



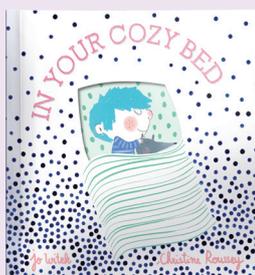
KIDS' READING GUIDE

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

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



PICTURE BOOKS



In Your Cozy Bed

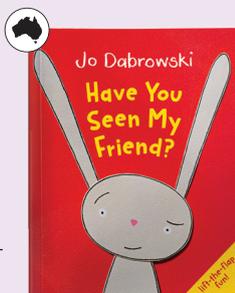
Jo Witek

THAMES & HUDSON
BOARD BOOK
\$14.99

AUG 21

From the team behind *In My Heart*

comes this soothing bedtime board book, *In Your Cozy Bed*. Told from the point of view of a loving parent, a child is gently guided to get ready for bed, say goodnight to favourite toys, and finally settle into sleep. Featuring a die-cut front cover for added appeal, this book also makes a beautiful gift.



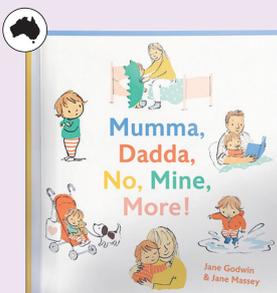
Have You Seen My Friend?

Jo Dabrowski

AFFIRM PRESS
BOARD BOOK
\$17.99

With clever flaps, snappy text and a bright and bold use of collage, this cheeky

and surprising board book tells a hilarious tale of friendship, determination and the importance of always having a trick up your sleeve. Lots of surprising visual humour for kids and adults alike!.

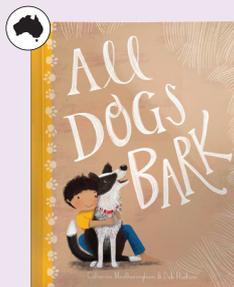


Mumma, Dadda, No, Mine, More!

Jane Godwin & Jane Massey (Illus)

HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING
HB \$19.99

Toddlers have many ways of making themselves understood! In this clever story, a young child's day is explored through five words that all toddlers use to communicate. With gentle humour, soft engaging illustrations and repetition of text *Mumma, Dadda, No, Mine, More!* delightfully conveys a child learning to communicate.



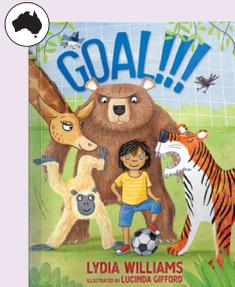
All Dogs Bark

Catherine Meatheringham & Deb Hudson (Illus)

WINDY HOLLOW BOOKS
HB \$25.99

French dogs say

'jappe', Chinese dogs say 'wang' and Russian dogs say 'gav'. Children will have fun travelling around the world and joining in this noisy celebration of the different barks that dogs make around the world. A fun and noisy read aloud with colourful images.



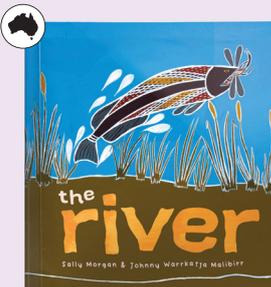
Goal!!!

Lydia Williams & Lucinda Gifford (Illus)

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
HB \$19.99

When Lydia moves from the desert

to the big city she finds leaving her animal friends behind hard but before long she's meeting new ones. At first she can't keep up with Tiger, Bear and Gibbon but soon Lydia discovers that learning from others is the best way to improve AND have fun. A joyous picture book about friendship, sport, and teamwork by Lydia Williams, goalkeeper for the Australian Matildas.



The River

Sally Morgan & Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (Illus)

MAGABALA BOOKS
HB \$24.99

The River takes

the reader on a journey of what their eyes can see and their ears can hear. See green ants crawling, hear frogs croaking, a goanna running, and a fish splashing. Sally Morgan's beautiful words and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr's artwork using traditional motifs combine to make this a unique, distinctive celebration of the life of the river.



The Duck Who Didn't Like Water

Steve Small

SIMON & SCHUSTER
HB \$19.99

Duck is not like other ducks. Duck

doesn't like water and is perfectly fine alone, thank you very much. But then, one dark and stormy night, an outgoing, water-loving, and very lost Frog turns up at Duck's door. Can this odd couple find Frog's home? And will they find friendship along the way? An endearing, gorgeously illustrated tale that reminds us of the enduring power of friendship.



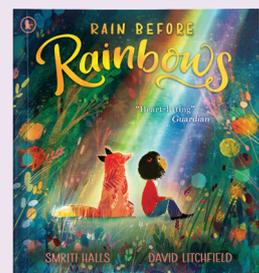
Take Off Your Brave: Poems Just for You

Nadim & Yasmeen Ismail (Illus)

WALKER BOOKS
HB \$27.99

A very special

collection of poems by four-year-old Nadim beautifully captures how a small child sees the world – a world of rainbows, glitter and magical boxes; a world of nursery, home time and cuddles with Mum. They make for joyful reading and are by turns funny and charming, gentle and zany. *Take Off Your Brave* shows that poetry is for everyone – no matter how little you are!



Rain Before Rainbows

Smriti Halli
WALKER BOOKS
PB \$16.99

A girl and her companion fox travel together from a place of

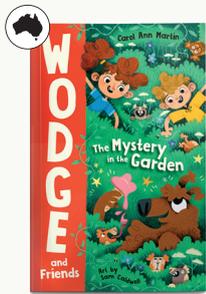
loss and despair, through uncertain times, towards the hope of colour, light and life. Along the way, they find friends to guide and support them. Together, they build a glorious future and discover there is a way out of the darkness, into the light of the rainbow. A book with immense hope at its heart, this is a positive message for anyone who's ever gone through a tough time.

JUNIOR FICTION



The Travelling Bookshop
Katrina Nannestad & Cheryl Orsini (Illus)
HARPERCOLLINS
PB \$14.99 **AUG 21**

Mim roams the world in a travelling bookshop, with her dad and brother and their horse Flossy who leads them to the place where they're needed most ... the place where the perfect book will find its way home. Arriving in a Dutch village, Mim meets kind and gentle Willemina who is being bullied. Mim knows they're here to help. If only Dad would find her the right book instead of giving everyone the wrong book!



Mystery in the Garden: Wodge and Friends # 1
Carol Anne Martin & Sam Caldwell (Illus)
HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING
PB \$14.99

Nancy and Dom's father is going to the Antarctic to hang out with seals. Nancy and Dom are not. They're going to stay with the eccentric Miss Heatherbell whose house is large and mysterious, and full of surprising rooms and odd objects. And it looks like something is hiding at the bottom of her enormous, overgrown garden. Packed with daring escapades this is perfect for younger readers looking for laugh-out-loud adventures.

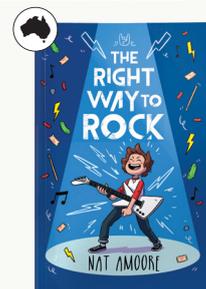


It's Owl Good: The Super Adventures of Ollie and Bea
Renée Tremblé
ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
PB \$12.99 **AUG 21**

Ollie is an owl who wears glasses. And Bea is a bunny with very big feet. They don't know it yet, but they are about to be best friends. Can they help each other to find their OTTER-LY awesome inner superhero? A charming story about the joys of making friends and having fun.

Also available *The Squeals on Wheels: The Super Adventures of Ollie and Bea 2*

MIDDLE FICTION



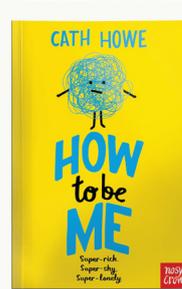
The Right Way to Rock
Nat Amoore
PUFFIN
PB \$14.99

Mac's mum wants him to be a rock star, but his secret passion is musical theatre. When Mac finds out that the principal at Watterson Primary plans to cut the entire arts program he decides to take matters into his own hands. With the help of his new friends it's time to stage Watterson: The Musical! A rockin' celebration of the arts and the power of community coming together to make a difference.



Pawcasso
Remy Lai
ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
PB \$16.99

Every Saturday, Pawcasso trots into town to buy groceries for his family. One day, he passes by Jo's house, where she's peering out the window, bored and lonely. When Jo sets out to follow him, a group of kids from school mistake her for Pawcasso's owner and, excited to make new friends, she reluctantly hides the truth. A delightful graphic novel about friendship and belonging perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier.



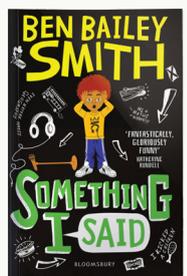
How To Be Me
Cath Howe
NOSY CROW
PB \$14.99

Lucas is all alone. Since his mum died, Lucas and his dad don't seem to understand each other at all. And Lucas is dreading the summer drama club that his dad has signed him up for. But the people Lucas meets at the club force him to open up and start talking. Can his new-found friends teach Lucas how to be himself? A beautiful, moving story of family, friendship and self-discovery.



Melt
Ele Fountain
PUSHKIN CHILDREN'S
PB \$16.99

Yutu lives in a remote, snow-bound village where the traditional way of life is threatened by the warming climate. When the sea-ice collapses while he is out hunting he is left stranded. Meanwhile Bea is trying to adapt to a new school after her father takes a new job at an oil company. When Yutu and Bea's worlds collide they find themselves in a desperate search for survival, and for the truth. An adventure story of courage and survival.



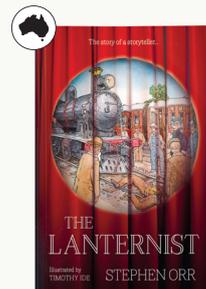
Something I Said
Ben Bailey Smith
BLOOMSBURY
PB \$14.99

For thirteen-year-old Carmichael, life is one big joke - in a good way. He just can't understand why no one else seems to find everything as funny as he does. When he's filmed performing at the school talent show targeting his family, school and friends the footage ends up creating international infamy. But with the promise of fame and fortune comes trouble, and it's up to Car to decide what or who he's willing to risk to chase his comedy dream.



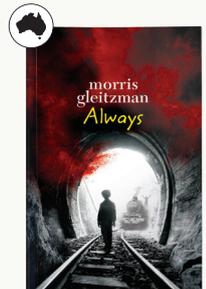
The Elephant in the Room
Holly Goldberg Sloan
PICADILLY BOOKS
PB \$14.99

Sila's mum is forced to return to Turkey to retrieve documents needed for her to remain in the US where the family lives. The long separation is almost impossible for Sila to bear but things change when she meets Gio, a widowed carpenter. Their new alliance leads to the rescue of a circus elephant named Veda, and a friendship with a boy named Mateo, proving that comfort and hope come in the most unlikely of places.



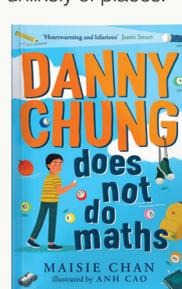
The Lanternist
Stephen Orr
MIDNIGHT SUN PUBLISHING
PB \$19.99

It's 1901 and Tom and his father Bert are masters of 'The Art of the Story' with their magic lantern show. However, his mother is missing and then one day he wakes to find his father has now disappeared too. Forced to work for an arch-criminal, Tom is arrested and sent to prison. Will he be able to escape with his new friend Max and find his parents? A thrilling historical adventure.



Always
Morris Gleitzman
VIKING
PB \$19.99 **AUG 21**

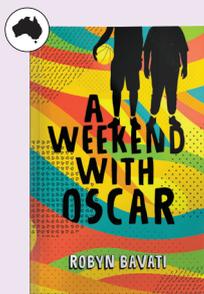
The much-anticipated final journey in the story of Felix, hero of Morris Gleitzman's multi-award-winning series. It's 15 years since readers were first introduced to Felix and our brave young hero has survived many unforgettable journeys. Now comes the seventh and final part of Felix's story, bringing to a powerful climax.



Danny Chung Does Not Do Maths
Maisie Chan
PICADILLY BOOKS
PB \$14.99

Danny loves drawing but everyone else thinks he should love maths, especially his parents. Then his grandmother arrives from China and they have to share a room. Not only does she not speak English but she's also an ex-maths champion. What could possibly go wrong! Funny and heartwarming and is a wonderful way of dealing with stereotypes.

ALMOST YOUNG ADULT



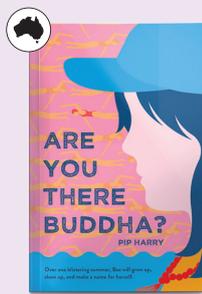
A Weekend with Oscar

Robyn Bavati

WALKER BOOKS
PB \$19.99

Sixteen-year-old Jamie lives with his mum and his younger brother Oscar, who has Down syndrome.

Though Jamie is still grieving the loss of his dad, life starts to look up when he meets Zara, the new girl at school. When their mum goes away for the weekend, Jamie volunteers to look after Oscar. But when the weekend is over and their mother doesn't return, Jamie faces the toughest challenge of his life. 12+



Are You There Buddha?

Pip Harry

LOTHIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS
PB \$16.99

Bridget (known as Bee) is 12 and starting her first year at high school where she is yet to find her tribe. Her best

friend Leon also happens to be the hottest boy in year 8 and as long as he has her back she can survive the mean girls, her meddling step-mum and her swimming nemesis, The Piranha. A fresh, funny and contemporary take on puberty, first periods and relationships.



Rainfish

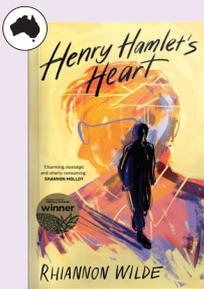
Andrew Paterson

TEXT PUBLISHING
PB \$16.99

Aaron lives with his mum and older brother in a small town in tropical Far North Queensland. He's sick of being the little brother,

left out of all the interesting stuff the older kids get up to. So when he meets Damon he's keen to impress him. It's all going well, until Damon suggests they break into the church. A warm and humorous portrayal of a young boy trying to undo an impulsive mistake. 11+

YOUNG ADULT



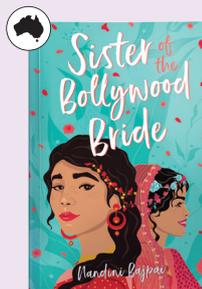
Henry Hamlet's Heart

Rhiannon Wilde

UQP
PB \$19.99

Henry doesn't know what he wants after school ends. It's his last semester of year

12 and all he's sure of is his uncanny ability to make situations awkward. Luckily, he can always hide behind his enigmatic best friend, Len. They've been friends since forever, but where Len is mysterious, Henry is clumsy; where Len is a heart-throb, Henry is a neurotic mess. Somehow it's always worked. That is, until Henry falls. Hard. For the last person he imagined.



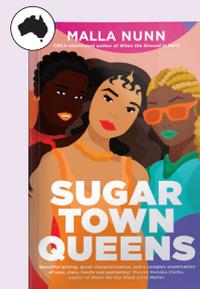
Sister of the Bollywood Bride

Nandini Bajpai

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
PB \$19.99

Mini's big sister is getting married. Their mum passed away

seven years ago and between Dad's new start-up and Vinnie's medical residency, there's no one but Mini to plan the wedding and she's not going to let anything distract her, not even smoking-hot Vir. Everything is in place for the Bollywood style wedding. That is, until a monster cyclone heads for Boston. Will Mini come and save the day? 13+



Sugar Town Queens

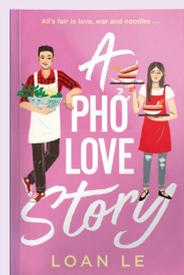
Malla Nunn

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
PB \$19.99

AUG 21

Amandla's mother has always been strange. For starters, she's a white

woman living in one of South Africa's infamous shanty towns. She won't tell Amandla about her past and she has visions. When Amandla finds a mysterious address at the bottom of her mother's purse along with a large amount of cash, she decides it's time to get some answers. With the help of her best friend she's ready to confront her family's secrets. 13+



A Pho Love Story

Loan Le

SIMON & SCHUSTER
PB \$17.99

Linh and Bao like each other. A lot. The only problem? Their families own rival pho restaurants and hate each other's guts, so they have to keep

their relationship a secret. But they can only steal kisses in dark alleys and the art room at school for so long. Can their love transcend an age-old feud and heal the rift between these two families? Or have these high school sweethearts bitten off more than they can chew? 14+



The Lucky List

Rachael Lippincott

SIMON & SCHUSTER
PB \$17.99

Emily's always been lucky. Well, technically her mum was the lucky one, and since she died, Emily's started to feel like her luck's run out.

So when Emily finds her mum's senior-year bucket list she decides to check everything off with the help of her friend Blake. A captivating, heartfelt love story about learning who you are, and who you love, when the person you've always shared yourself with is gone. 14+



Tim Te Maro and the Subterranean Heartsick Blues

H.S. Valley

HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING
PB \$19.99

Tim & Elliott – classmates

at Fox Glacier High School for the Magically Adept – have never gotten along. They both get dumped the day before the big egg-baby assignment, they decide to ditch their exes and work together. When they bond they realise there could be something else beneath their animosity. 14+



We Are Inevitable

Gayle Foreman

SIMON & SCHUSTER
PB \$19.99

So far, the inevitable hasn't worked out so well for Aaron Stein. While his friends have gone to college and moved on with their lives, Aaron's been left

behind running a failing bookshop with his dad, Ira. What he needs is a lucky break, the good kind of inevitable. And then he meets Hannah. Could she be the answer? And could they – their relationship, their meeting – possibly be the inevitable Aaron's been waiting for? 14+



Felix Ever After

Kacen Callender

FABER CHILD
PB \$17.99

Felix Love has never been in love. He desperately wants to know what it's like and why it seems so easy for everyone but him to find someone. Even though he

is proud of his identity, Felix also secretly fears that he's one marginalisation too many - black, queer and transgender - to ever get his own happily-ever-after. A revelatory YA novel about a transgender teen grappling with identity and self-discovery while falling in love for the first time. 15+



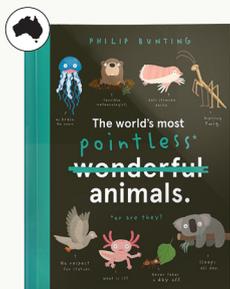
It's Not You, It's Me

Gabrielle Williams

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
PB \$19.99

Holly Fitzgerald has inexplicably woken up inside the body of an LA teenager called Trinity

Byrne in 1980 - trapping Trinity in Holly's forty-year-old body back in Melbourne, 2020. Holly finds herself navigating a brand-new body, family and cute boy next door - not to mention a rock band that might just make it, and a potential kidnapper. A literally life-changing novel about time travel, and serial killers. 14+

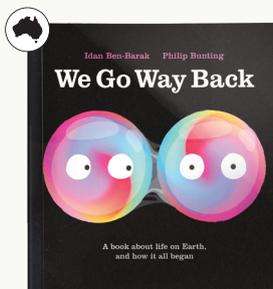


The World's Most Pointless Animals

Philip Bunting

HARDIE GRANT CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING
HB \$26.99

We share our planet with some truly weird and wonderful creatures, from blobfish to pink fairy armadillos, who all seem pretty pointless. But what do these creatures actually do?! A witty, quirky, colourfully-illustrated book featuring some very silly animals. With a humorous, sardonic tone throughout, it contains funny labelled diagrams and some excellent made-up Latin names but, importantly, it conveys genuinely fascinating facts about these animals, who are perhaps not so pointless after all.



We Go Way Back

Idan Ben Barak & Philip Bunting (Illus)

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
HB \$24.99

What is life? How did it start? Long, long ago, no one knows exactly where or when, a tiny bubble formed that was a Little Bit Different. It was the first living cell. And so the story of life begins ... This visually stunning and brilliantly devised picture book leads us through the origin of life on our planet, and how an odd little bubble gave rise to the incredible web of life on Earth.

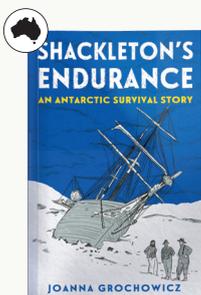


Australian Backyard Birdies

Andy Geppert

LOTHIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS
HB \$19.99

If you would like to learn VERY REAL facts about some of Australia's most common backyard birds, this is the book for you. I mean, who doesn't want to know what bok, bok, bok means in chicken? Or how often a budgerigar poops? A handy first field guide packed full of fascinating facts (some of them are even true) about Australia's most common backyard birds.

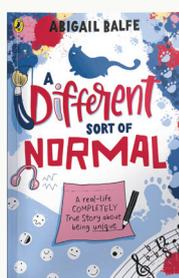


Shackleton's Endurance

Joanna Grochowicz

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
PB \$16.99

In August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and his men set sail for Antarctica, where they plan to cross the last uncharted continent on foot. In January 1915, his ship, the *Endurance*, becomes locked in pack ice. Later, it sinks without a trace. This incredible true story of Shackleton's terrifying adventure is brought to life in a highly readable style for readers 10 – 99!

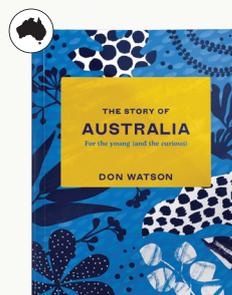


A Different Sort of Normal

Abigail Balfe

PUFFIN
PB \$19.99

This is Abigail's story of what it was like growing up autistic in a 'normal world' where it seemed like everyone else had access to important information that she didn't. There were lots of scary moments like catching crowded trains but also plenty of fun memories as well. This is the book for anyone who has ever felt different, out of place, or like they don't fit in. Very important, very funny and very informative.



The Story of Australia

Don Watson

BLACK INC.
HB \$32.99

The Story of Australia weaves together the many strands of our nation's past – ancient and indigenous, colonial and contemporary – to create a fascinating, inclusive history for all readers. In clear, succinct language that both children and adults will appreciate, Watson guides readers from the ancient lands of Gondwana, through human settlement, colonisation and waves of migration, to the challenges facing our diverse nation today.

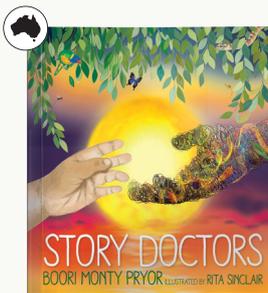


Great White Shark

Claire Saxby & Cindy Lane (Illus)

WALKER BOOKS
HB \$26.99

In *Great White Shark* we follow a female shark on her way to warmer waters to give her pups the best chance of survival. Set in a stunning underwater world, the poetic prose and sublime illustrations showcase the grace, majesty and power of one of the ocean's top predators. A stunning addition to the Nature Storybooks series, *Great White Shark* tells the real story about one of the planet's most fascinating and misunderstood creatures.

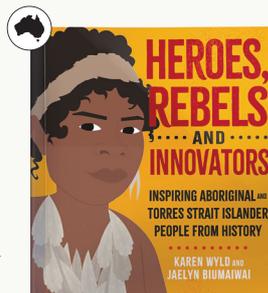


Story Doctors

Boori Monty Pryor & Rita Sinclair (Illus)

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S
HB \$24.99

Legendary storyteller Boori Monty Pryor invites us to travel with him from the first footsteps through 80,000+ years of strength, sickness, and immense possibility. From the very first stories and art, to dance, language, and connection with the land, Boori offers a powerful, and deeply rich account of Australia's true history. An exquisitely illustrated celebration of the power of storytelling to unite us, how nature connects us, and the wonderful truth that the medicine needed for healing lies within us all.



Heroes, Rebels and Innovators

Karen Wyld & Jaelyn Biunaiwai

LOTHIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS
HB \$26.99

Be inspired and amazed by these incredible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander icons! With colourful artwork and evocative writing, this book tells stories every Australian should know. Powerful and exciting: here are seven inspiring stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from history. Each colourful spread in this illustrated book tells a compelling story.