined to kill him. Interwoven with Mack's story is the story of Grimluk, one of the original Magnifica from three thousand years earlier. Historical inaccuracies, such as an ancient world with fish and chips and a population that believes twelve is a really big number, are used for humour. The diary entries of the golem who takes Mack's place are also very funny. Packed with adventure and quick, contemporary humour, *The Call* is the beginning of what promises to be an exciting and funny new series

**Useful for:** fantasy, adventure, boys, humour

**334. Guys read : funny business / edited and with an introduction by Jon Scieszka ; stories by Mac Barnett ... [and others] ; with illustrations by Adam Rex.**

New York : Walden Pond, 2010. 268 p.  
ISBN 978-0-06-196374-2 hbk \$29.99  
SCIS No: 1485963

Short Stories. *Funny Business* is the first in a new series of genre-based collections of short stories for boys. Editor Jon Scieszka promises readers that 'every *Guys Read Library* book will be packed with the kind of writing guys will enjoy'. This is a promise based on information collected at the longstanding Guys Read website which collects and offers recommendations on what boys really like to read. Whilst the main protagonists are boys, these stories will also appeal to girls. The different authors, all established writers for young people, take widely different approaches so that it is likely that most young readers will find some, if not all, the stories funny. They include parodies such as the story of a boy who has few classmates left because they keep discovering that they are magical, mythical or have superpowers and more realistic stories such as Eoin Colfer's reminiscences of the rough and tumble of family life. Parents behave mysteriously in some stories; giving their child's room to a biker or preferring a pet turkey to their own offspring.

**Useful for:** humour, boys, reluctant readers

**335. Hale, Shannon, Hale, Dean and Hale, Nathan. Calamity Jack.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 144 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7475-8742-2 pbk \$22.99  
SCIS No: 1441763

Graphic Novel. Born schemer, Jack; plans a final caper big enough to end his mother's troubles for good. Jack and Prudence, plot against

Blunderboar, a rich giant involved in business and politics, who forces Jack's mother to make his bread with his own special flour. When Jack's scheme goes awry, he heads out of town and into the plot of *Rapunzel's Revenge*, which is touched on sufficiently that *Calamity Jack* can be read without having read *Rapunzel's Revenge*. Jack and Rapunzel return to Shyport, bringing their new-found riches to help Jack's mother. They encounter a less warm than expected welcome and a city in crisis. *Calamity Jack* juxtaposes a 'wild west' setting with the fairytale *Jack and the Beanstalk*, extending the story to include themes of corporate corruption, monopoly, and propaganda. The villain, Blunderboar, is not primarily concerned with traditional evil giant activities like grinding bones to make his bread, or tearing people limb from limb, although these are side benefits. He is primarily a businessman using nefarious means to create a monopoly and gain social and political power. In a traditional, framed comic book layout, speech bubbles for dialogue and text boxes for Jack's internal narration juxtapose his view of his actions with the reality seen in the images and dialogue. The graphics are rich and colourful with a style reminiscent of animated films for children.

**Useful for:** adventure, fantasy, fairytales, graphic storytelling

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**A 336. Hartnett, Sonya. *The midnight zoo*.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Viking, 2010. 186 p.  
ISBN 978-0-670-07405-1 hbk \$24.95  
SCIS No: 1469036

Novel. *The Midnight Zoo* grapples with some of life's big questions. Using human and animal characters, Hartnett explores issues relating to war, prejudice, freedom and responsibility and expounds the moral necessity of maintaining hope and courage, no matter how grim the circumstances. Two Romani brothers and their baby sister flee soldiers who are drawn by a fluttering, scarlet kite. This symbol of childhood innocence provides a sharp contrast to the bloodshed and violence that follows. When eleven-year-old Andrej chases a ball into the woods, he finds his shy, sulking younger brother Tomas, and their baby sister. The horrific events they witness on returning to their camp, compel them to obey their mother's last words, "Run, children!" As the children journey across a war-torn landscape, they discover cages housing a variety of once-wild creatures in a village which has been virtually flattened. Forsaken, hungry and fearful, the animals tell the children about Alice, the girl who would have inherited her grandfather's zoo. As the children's relationship with the animals develops, Andrej longs to save them. Parallels are drawn between the caged creatures and humans. Although powerless to solve their problems, in the final chapter Andrej draws on his imagination and

the story-telling traditions of his people. Closing his eyes, Andrej conjures their release and freedom. *The Midnight Zoo* does not provide neat answers or comforting solutions. It will, however, provoke discussion about what it means to be human.

Teachers' notes are available at [www.penguin.com.au/educationcentre/pdf/teachers\\_notes/PDF/9780670074051.pdf](http://www.penguin.com.au/educationcentre/pdf/teachers_notes/PDF/9780670074051.pdf)

**Useful for:** fable, war, prejudice, freedom

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**A 337. Havel, Geoff. *Water*.**

Lindfield, N.S.W. : Scholastic, 2010. 185 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9560-1 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1461354

Novel. When Tully's father fails to return from work one night, Tully is kidnapped and taken to a remote laboratory complex. Here she gradually discovers she is one of a group of genetically modified clones bred for a waterbound existence on a distant planet. Although sceptical at first, Tully finally sees how this explains much of her earlier life and the overprotective attitude of her father. Bill, a scientist who has allowed his perception of reality to be distorted by megalomania, looks and sounds quite innocuous at first. However, when Tully's father (who had been involved with the laboratory but broke from it, taking Tully with him) comes to get her back we learn to just what lengths Bill will go to achieve his crazy dream. The cloned children, seen first as a strange spectacle, are gradually revealed as true individuals and allowed to choose their fate or at least choose to fight for it as far as they are able.

**Useful for:** science fiction, identity, genetic engineering

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**338. Haven, Paul. *The Seven Keys of Balabad*.**

Sydney : Orchard, 2010. 295 p.  
ISBN 978-1-408-30314-6 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1464203

Novel. Oliver Finch lives in Balabad because both his father and his mother have jobs in the war-torn country. He and his friend Zee spend most of their time visiting Mr. Haji, a carpet salesman who tells them entertaining stories of Balabad's history. Then, Balabad's sacred carpet is stolen and Zee overhears his father talking about a secret brotherhood. When Mr. Haji disappears, Oliver and Zee try to find him and are joined in their search by a girl named Alamai. Zee and Oliver's sleuthing is interwoven with the story of Bahauddin Shah, trusted advisor to the last king of Balabad which takes place centuries ago. This fast-paced novel with its twists and turns is a little disjointed at times, but it is filled with action, exotic locales and realistic characters. This book will appeal to upper primary

readers especially boys who enjoy suspenseful mysteries and adventure stories.

**Useful for:** adventure, treasure, mystery

**A 339. Heffernan, John. Where there's smoke.**

Malvern, S. Aust. : Omnibus, 2010. 205 p.  
ISBN 978-1-86291-866-5 pbk \$17.99  
SCIS No: 1454590

Novel. *Where There's Smoke* was written in response to the Victorian bushfires of 2009. On a scorching summer Saturday Luke helps his Edenville neighbours fight a firestorm that most residents thought would not engulf their town. Luke fights bullies, his chief tormentor being Gavin Smith. Luke's friend Sarah and his mother, Nina, try to persuade him of the futility of fighting, but his father verbally and sometimes physically abused his mother and, four years after they left, Luke still feels anger at running from their tormentor and having to run again every time his father finds them. Luke has found a father figure in Tiny Cobb, a friend of his mother. The descriptions of the fire swallowing all in its path are visceral and intense.

*Where There's Smoke* will resonate deeply with those from areas where fire is an ever-present threat. The opening fight scene between Luke and Gavin Smith is pure adrenalin and a sure hook for reluctant readers.

**Useful for:** natural disasters, bushfires, family, community, reluctant readers, boys

**340. Hughes, Gregory. Unhooking the moon.**

London : Quercus, 2010. 374 p.  
ISBN 978-1-8491-6295-1 pbk \$17.95  
SCIS No: 1467306

**Awards:** *BookTrust Teenage Book Prize 2010, Shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize 2010*

Novel. *Unhooking the Moon* demands readers put aside any sense of disbelief and go along for an exciting ride. Twelve-year-old Bob and his fast-talking younger sister, The Rat, love their widowed father. When he dies the two children flee Winnipeg to search for their previously unknown uncle in New York. The flight, in itself, involves hitch-hiking on a freight train across Canada. They are befriended by shady characters; Joey, whom they witness involved in some nefarious activity; Tommy, the debarred lawyer, who takes them under his wing, and Ice, the famous rapper, who becomes their saviour. The writing is fresh and light, with snappy dialogue, especially from The Rat. The characters are flawed, unusual and endearing and the New York setting, in all its diversity, is very rich. There is humour and pathos in the characters and the action; the ending is bitter-sweet, with not all the loose ends neatly

tied. That their 'drug-dealing' uncle turns out to be a pharmaceutical company executive is an example of the quirky characters and humorous situations presented.

**Useful for:** adventure, friendship, brothers and sisters, New York

**341. Hughes, Ted. The iron man. / illustrated by Laura Carlin.**

London : Walker, 2010. 93 p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-32467-9 hbk \$34.95  
SCIS No: 1486817

Illustrated Novel. *The Iron Man* was first published in 1968. In this edition poetic language is complemented by powerful images and clever layout. Iron colours and strong, heavy images evoke the Iron Man whilst tiny houses and people adorn other pages. Hogarth finds a giant Iron Man who eats metal machinery. Hogarth feels guilty after luring the Iron Man into a pit. Next spring the forgotten giant emerges. Hogarth guides him to a scrap metal yard, where he eats happily and endlessly. Much later a great dragon, far larger than the Iron Man, comes from space and demands living things to eat. The peoples of the world declare war on the creature but their weapons have no effect. Hogarth persuades the Iron Man to champion the earth against the monster. Defeated by the Iron Man in a test of strength, the dragon agrees to be the slave of the earth. He reveals that he is a star spirit who had become excited by the battle cries coming from the earth and he had wanted to join in. He agrees to fly around the earth at night singing the music of the spheres which makes the earth wonderfully peaceful.

**Useful for:** science fiction, fable, peace and conflict, viewing, read aloud

**342. Hunt, Des. The crocodile nest.**

Auckland : HarperCollins, 2010. 255 p.  
ISBN 978-1-86950-828-9 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1446262

Novel. Luke lives with his mother in an isolated house on New Zealand's Coromandel Peninsula. He has never known his father and he is having a few problems settling into his new school. Luke would also like some purpose and adventure in his life. An unexpected combination of Luke's interest in pig hunting and his work helping an older woman with her computer leads to his discovery of a man who might be his father. Luke travels to Queensland to meet up with his father and encounters all kinds of complications including crocodiles and computer crime. There are enough plot twists to keep readers interested and the language is accessible.

**Useful for:** environment, family

**A 343. Hunter, Kate. The Parfizz pitch.**

St. Lucia, Qld. : University of Queensland Press, 2010. 210 p. (Mosquito Advertising)  
 ISBN 978-0-7022-3771-3 pbk \$16.95  
 SCIS No: 1455572

Novel. Katie and her mother (Vanessa) live in a 98-year-old house built by Katie's great-grandfather. When Vanessa's job at Parfitt's Family Soft Drink Company is threatened because the company is about to be sold to an American corporation, she puts the house on the market. Distressed because she loves the house in which she has grown up and because her close friends all live in the street, Katie swings into action. She and her friends set about creating a marketing advertising campaign that will save Parfitt's and consequently Vanessa's job and the house. Throw in a villain or two, imagination, an eccentric aunt with a hidden past, holiday escapades, well-drawn characters and a big dose of friendship and you have a very entertaining, wholesome page-turner. This is the first of a new series, *Mosquito Advertising*. The series website is at [www.mosquitoadvertising.com](http://www.mosquitoadvertising.com)

**Useful for:** advertising, friendship, families

**A 344. Irvine, Ian. The headless**

**highwayman.** Malvern, S. Aust. : Omnibus, 2010. 273 p. (Grim and grimmer ; bk. 1.)  
 ISBN 978-1-86291-858-0 pbk \$16.99  
 SCIS No: 1457983

Novel. Abandoned when he was four years old, Awkward Ike (as he is dubbed by his peers) has no idea who his parents are or where he came from. When a magic pen comes into his possession and leads him to the world of Wychwold Ike feels an instant sense of belonging, but things quickly turn sour when he unwittingly aids the evil Fey Queen Emajicka in her plan to kidnap the beloved princess of Grimmetry. Filled with a sense of responsibility to make amends for his disastrous mistake Ike enlists the help of an apprentice thief and sets off on a journey to save the princess. Along the way he encounters bizarre foes, forms unlikely friendships and begins to learn of his connection to this strange world whilst uncovering Emajicka's sinister plans for the future of Wychwold. With its outlandish cast of characters, humorous episodes and plenty of references to bodily emissions this story is aimed at upper primary boys; however it is enticing enough to hold the interest of most young lovers of fantasy. While some of the vocabulary used may challenge readers in this age-group, overall this first book in Irvine's *Grim and Grimmer* series is a captivating and well-written read.

**Useful for:** fantasy, humour, adventure, good and evil

**345. Johnson, Jane. Maskmaker.**

London : Marion Lloyd, 2010. 328 p.  
 ISBN 978-1-407-10687-8 pbk \$17.99  
 SCIS No: 1459079

Novel. *Maskmaker* is part horror, part fantasy and part adventure, with a magic door and a collection of jokes thrown into the mix. Jamie is bullied at school and ignored at home as his mother barely copes with the absence of his father. Jamie's world changes when he makes a tiger mask in a school art class. The art teacher invites him to the maskmaker's shop where each mask transports the wearer to exotic locations. He finds himself, in turn, in the deserts of Africa, the frozen glaciers of Greenland, and on the Great Wall in China where, through his wit and cunning and, with the assistance of a talking cat, he saves his own life and returns to the present ready to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance. The characters are well-drawn and the situations are vividly realized, providing a satisfying reading experience.

**Useful for:** adventure, fantasy

**346. Jones, Diana Wynne. Enchanted glass.**

London : HarperCollins Children's, 2010. 331 p.  
 ISBN 978-0-00-732079-0 pbk \$19.99  
 SCIS No: 1447952

Doctor Andrew Hope inherits his grandfather's house and his field-of-care including the enchanted glass; two sets of coloured glass one of which can be used to identify counterparts in the human and magical worlds and one of which can be used to commune with a higher power. Most of the villagers within Andrew's field-of-care have counterparts in the magical world. Magic resulting from this parallel gives these villagers special talents in various areas such as gardening or fortune telling. Aidan Cain lives with his grandmother. When she dies, magical creatures surround the house trying to lure him away. He seeks help from Andrew's grandfather, but finds Andrew in his place. Andrew takes Aidan in and tries to help him. Mr Brown, who lives in the wood, is really Oberon, King of the Fairies, who wants power over all counterparts, fairy and human. Oberon's wives and other members of the Fairy Court suspect that Aiden may be Oberon's son and try to capture him to influence the Fairy Court and the royal succession. This leads to a series of adventures culminating in a battle at the village fete in which Aidan and Andrew and their supporters diminish Oberon's power and ensure Aiden's safety. The layers of meaning in this entertaining fantasy offer a gentle introduction to cultural traditions about fairy folk. Teachers should be aware of a single, contextual use of swearing.

**Useful for:** fantasy, folktales, cultural traditions including names, family, duty

**347. Jones, Gareth P. Space crime conspiracy.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 310 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7475-9981-4 pbk \$12.99  
SCIS No: 1472400

Novel. Orphan Stanley Bound has always wished he could be magically transported somewhere other than the dingy London apartment in which he lives, so when he is accused of assassinating President Vorlugenar, the most important man in the universe, and captured by the Interplanetary Police his wish suddenly comes true. After being taken to the planet Armoria for his trial Stanley manages to make bail but things go from bad to worse when he is almost killed by a band of cut-throat space pirates, forms an alliance with an anti-Armorian rebel group and becomes a wanted fugitive with an exorbitant price on his head. Although all evidence points to the contrary Stanley continually declares his innocence, and readers will be intrigued as they try to unravel the mystery of the murder and predict how this gripping page-turner will end. Fast-paced, with plentiful moments of action, danger and humour, this sci-fi adventure will captivate confident readers, while more mature readers will appreciate the thought-provoking topics explored.

**Useful for:** space, genetic engineering, power, corruption, control, politics, justice

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**A 348. Masson, Sophie. The hunt for Ned Kelly.** Lindfield, N.S.W. : Scholastic, 2010. 203 p. (My Australian story)  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9564-9 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1444032

Novel. Drawing on a range of primary and secondary sources, *The Hunt for Ned Kelly* perpetuates Kelly's status as folk hero. Jamie Ross and his older sister, Ellen, are forced to grow up quickly when their photographer father dies. They leave Melbourne and set off for North-East Victoria. When trouble strikes and their horse-drawn buggy overturns, 'Two smartly-dressed, bearded young men ... riding fine horses' appear from nowhere. The gentlemen, who introduce themselves as Mr Thompson and Mr Cook, offer their assistance and stay to discuss a range of subjects including the notorious Kelly boys and the heroine of **Lorna Doone**. Jamie and Ellen find lodgings and employment in Beechworth. Ellen uses her father's photographic equipment to start her own business and Jamie is offered work in the bookshop he frequents. This provides an opportunity for Jamie to research Kelly history and for the Ross siblings to meet members of Ned's family. As the children's story unfolds, the background to Ned's final desperate years is revealed. The Kelly family is shown as proud and fiercely independent. Ned is represented as a man driven to desperate

measures by injustice. Told in diary form and set in the final two years of Ned Kelly's life, *The Hunt for Ned Kelly* brings the debate as to whether Kelly was a villain or a hero to a young audience with an immediacy and freshness that will guarantee Kelly's place in our folklore. Teacher's Notes are available from

[www.scholastic.com.au/schools/curriculum/pdf/MA\\_S\\_Hunt\\_for\\_Ned\\_Kelly\\_TN.pdf](http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/curriculum/pdf/MA_S_Hunt_for_Ned_Kelly_TN.pdf)

**Useful for:** Australian history, bushrangers

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**A 349. Measday, Stephen. Send Simon Savage.** Prahran, Vic. : Little Hare, 2010. 266 p.  
ISBN 978-1-921541-33-9 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1457712

Novel. *Send Simon Savage* is a simple adventure based around a top-secret government time-travel agency using teenagers in what they claim is a bid to learn about the past. Simon is traumatized by the loss of his father who apparently committed suicide (or mysteriously disappeared) after being placed under incredible stress by his work. Simon is left to take care of himself, his mother and sister.

Government operatives arrive, offering to send him to school in England and take care of his family. Clever readers will quickly deduce that Simon's father worked for the government, researching time travel. Simon has a special gene which makes him ideal for time travel. The Time Bureau plan to use him to unravel a mystery from the future. Simon wants to discover what happened to his father and suspects that the Time Bureau know more than they admit. Simon is a strong character who acts boldly without thinking too much about the consequences. The story flits between Simon and his friends and the inhabitants of the future Earth, coming together in the climax but leaving room for sequels.

**Useful for:** adventure, boys, time travel

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**350. Mowll, Joshua. The great space race.** London : Walker, 2010. 223 p.  
ISBN 978-1-406-30937-9 pbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1468640

Illustrated Novel. Ace Crankshaw, son of eccentric widower and struggling inventor, Arthur Crankshaw, has come up with a master plan for saving his family's finances: land a rocket on the moon and win \$10 million in a competition advertised by multibillionaire Zack Zircon. Ace buys Ginger Streak, a 1974 rocket, online for £5. It will compete with the rockets of eight mega-rich business people, including their enemy Zack Zircon. The family, including sister, Shuffy (the General), and quadruplet younger brothers construct the rocket with the aid of the Assembly Manual, a wealthy businessman and a rocket scientist. When Ace and

his family discover that the Great Space Race is really a cover-up for a dark and deadly secret plan hatched by Zircon they must try to stop him. There are plenty of comic situations as the family members all pitch in to achieve their goal.

Appealing and often amusing sketches, diagrams and photos complement the story. The pale beige pages, with chapter headings and page numbers that look hand-written, resemble a young boy's notebook. Students may also like to visit

[www.thegreatspacerace.co.uk](http://www.thegreatspacerace.co.uk)

**Useful for:** Science fiction, adventure, boys

**A 351. Newsome, Richard. The emerald casket.**

Melbourne : Text, 2010. 378 p. (The billionaire trilogy ; bk. 2.)

ISBN 978-1-921656-45-3 pbk \$19.95

SCIS No: 1462947

Novel. With the passing of his fabulously wealthy great-aunt, Australian schoolboy Gerald Wilkins has instantly become the richest teenager on the planet. However, as Gerald discovers, life as a teenage billionaire is anything but simple. Gerald has attracted the attention of the splendidly named arch-villain Sir Mason Green. Green is seeking a set of three magical caskets that have been hidden for thousands of years and which possess mysterious mystical powers. Each of these caskets is unlocked with a precious stone and is hidden somewhere in the world. Gerald makes it his personal mission to find these caskets first. With Newsome's trademark schoolboy humour, **The Emerald Casket** takes readers on a whirlwind tour of thousands of years of imagined history, with Gerald and his family at the epicentre. From Roman emperors to murderous cults, Indian dynasties to secret fraternities, the adventures of Gerald and his friends will keep young readers turning the pages at lightning speed. Boys, in particular, will love the opportunity to escape to a world of adventure, intrigue and unlimited finances. **The Emerald Casket** is to be enjoyed rather than analysed. If your aim is to foster a love of reading, there are a billion good reasons to stock your library with Richard Newsome's novels.

**Useful for:** adventure, mystery, humour, boys

**352. Platt, Richard. Double crossing.**

London : Walker, 2010. 187 p.

ISBN 978-1-406-31466-3 pbk \$24.95

SCIS No: 1477631

Illustrated Novel. In 1906 David O'Connor starts writing a diary because he has been involved in committing a crime in his native Ireland. He is sworn to secrecy and when his father dies, leaving him an orphan, he is taken in by a friend's family.

He is unable to stay in Ireland because of the religious divisions and is sent to live with his aunt and uncle in New York. Here he experiences a number of setbacks, including being coerced into a criminal gang. He needs all his ingenuity to escape and make a life for himself. Evocative black and white illustrations with fold out mementoes of David's journey to America and a final obituary are included. David's diary provides insights into the journey that many European migrants made to New York in the early 1900s. The immigration processes at Ellis Island and the anxieties of migrants about to enter a new country are well portrayed, as is New York City and gang life.

**Useful for:** adventure, history, diaries and journals

**353. Price, Robin. London deep / artwork, Paul McGroary.**

[London] : Mogzilla, 2010. 147 p.

ISBN 978-1-906132-03-3 pbk \$16.95

SCIS No: 1451595

Illustrated Novel. This witty and intriguing novel/graphic novel hybrid will appeal to both enthusiastic and reluctant readers. **London Deep** is set in a future where London is underwater and policing is divided between two forces, one for youth (the YPD) and one for adults (the APD). Whilst the mystery element is strong and engaging, mature readers will also enjoy the elements of parody. Graphic novel segments add to the characterisations and humour. Jemima Mallard is the twelve-year-old daughter of a Chief Inspector in the 'Dult Police. Independent and curious, she is intrigued by 'black holes'; roped-off areas where the river Thames is not its usual clear blue but a dark and murky brown. Jemima is unconvinced by the claim that they are areas of poisoned water. The mystery gains pace when the Mallard's house boat is blown up and Jemima finds herself in serious trouble with the YPD over an apparent connection with someone called Father Thames. Mysteries are revealed and tragic events lead to an unexpected resolution that leaves plenty of room for sequels. The characters are likeable and more complex than they at first appear. Accomplished readers will enjoy the characters, word play and the clever interplay of text and graphic elements. Alternating textual and graphical passages also help to break up the text and provide images of characters.

**London Deep** will appeal to boys and girls and to reluctant and voracious readers.

**Useful for:** graphic storytelling, humour, global warming, future, reluctant readers

**354. Pulford, Elizabeth. Tussock.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 185 p.

ISBN 978-1-921529-45-0 pbk \$15.95

SCIS No: 1471168

Novel. Kate's father goes missing while on a local flight. The family, thirteen-year-old Kate, her mother and younger sister Madeline, have to cope with the pressures of this emotional time. Neighbours come to offer support but both the girls prefer to follow superstitions to help them cope. Each evening Kate lights a lamp in the window of her tin hut on the family's property. Madeline builds Stone Man who will help search for their father. Their routines are interrupted by the enigmatic and slightly threatening Troy, whom they discover to be one of the troubled youths from the nearby boot camp. What is Troy really there for? The search for the missing aircraft and the men on board is downgraded by the need to search for an escaped criminal but the girls find this hard to accept. Pulford has crafted a challenging story. She uses symbolism, imagery and contrasting characters to prompt readers to think and reflect. The themes are friendship, family relationships, the role of superstitions, grief and loss and the role of the landscape within our lives. **Tussock** is set in New Zealand and is especially recommended for girls, who are likely to be attracted by the appealing cover. Teachers' notes are available at [www.walkerbooks.com.au/statics/dyn/1282605053831/Tussock-Classroom-Ideas.pdf](http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/statics/dyn/1282605053831/Tussock-Classroom-Ideas.pdf)  
**Useful for:** families, grief, superstition

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**355. Quinn, K.A.S. The queen must die.**

London : Atlantic, 2010. 298 p. (Chronicles of the Tempus)  
 ISBN 978-1-8488-7370-4      pbk \$18.99  
 SCIS No: 1456500

Novel. Katie, who lives in New York, has been experiencing strange visions that she keeps to herself. She spends much of her time under her bed, reading. When reading the diary of Queen Victoria's daughter, Alice, she suddenly finds herself under a sofa in Buckingham Palace, staring into a pair of grey eyes belonging to that very person. Katie is confused and when she is confronted by James, the doctor's son, who threatens her with a pistol and discovery, only Princess Alice's intervention saves her. Alice's father, Prince Albert, is busy having the Exhibition Building, later called the Crystal Palace, built. After a nasty incident at the site the children realise that there is danger. An attempt is made on the life of Princess Alice and a plot to murder Queen Victoria is uncovered. Princess Alice, James and Katie, now firm friends, are determined to thwart the plotters. An attempt to kill Prince Leopold is foiled and just when the children think that everything is under control, Katie is kidnapped. **The Queen Must Die** moves along at a fast pace, the setting and the characters are credible and the writer gives a good insight into life in the time of Queen Victoria. Katie

comes to realise just how much she, her mother and father all mean to each other. The main characters show friendship, loyalty and determination. **The Queen Must Die** will suit boys or girls with a love of story.

**Useful for:** adventure, history

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**356. Reeve, Philip. A web of air.**

London : Scholastic, 2010. 295 p. (Mortal engines series)  
 ISBN 978-1-407-11517-7      hbk \$29.99  
 SCIS No: 1467440

Novel. **A Web of Air** is one of the prequels to the *Mortal Engines* series, a steampunk creation set some centuries after our world has been lost to destruction and war. **A Web of Air** is set mainly on the island of Mayda, an ancient impact crater from the long-past war. The city is in the base of the crater but residents live on the slopes and outskirts, with the wealthy living in houses that slide up and down the inside of the crater with the aid of water-filled counterweights. Arlo Thursday, orphaned by a tsunami, has virtually raised himself into early adulthood. He is an inventor who dreams of flying. Fever Crumb is an Engineer. Arlo's has a boyish innocence while Fever's belief in the rational leaves little room for fantasy. As she and Arlo work together constructing a flying machine Fever learns that there may be more to life than scientific wonderment. The climax of the action pits Fever and Arlo against forces seeking to stop his discoveries from seeing the light of day, though the resolution suggests that there is more to come. Arlo sails off into the West while Fever remains in Mayda. Countless minor characters add life to the story. Reeve's language is colourful and inventive. While there is a small amount of violence, its treatment is almost comic-book in style. The series website is at [www.mortalengines.co.uk](http://www.mortalengines.co.uk)  
**Useful for:** future, science fiction, fantasy

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**357. Shelton, Dave. Good dog, bad dog.**

Oxford : David Fickling, 2010. 64 p. (The DFC library)  
 ISBN 978-0-385-61825-0      hbk 26.95  
 SCIS No: 1462059

Graphic Novel. Three separate stories are told in graphic novel form. In *Dog Meets Dog* two dog detectives establish a crime fighting partnership. *The Golden Bone of Alexandria* is a tale of a burglary, an evil genius and a butler and *The Dog's Dinner* tells of a mysterious chef and a celebration cake full of gangsters. A traditional comic-strip style is used with colour images and speech bubbles to deliver a humorous tale using conventions of 1930s' crime fiction and film noir. An understanding

of these conventions is needed to appreciate some of the written and visual jokes.

**Useful for:** generic conventions, crime, humour

**A 358. Short and scary : a whole lot of creepy stories and other chilling stuff / edited by Karen Tayleur.**

Fitzroy, Vic. : Black Dog, 2010. 233 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7420-3133-0 pbk \$19.99  
SCIS No: 1452067

Anthology. *Short and scary : a whole lot of creepy stories and other chilling stuff* includes short stories, poems, illustrations and a comic strip from Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton. Some pieces have a genuinely chilling edge. Carole Wilkinson gives a creepy take on the idea of the time slip. Susanne Gervay writes a whimsical tale of a girl on loan until her thirteenth birthday and Katherine Battersby offers a story with a twist about a boy who doesn't realise he is dead. Along with the work of established authors and illustrators, there are stories and illustrations from Year Seven and Year Eight students. Some of these are funny/scary and shivery/scary too. All the work has been created especially for the book. *Short and Scary* will appeal to both girls and boys. The stories are short enough to tempt the most reluctant reader. The cover illustration and the small size of the book add to its attraction. It could be used as a class text or a source for stories the teacher can read aloud. Royalties go to a charity that mentors young people.

**Useful for:** generic conventions, horror, poetry, creative writing, reluctant readers

**A 359. Tanner, Lian. Museum of thieves / illustrations, Sebastian Ciaffaglione.**

Crows Nest, N.S.W. : Allen & Unwin, 2010. 341 p.  
(The keepers ; 1.)  
ISBN 978-1-7423-7157-3 hbk \$22.99  
SCIS No: 1476736

Novel. The City of Jewel, governed by the Protector, is cautious in its care of children. Young people are physically attached to their parents with a 'guardchain' until Separation Day; disobedient children are bound by punishment chains. Goldie Roth, watched over by the Guardians, is bold, wilful and impetuous. She chafes under the weight of her punishment chain and craves freedom. Goldie makes her escape and is mysteriously led to the Museum of Dunt. Here she meets another escapee, Toadspit, and is introduced to the museum's Keepers and its secrets. The Keepers retain knowledge and oversight of the past. All the dangers from which Jewel's parents try to protect their children; war, famine, disease and tempest,

are bound within the shape-shifting rooms of the museum. Lian Tanner has created an urban fantasy world on a canvas populated with humans and magical creatures; a power struggle between the Protector and her self-serving brother, the Fugleman; naive, subjugated parents and wise, enabling Keepers. Overlaid on this canvas are the engaging personalities of Goldie and Toadspit. Neither character is conventionally good; both are thieves, both balance learning from their elders with risk and self-discovery. The vocabulary used is simple and the action develops quickly and maintains its pace. *Museum of Thieves* is the first in *The Keepers* trilogy and Tanner embeds teasers for the next two books. The Random House website [www.randomhouse.com/kids/keeperstrilogy](http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/keeperstrilogy) offers visuals and additional background for the characters plus a game and video clip. There are also instructions on the 'fingertalk' employed by Jewel's children, a possible classroom lead-in to the techniques of sign language.

**Useful for:** fantasy, adventure

**A 360. Tucker, Alan. Battlefield.**

Lindfield, N.S.W. : Scholastic, 2010. 186 p.  
ISBN 978-1-7416-9551-9 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1449514

Novel. *Battlefield* is based on a true story, the breakout of Japanese Prisoners of War from the Cowra (NSW) POW Camp in 1944, and is set during May to August of that year. Barry lives near Cowra and is obsessed by war and soldiering. Barry's older brother Jack is himself a POW, captured by the Japanese and Barry, though young, is determined that he will become a proficient soldier and enlist as soon as possible so he can release his brother from the POW Camp. Barry spends his spare time at home practising army drills and manoeuvres, carries a wooden gun around with him for that purpose, plans tactics and spies on the POW camp. When the Japanese prisoners escape, he tries to capture one and be a hero, but it all goes horribly wrong. This is the catalyst for his realisation that fighting and killing isn't always glorious and shakes his belief in the whole concept of war. *Battlefield* finishes with a postscript sixty years later when Barry reflects on Jack's return home and how war affected him and the family. *Battlefield* is written in diary form and provides a good basis for further exploration with readers. Teachers' notes and an author interview are available at

[www.scholastic.com.au/schools/curriculum/pdf/Battlefield.pdf](http://www.scholastic.com.au/schools/curriculum/pdf/Battlefield.pdf)

**Useful for:** war, World War II, diaries

**A 361. Walker, Sue. Arnie Avery.**  
 Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 138 p.  
 ISBN 978-1-921529-72-6 pbk \$14.95  
 SCIS No: 1460656

Novel. Arnie is about to become a teenager and take on the joys and angst of teenage existence. His life revolves around friends, school and the local pool. His family is brittle; barely coping with the loss of his much-loved older brother. His mother, in particular, is so distant that Arnie's birthday may well pass unnoticed. Things really start to unravel when he unwittingly makes an enemy of Jacko, the charismatic bully in his year group. **Arnie Avery** is an easy read with strong central themes of family, friendships and bullying. The characters are very real and their situations will resonate with readers, particularly Arnie's struggle with Jacko and his band of cronies. The only slightly jarring note is the apparent insensitivity of some of Arnie's teachers to his mounting distress over the bullying. This slight weakness is more than made up for by the reality of Arnie, his family, his unwavering friend Belly and even his enemy Jacko. The resolution is very satisfying. Teachers' notes are available from the author's website

[www.suewalkerauthor.com](http://www.suewalkerauthor.com)

**Useful for:** family, friendship

**362. Walsh, Pat. The Crowfield Curse.**  
 Frome, England : Chicken House, 2010. 319 p.  
 ISBN 978-1-906427-15-3 pbk \$16.99  
 SCIS No: 1446256

Novel. In fourteenth century England William, a young boy, is sent to the monks at the lifeless, bleak Crowfield Abbey after his family dies in a tragic fire. He works as a kitchen hand and servant in the abbey which has seen better days. Whilst collecting firewood, William saves the life of a hob and returns him to the abbey for healing. William, unable to know the hob's name, bestows on him the name Brother Walter. In rescuing the hob, William ventures into Whistling Hollow, a wood he has been advised never to enter. Soon William learns the basis for the curse of Crowfield and with the help of Brother Walter discovers the true identity of the two guests staying at the abbey. William is unwillingly recruited to help the two men 'dig up' the curse and in so doing becomes caught up in a fight between the seelie and the dark court of the magical Fay. From the very start, Walsh creates a tension that is maintained throughout. The plot is well paced and the bleak, harsh winter is a perfect setting for the narrative. Walsh gives the reader a sense of historical accuracy in both setting and character. A good reader will be able to infer meanings of the historical terms used and there is a glossary at the back of the book. This enthralling story is likely to engage readers new to this genre.

The author's website [www.pat-walsh.com](http://www.pat-walsh.com) provides some additional background material.

**Useful for:** medieval history, fairytales

**Westerfeld, Scott. Leviathan trilogy (series) / illustrated by Keith Thompson.**

Camberwell, Vic. : Penguin, 2010.

Illustrated Novel. **Leviathan** introduces two opposing groups: Darwinists, who use genetic manipulation to create all sorts of fantastical beasts to serve humanity, and Clankers, devoted to the manufacture of enormous complex machinery that will help them rule the world. The assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand in 1914 is the starting point for this story of the conflict between these two ideologies. Leviathan is a living airship; an amalgam of a whale and other creatures. Living on Leviathan are humans, sniffer dogs, bats, messenger lizards and others. The Clankers use zeppelins and massive Stormwalkers powered by steam and diesel. The two main characters, who represent both ends of the social spectrum, are the noble Aleksander, son of the murdered duke and possible heir to the Clanker empire, and Deryn, a feisty working class girl who disguises herself as a boy (Dylan) to join the Air Navy of the Darwinists.

**TITLES IN SERIES INCLUDE:**

**363. Leviathan.** Book 1. 438 p.  
 ISBN 978-0-14-320608-8 pbk \$14.95  
 SCIS No: 1476446

**Awards:** *Winner Aurealis Award Best Young Adult Novel 2009, Notable Book CBCA Book of the Year: Older Readers 2010*

**Leviathan** establishes the setting for the trilogy in an alternate history where Darwinists oppose Clankers. Arch Duke Ferdinand is assassinated and his son, Aleksander, must flee. Meanwhile in Britain Deryn disguises herself as a boy (Dylan) to join the Air Navy. There is plenty of action, adventure and battles as Alek and his supporters hide from his enemies and Deryn experiences life on Leviathan. The minor characters add depth, humour and complexity. Words which are old-fashioned or exist only in the world of Leviathan support the setting and meanings are clear from the context. The plentiful black and white illustrations crackle with energy.

**Useful for:** adventure, alternate history, genetic manipulation, machinery

**364. Behemoth.** 485 p. Book 2.  
 ISBN 978-0-670-07304-7 hbk \$29.95  
 SCIS No: 1484804

The adventures of Deryn/Dylan and Alek continue in this sequel to **Leviathan**. The simmering conflict between the Darwinists and the Clankers continues and Britain officially declares war on Austria-Hungary, leaving Alek and his retainers in a difficult position aboard the British airship Leviathan. On

reaching the Ottoman Empire Alek makes good his escape but involves himself in a local revolution in an effort to take revenge on the Germans for his parents' murder and prevent the Ottoman Empire from becoming involved in the war. Meanwhile Deryn, still disguised as Dylan, is given a special and difficult mission. An afterword explains the real history underlying the story and differentiates between historical and imagined events. Readers will enjoy the adventure and the detailed realization of an alternate past. No doubt the final instalment of the trilogy will be eagerly anticipated.

**Useful for:** alternate history, history

**A 365. Whiting, Sue. Get a grip, Cooper Jones.**

Newtown, N.S.W. : Walker, 2010. 205 p.  
ISBN 978-1-921529-78-8 pbk \$15.95  
SCIS No: 1471177

Novel. Cooper Jones lives with his single mother at an isolated surfing town wedged between the ocean and a rugged escarpment. Cooper is a typical thirteen-year-old who has trouble keeping his room tidy and does not change his undies very often. He is spending his summer holidays trying to not think about commencing Year 8. He belongs to a swimming squad and trains at the local pool. This is one activity where he feels he is in control. He avoids the ocean since he was dumped by the waves. After his junior swimming coach mistakenly identifies a man at the pool as his father, Cooper starts to think about the father he has never known. He suspects his father was a cowardly loser. When his mother begins to act weirdly towards him, he thinks she is thinking he has turned into a loser like his father. He is determined to find out about his father. To complicate matters, when the gorgeous Abeba arrives in town, he realises that other people have their own problems and this adds to his anxiety. Meanwhile, summer is hotting up and the threat of bushfire looms over the town. At the same time, Cooper's life is spinning out of control. **Get a Grip, Cooper Jones** touches on the themes of friendship, family, adoption and identity. It is humorous and a thoroughly enjoyable read. The freshness of the story will resonate with Australian teenagers. Teachers' notes are available from the Walker Books website [www.walkerbooks.com.au](http://www.walkerbooks.com.au)

**Useful for:** family, friendship, humour

**366. Wilson, N.D. The chestnut king.**

North Sydney : Random House, 2010. 482 p.  
(100 cupboards ; bk. 3.)  
ISBN 978-1-86471-972-7 pbk \$18.95  
SCIS No: 1445190

Novel. In **The Chestnut King**, the third book of the *100 Cupboards* series, Henry is slowly being

overcome by the poison that is Nimiane, Witch of Endor. He has to travel through the cupboards pursued by the minions of the witch, staying a step ahead, more by luck than ability. The tangled plotlines of the different characters intertwine; amazingly all their separate stories fit together to enhance the whole. Henry has to summon his reserves of energy to persevere where other, stronger heroes have failed previously. Calling on all the help available to him he arrives at a final showdown with the witch. Vivid descriptions help the reader feel like part of the action. Once again good manages to triumph, though this is not certain for much of the book. Magic is prevalent. That wielded by human and faeren is based on the goodness of nature and draws its power from the trees and other natural objects. The witch, Nimiane, stores her power in dead things and cannot overcome the natural power of Henry and his kin. Students who have read the first two parts of this series will want to continue reading Henry's story.

**The Chestnut King** has many facets to interest readers on different levels and will appeal to lovers of fantasy and adventure stories. Students could have fun trying to create their own methods of moving between different worlds through creative writing.

**Useful for:** fantasy, adventure, good versus evil, stimulus for creative writing

**367. Womack, Philip. The liberators.**

London : Bloomsbury, 2010. 298 p.  
ISBN 978-0-7475-9552-6 pbk \$16.99  
SCIS No: 1448020

Novel. Sent to London to stay with an aunt and uncle while his parents work in Mongolia, Ivo is pleased to know that his time will be largely his own and he will be able to explore the city by himself. He is looking forward to it after being in a boarding house with only a cell-like cubicle, with a bed and chest of drawers, to call home. On Paddington Station things turn dangerously awry as a young man, exhausted from fleeing a pursuer, thrusts a metal object into Ivo's hand with words he cannot comprehend, telling him to keep it safe. Moments later the dismembered body of this man, Blackwood, is thrown from the next carriage. So begins a breathless adventure, with Ivo enlisting the help of two new friends, Felix and Miranda, to follow the few clues they have about Blackwood and the black object. Felix is able to translate the words Ivo has heard and the use of a phone directory gives them Blackwood's address. They search his house, finding a hidden message for them under the chimney mantle. The letters FIN figure in this quest and they soon find that it means 'Freedom is nothing' and that they are being pursued by a group of people, led by the notorious

twins, Julius and Strawbones, intent on destroying all rules, codes and governments and inviting chaos into the world.

**Useful for:** adventure, spies, boys

**A 368. Worlds next door / edited by Tehani Wessely.**

[Rockingham, W.A.] : FableCroft, 2010. 221 p.  
ISBN 978-0-9807770-1-7 pbk \$19.95  
SCIS No: 1472214

Short Stories. **Worlds Next Door** is a collection of Australian speculative fiction including fractured fairytales, horror, science fiction and fantasy stories. The writers include luminaries such as Michael Pryor, Jen Banyard and Paul Collins. Many of the stories have a distinctly Australian feel. Simple line drawings accompany each story. The beautifully crafted *The Best Dog in the World* is the story of a young boy given a dog that is part of a military experiment. This story is classic speculative fiction and the bond between the boy and his dog emotionally engages the reader. In *Horror Movie Gargabrax*, writer and monster, explains to Mr Chuzweevil, head of the biggest movie studio in Monsterland, his idea for a horror movie about a human that does dreadful things like washing the dishes and picking up clothes. He has plans for sequels; *The Return of the Human*, *The Revenge of the Human*, *The Human IV – The Spring Cleaning*. A number of cautionary tales are also included. *Graffiti* is a highly evocative tale about two boys who plan to graffiti the walls in an abandoned house. They find themselves attacked by an enormous child-eating graffiti and make a narrow escape with the help of its previously devoured victims. *Little Arkham* explores the possibility of young teen horror fans meeting their favourite author only to find themselves trapped in the nightmare world of his books. In *Inksucker*, Zoe's cryptolibrocologist father disappears and she fears that he has been kidnapped by books. The truth is far worse: he has been taken by an inksucker. Taking a jar of sundried adjectives she treks across the Plains Without Punctuation. The paragraph describing her trek has, of course, no punctuation until she reaches the edge of the plains and once again sees some full stops. Littered with literary references and jokes, *Inksucker* will appeal to able students with a love of wordplay and support those developing an appreciation for this type of humour. Teaching materials for many of the stories are available at the **Worlds Next Door** website <http://worldsnextdoor.wordpress.com/teaching-materials-index/>

**Useful for:** generic conventions, fantasy, science fiction, cautionary tales, fractured fairy tales

**369. Yep, Laurence. City of fire.**

Macmillan, 2010.  
ISBN 978-0-7653-5879-0 pbk \$12.99  
SCIS No: TBA

Novel. Authentic historical details, fantasy, myth and folklore are mixed in this unusual adventure. At an exhibition of Kushan artifacts in San Francisco, Bayang, a mysterious assassin stalks her prey, Leech, twelve years old and apparently unaware of his powers. Scriye, daughter of a Kushan diplomat, is helping at the exhibition when dragons rise up through the floor, attack the crowd and steal an ancient and possibly magical archer's ring. In the ensuing battle Scriye's mother is injured and her sister is killed. Also killed is Primo, friend and mentor of Leech. Scriye, Bayang, Leech and his disreputable friend Koko set off to find and thwart the evil dragon, Badik, responsible for the attack. They seek revenge and the archer's ring. Their quest takes them to Hawaii where Badik and Roland, one of the richest men in the world, are involved in more evil deeds. Helped by the capricious Hawaiian goddess, Pele, they face terrible risks, encounter more magical creatures and discover that each of them is not what they at first appear to be. **City of Fire** has a unique tone and style. Characters reflect on their actions, motivations and morality, making this a thoughtful read as well as a swashbuckling adventure. A reader's guide is at the back of the book suggests writing and research activities and discussion questions.

**Useful for:** myth, legend, history, culture

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