



# KIDS' READING GUIDE

## WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

The best books for CHILDREN as chosen by Australia's leading booksellers



### PICTURE BOOKS



**Polly's Grand Party Plan**  
Jane Godwin  
and Evie Barrow (Illus)

AFFIRM PRESS  
HB \$19.99

Polly's sixth birthday was

thirty-five sleeps away and she was counting down the days to her special party. There's going to be face painting, pass the parcel and dancing. A relatable picture book about throwing the perfect birthday party... even when things don't exactly go to plan.



**Floof**  
Heidi  
McKinnon

ALBERT STREET  
BOOKS  
HB \$19.99

July release

Heidi McKinnon is back with

another irresistible picture book especially for cat lovers. Floof the cat is VERY floofy and he is having a VERY busy day. Great fun to read aloud while kids will delight in noticing all the things that the mischievous Floof gets up to.

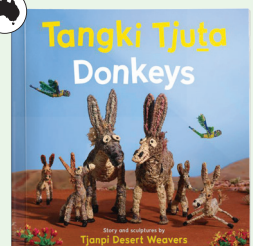


**Kind**  
Jess  
McGeachin

ALLEN & UNWIN  
HB \$24.99

From the tiniest beetle to the most majestic whale, every creature on

Earth is a marvel, deserving of awe and compassion. This beautiful picture book is a unique celebration of all living things and the kindness we can show them as we wander through the world. Rhyming text accompanied by eye-catching illustrations make this the perfect way to introduce young children to the concept of caring for our planet.

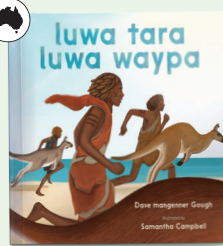


**Tangki Tjuta Donkeys**  
Tjanpi Desert Weavers

ALLEN & UNWIN  
HB \$24.99

July release

An endearing dual language story about how donkeys came to be a rich part of life for families in the desert community of Pukatja (Ernabella) in the APY Lands of northern South Australia. Told in Pitjantjatjara and English and featuring the distinctive sculptures that have made Tjanpi Desert Weavers famous, this story offers warm and humorous insights from an Anangu perspective.



**luwa tara luwa waypa**  
Dave manganer  
Gough and Samantha  
Campbell (Illus)

ABORIGINAL STUDIES  
PRESS  
HB \$24.99

July release

*luwa tara luwa waypa* tells the captivating story of niyakara's journey from boy to man, a story of courage and transformation. Dave manganer Gough's powerful words and Samantha Campbell's expressive artwork bring to vivid life the ancestral spirit and enduring strength of the palawa people of Tasmania.

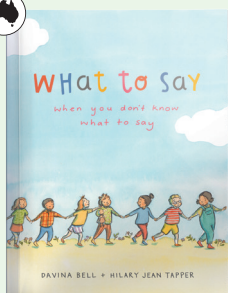


**Open Your Heart to Country**  
Jasmine  
Seymour

MAGABALA  
BOOKS  
HB \$24.99

*Open Your*

*Heart to Country* is a moving account of re-connection to Country from a First Nations perspective. Sharing the nourishing power of returning home and being immersed in the language of Country, this picture book invites readers to reflect on the importance of place, not only for First Nations peoples but for everyone. Told in English and Dharug, this a book the whole family can enjoy.

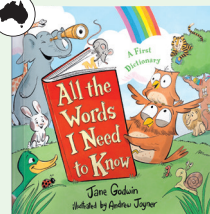


**What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say**  
Davina Bell  
and Hilary Jean  
Tapper (Illus)

LOTHIAN CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS  
HB \$24.99

July release.

From the author of *All The Ways to be Smart* comes a warm and whimsical guide to negotiating new experiences and big emotions with empathy, kindness and words from the heart.

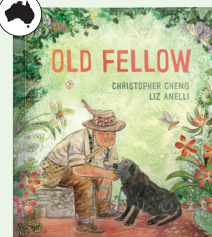


**All the Words I Need to Know**  
Jane Godwin and  
Andrew Joyner (Illus)

PUFFIN AUSTRALIA  
HB \$24.99

July release

"All the words you need to know, Will help you as you learn and grow". A first dictionary for 3-5 year olds with rhyming fun from Jane Godwin, and vibrant, joyful illustrations by Andrew Joyner. Plenty for little ones to look at on every page while they learn new words.



**Old Fellow**  
Christopher Cheng  
and Liz Anelli (Illus)

WALKER BOOKS  
AUSTRALIA  
HB \$25.99

An old man and an old dog look after each other on their daily trip to the local park. Along the way they meet friends new and old who brighten their day in different ways. A beautiful, heartwarming book that celebrates community and connection.

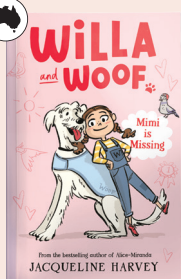
# JUNIOR FICTION



**The Wrath of the Woolington Wyrms: Miss Mary-Kate Martin's Guide to Monsters**  
Karen Foxlee, and Freda Chiu (Illus)

ALLEN & UNWIN  
PB \$14.99

Dressed in sparkly red shoes and carrying her strawberry-scented notebook, Mary-Kate is accompanying her archaeologist mother to the tranquil English countryside to investigate some interesting bones found in an old well. But once they arrive, they realise that the village of Woolington is not as peaceful as it seems. A new fun fantasy adventure series for younger readers.



**Willa and Woof: Mimi is Missing**  
Jacqueline Harvey

PUFFIN  
PB \$12.99

July release

Willa's in trouble. Mimi, the famous racing pigeon owned by her neighbour Frank is missing and Willa is pretty sure she's the one who left the cage door open. She'll need her most creative ideas along with the help of best friend Tae and her trusty sidekick Woof, the albino Irish Wolfhound, to track Mimi down before Frank finds out! A terrific new series from the author of *Alice Miranda*.



**Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon**  
Gabrielle Wang

PUFFIN  
PB \$16.99

Zadie Ma writes magical stories and sometimes they come true. She really wants a dog so starts to write the story of a dog called Jupiter who's waiting to be rescued by a girl just like Zadie. Can she write the rest of the story to have the dream ending she wants? A heartwarming story from the 2022-2023 Australian Children's Laureate.

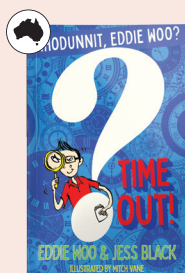


**Little Ash Perfect Match, Book 1**  
**Little Ash Friendship Fit-it, Book 2**  
**Little Ash Tennis Rush, Book 3**  
**Little Ash Goal Getter, Book 4**

Ash Barty, Jasmin McGaughey and Jade Goodwin

HARPERCOLLINS  
PB \$9.99 EACH

Australian tennis superstar Ash Barty teams up with Jasmin McGaughey and Jade Goodwin to bring young readers this fun and exciting new illustrated series about school, sport, friendship and family.



**Whodunnit, Eddie Woo?: Time Out!**  
**Team Trouble!**

Eddie Woo, Dave Hartley, Jess Black and Mitch Van (Illus)

PAN AUSTRALIA  
PB \$14.99 EACH

Eddie Woo Super Sleuth is ready for action and mystery. With a mind for maths and a nose for adventure in these two mysteries Eddie must crack the clues with the help of his friends Rusty and DJ. A new series from Australia's favourite maths teacher, Eddie Woo.



# MIDDLE FICTION



**Wylah: the Koorie Warrior, Book 1**  
Jordan Gould and Richard Pritchard

ALLEN & UNWIN  
PB \$15.99

Wylah dreams of becoming an art teacher but when her family is stolen by the dragon army she must unite the Guardians and save her people. Will she be able to become a warrior like her Grandmother and rescue her family? The first in a new middle grade adventure series inspired by First Nations history.



**The Detective's Guide to New York City**  
Nicki Greenberg

AFFIRM PRESS  
PB \$17.99

Pepper Stark loves the glitz and glamour of 1920s New York City. She can't wait to go exploring with her father and reunite with her fellow detectives, aspiring Broadway star Norah and up-and-coming pastry chef Sol. But when notorious food critic Anthony 'the Shark' Sharkey is taken ill after dining at the restaurant where Sol works, Pepper finds herself entangled in another murky mystery.

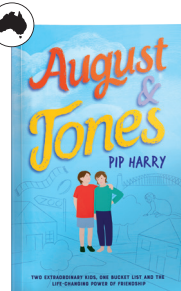


**How to Tackle Your Dreams**  
Fiona Hardy

AFFIRM PRESS  
PB \$19.99

Homer loves Australian Rules football but ever since his dad moved away and his mum was drafted in the women's league

he's spending more time fixing clothes with his grandfather than kicking goals with his friends. But without footy, everything feels different. Can Homer find his way back to how things used to be and does he even want to.

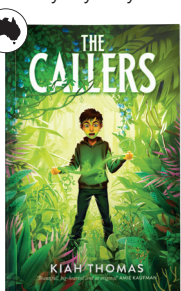


**August & Jones**  
Pip Harry

LOTHIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
PB \$16.99

July release

Eleven-year-old Jones has moved to Sydney from her farm to a tiny apartment in the city. At her new school, she meets August who loves fun facts, the library and knitting as much as Jones loves rock climbing and being outdoors. They become firm friends and when Jones receives bad news from the doctor and August's parents keep fighting, they decide to create the 'August and Jones Must-See Bucket List'. A story full of heart, friendship and teamwork.



**The Callers**  
Kiah Thomas

HARPERCOLLINS  
PB \$15.99

In Elipsom, the ability to Call, or summon objects, is a coveted skill but despite being born into a family of Callers, Quin doesn't have the gift. Everything changes when instead of summoning an object, Quin makes something disappear. He discovers that the objects Callers bring into their world are being taken from another land, and another people who have had their lives slowly stolen from them. A thought-provoking adventure about the consequences of wanting more than we need.



**Ming & Marie Spy for Freedom**  
Jackie French

HARPERCOLLINS  
PB \$16.99

August Release

Ming Qong travels back in time to Belgium during WWI where she's rescued from a burning cellar by Marie, a twelve year old spy involved with a female secret resistance group, who risk their lives to outwit the German troops. Will Ming be able to send coded messages and risk her own life to change the course of the war? An empowering adventure confirming the role played by women throughout history.

# MIDDLE FICTION



## No Words Maryam Master

PAN AUSTRALIA  
PB \$16.99

August release

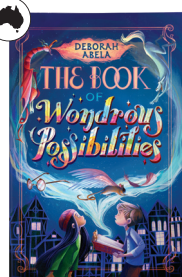
When Aria, a mysterious boy who never speaks, starts at school and is picked on by the class bully Rufus, Hero and her bestie Jaz feel compelled to help. But they're far too chicken to actually do anything heroic, so they befriend Aria and try to get to know him. It turns out that Aria is a refugee trying to find his place in a new country while coming to terms with his past and he has quite a story to tell.



## The Way of Dog Zana Fraillon

UQP  
PB \$16.99

Scruffity is born into the harsh, grey world of a puppy farm. Separated from his mother and locked in a concrete cage, he really wants to be part of a family again. Just as his chances of adoption grow dangerously thin, Scruffity is set free by a boy as unwanted and lonely as he is. Together they set out on a dangerous journey until they become separated and Scruffity must survive on his own. A moving verse novel.



## The Book of Wondrous Possibilities Deborah Abela

PUFFIN  
PB \$16.99

August release

Arlo Goodman lives with his Uncle Avery in a run-down flat above their bookshop. He has no friends, except for his pet mouse, Herbert. But when a girl called Lisette bursts into the shop and begs him to hide her from a murderer, Arlo is swept up into an adventure involving kidnappers, car chases and a story in The Book of Wondrous Possibilities. A magical adventure story full of possibilities!

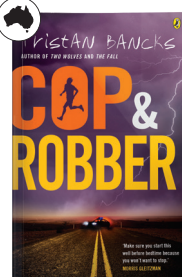


## All Four Quarters of the Moon Shirley Marr

PUFFIN  
PB \$16.99

July release

When Peijing moves to Australia with her family and has to adapt to a new life she thinks everything will turn out okay as long as they have each other but it's not as simple as that. Her little sister, Biju, needs her to be the dependable big sister, Ma Ma is no longer herself; Ah Ma keeps forgetting who she is; and Ba Ba, who used to work seven days a week is a stay-at-home dad. Can they find their way and create a new life for themselves while keeping their culture alive?



## Cop & Robber Tristan Bancks

PUFFIN  
PB \$16.99

July releases

Nash Hall's dad is a criminal who just can't seem to go straight. He wants Nash to help him commit a robbery. The trouble is, Nash's mum is a cop and the robbery is at Nash's high school. But Dad owes a lot of money to some very dangerous people and if Nash doesn't help him do the job, it could cost both their lives. What will Nash decide to do. A gripping page-turner.



## Skandar and the Unicorn Thief A.F. Steadman

SIMON & SCHUSTER  
PB \$19.99

Thirteen-year-old Skandar Smith lives on the Mainland but dreams of becoming a unicorn rider on the Island and competing in the Chaos Cup but when he's stopped from taking the Hatchery Exam it seems like his dreams are over. When a mysterious visitor takes him to the Island it's just the start of an epic fight against evil including killer unicorns and heroic escapades. An exciting new fantasy adventure series that will have readers on the edge of their seats.

# YOUNG ADULT



## Life in Outer Space Melissa Keil

HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S  
PB \$19.99

Sam Kinnison is a geek, and he's fine with that. He loves horror movies, hanging out with his nerdy friends and playing World of Warcraft—and until Princess Leia turns up in his bedroom, he doesn't have to worry about girls. Then Sam meets Camilla. She's beautiful, friendly and completely irrelevant to his life. So Sam is determined to ignore her, except that Camilla has a life of her own—and she's decided he's going to be part of it. Funny and sweet, the perfect ingredients for a timeless YA rom-com.



## The Agathas Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson

HARPERCOLLINS  
PB \$19.99

Last summer, Alice Ogilvie's basketball-star boyfriend, Steve, dumped her. Then she disappeared for five days. Where she went and what happened to her is the biggest mystery in Castle Cove. Or at least it was. Because now, another one of Steve's girlfriends has vanished. Luckily, Alice has exactly what they need to crack the case—the complete works of Agatha Christie. If there's anyone who can teach the girls how to solve a mystery, it's the master herself.



## The Comedienne's Guide to Pride Hayli Thomson

HARPERCOLLINS  
PB \$19.99

When Taylor is accepted as a finalist for a diverse writers' internship at Saturday Night Live, it turns her life upside down. And if Taylor wants a shot at winning, she'll have to come out about both of her secrets: she wants to be a comedian... and she's a lesbian. A very funny and romantic coming out story.



## I Kissed Shara Wheeler Casey McQuiston

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
PB \$26.99

After her mothers moved her from SoCal to Alabama for high school, Chloe Green has spent the past four years dodging gossip classmate and a puritanical administration at Willowgrove Christian Academy. The thing that's kept her going: winning valedictorian. Her only rival: prom queen Shara Wheeler, the principal's perfect daughter. But a month before graduation, Shara kisses Chloe and vanishes. From the bestselling author of *Red, White and Royal Blue*.



## The Museum of Broken Things Lauren Draper

TEXT PUBLISHING  
PB \$19.99

Reece still isn't used to living in the small beachside town of Hamilton—she misses her old school, her old friends and her old life. She can't go back and she can't move forward—nothing feels right anymore. But when Reece inherits a strange artefact that belonged to her beloved grandmother, she begins to unravel a mystery that might change the way she feels about everything around her, including her charismatic classmate Gideon...



## The Greatest Thing Sarah Winifred Searle

ALLEN & UNWIN  
PB \$19.99

It's the first day of Grade Ten, and Winifred is going to reinvent herself. Now that her two best (and only) friends have transferred to a private school, Win must navigate high school on her own. Luckily, she isn't alone for long. In art class, she meets Oscar and April who are creative and just a little rebellious. Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier who are ready to graduate to their first teen graphic novel.



## My Spare Heart Jared Thomas

ALLEN & UNWIN  
PB \$19.99

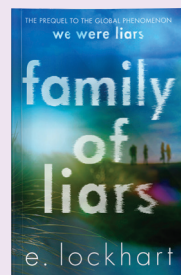
Seventeen-year-old Phoebe's life is turned upside down when she moves from the city to the country to live with her dad and his new health-obsessed girlfriend. It's only a few kilometres from Phoebe's old friends and the city, but it feels like another world. A book about fitting in, fractured families and finding balance.



## Ellie Pillai is Brown Christine Pillainayagam

FABER  
PB \$17.99

Most days, Ellie Pillai is somewhere between invisible, and not very cool—and usually she's okay with that. But suddenly, Ellie feels different. Maybe it's the new boy at school who makes her brain explode into rainbows every time she sees him or maybe it's her new drama teacher. Suddenly, her misfit style, her skin colour, her songwriting and all that getting lost in the music in her head seem to be okay too. A coming-of-age romance that reminds us that standing out isn't a bad thing.

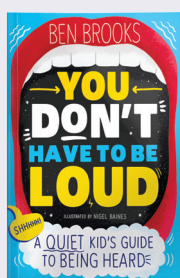


## Family of Liars E. Lockhart

ALLEN & UNWIN  
PB \$24.99

The prequel to *We Were Liars* takes readers back to an earlier time and a different summer for the Sinclair Family on their private island off the coast of Massachusetts. This time we focus on three sisters at a pivotal time in their teenage years. When tragedy upends what was meant to be a time of fun, laughter, and first love, the bonds of family are tested, revealing who will crack under the pressure, and who will forever uphold the Sinclair family's rules.

# NON-FICTION



## You Don't Have to be Loud Ben Brooks

WREN & ROOK  
PB \$19.99

A shy kid's guide to thriving in their own (quiet) way. Using examples of famously shy people like Beyoncé and Greta Thunberg, this is a positive and confidence-boosting look at what it means to be quiet—and why we should love and embrace it as part of being YOU!

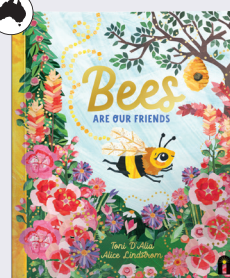


## The Amazing Night Sky Atlas Lonely Planet

LONELY PLANET KIDS  
HB \$29.99

July releases

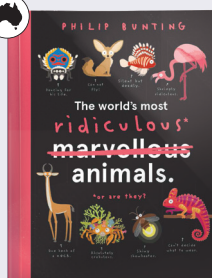
*Amazing Night Sky Atlas* looks upwards to the skies for a fun- and fact-packed guide to astronomy. Featuring a mix of photography and illustration, this book covers topics that range from the science of stargazing to the practicalities of how to use a telescope and the stories that different cultures tell about the night sky.



## Bees Are Our Friends Toni D'Alia and Alice Lindstrom

HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING  
HB \$19.99

*Bees Are Our Friends* invites readers into a stunning garden to admire the hard work of one little bee. As the bee pollinates the garden, vibrant flowers and ripe fruit and vegetables burst to life around her. Young readers will pore over this perfect introduction to these essential insects.



## The World's Most Ridiculous Animals Philip Bunting

HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING  
HB \$26.99

July Release

The next hilarious, playfully irreverent title in The World's Most... series, written and illustrated by Philip Bunting. *The World's Most Ridiculous Animals* is all about absurd-looking animals with incredible features and characteristics such as the Panther Chameleon, Nudibranch, Tasseled Wobbegong, Glasswing Butterfly, Sea Sheep... and many more.

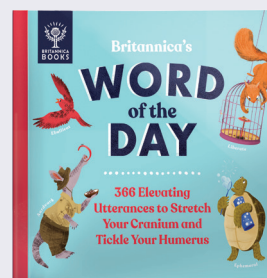


## Create Your Own Holiday Games Lonely Planet

LONELY PLANET KIDS  
HB \$24.99

July Release

Packed with over 60 ideas to invent, make and play your own games, this book is perfect for keeping kids entertained while on the go. Learn how to make jigsaws and board games, create travel scavenger hunts, make up your own travel bingo or snap games, organize holiday charades or produce a dance routine, and much more. The book includes step-by-step photographs and templates to get you started. All you need is your imagination!



## Britannica's Word of the Day Patrick and Renee Kelly, Sue Macy

BRITANNICA BOOKS  
HB \$29.99

July release

Become a word virtuoso in just one year with 366 crackerjack words aimed to impress. Follow a menagerie of animals as they teach one new word for each day of the year, including a pronunciation guide, definition, sample sentence, and interesting trivia about the word's usage or etymology. Each month concludes with an outlandish story that features all the new words learned.